



Insight Grants Webinar (audio provided via teleconference)

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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

SSHRC  CRSH

Insight Grants Funding Opportunity

September 2015

Presenters: Lorraine Anderson & Sarah Nicholls



Presentation outline:

- ❖ Updates
- ❖ Joint Initiatives
- ❖ Insight Grants Objectives and Features
- ❖ Eligibility Overview
- ❖ Committee Structure
- ❖ Adjudication Overview
- ❖ Application Preparation
- ❖ Competition statistics



UPDATES

What's *NEW* this year?

- ❖ No CVs for Collaborators
- ❖ No Notice of Intent (NOI)
- ❖ Genome Canada Joint Initiative
- ❖ Law, Criminology, Social Work: now in Research Group 4

NEW

- ❖ Research-creation proposals will be adjudicated by fine arts committees (which will include members selected by Canada Council)
- ❖ “Preparing an IG research creation application” document available in Resource Centre

NEW

SSHRC Response to Increasing Budget Pressure

- ❖ Maximum total reduced to \$400K
- ❖ Maximum per year reduced to \$100K
- ❖ Principle of *minimum essential funding*
- ❖ Closer scrutiny of budgets during meetings
- ❖ Committees to benefit directly from cuts made with controlled budget envelope



NEW

Aboriginal Research

In May 2015, SSHRC launched new initiatives to support and promote Aboriginal research and talent development.

1. Aboriginal research [statement of principles](#) will serve to guide the implementation of SSHRC's current and future activities.
2. A revised definition of [Aboriginal research](#) clarifies research "by and with" Aboriginal Peoples and emphasizes and values the existing strengths, assets and knowledge systems of Aboriginal Peoples and communities.
3. [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research](#) are intended to assist committee members in interpreting SSHRC's specific Challenge, Feasibility and Capability evaluation criteria in the context of Aboriginal research.



JOINT INITIATIVES

Sport Participation Research Initiative

- ❖ Joint Initiative with Sport Canada
- ❖ **Funding:** \$7,000 - \$250,000 over 3 years (max \$100,000/year)
- ❖ Broad objectives related to promoting sport participation.
- ❖ Applications adjudicated first by IG committees (March 2016)

For more info, contact: Chantal Meda at chantal.meda@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Societal Implications of Disruptive Innovation in Genomics

- ❖ New Joint Initiative with Genome Canada
- ❖ Initiative focuses on understanding the societal implications of genomic innovations characterized as “disruptive”
- ❖ Genome Canada will do a review of relevancy for proposals recommended for funding.

More information available on [Genome Canada website](#).

Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

- ❖ Infrastructure funding opportunity for SSH researchers
- ❖ Support via CFI's John R. Evans Leaders Fund
- ❖ Joint adjudication between SSHRC and CFI.

See the [CFI website](#) for more information.



INSIGHT GRANTS

Insight Grants - Objectives

- ❖ to support research proposed by scholars and judged worthy of funding by their peers and/or other experts
- ❖ to provide opportunities for the training of future researchers
- ❖ to contribute to the advancement of theory and/or methodology
- ❖ to support disciplinary and multidisciplinary research activities
- ❖ to promote knowledge mobilization within and beyond the academic community

Insight Grants - Features

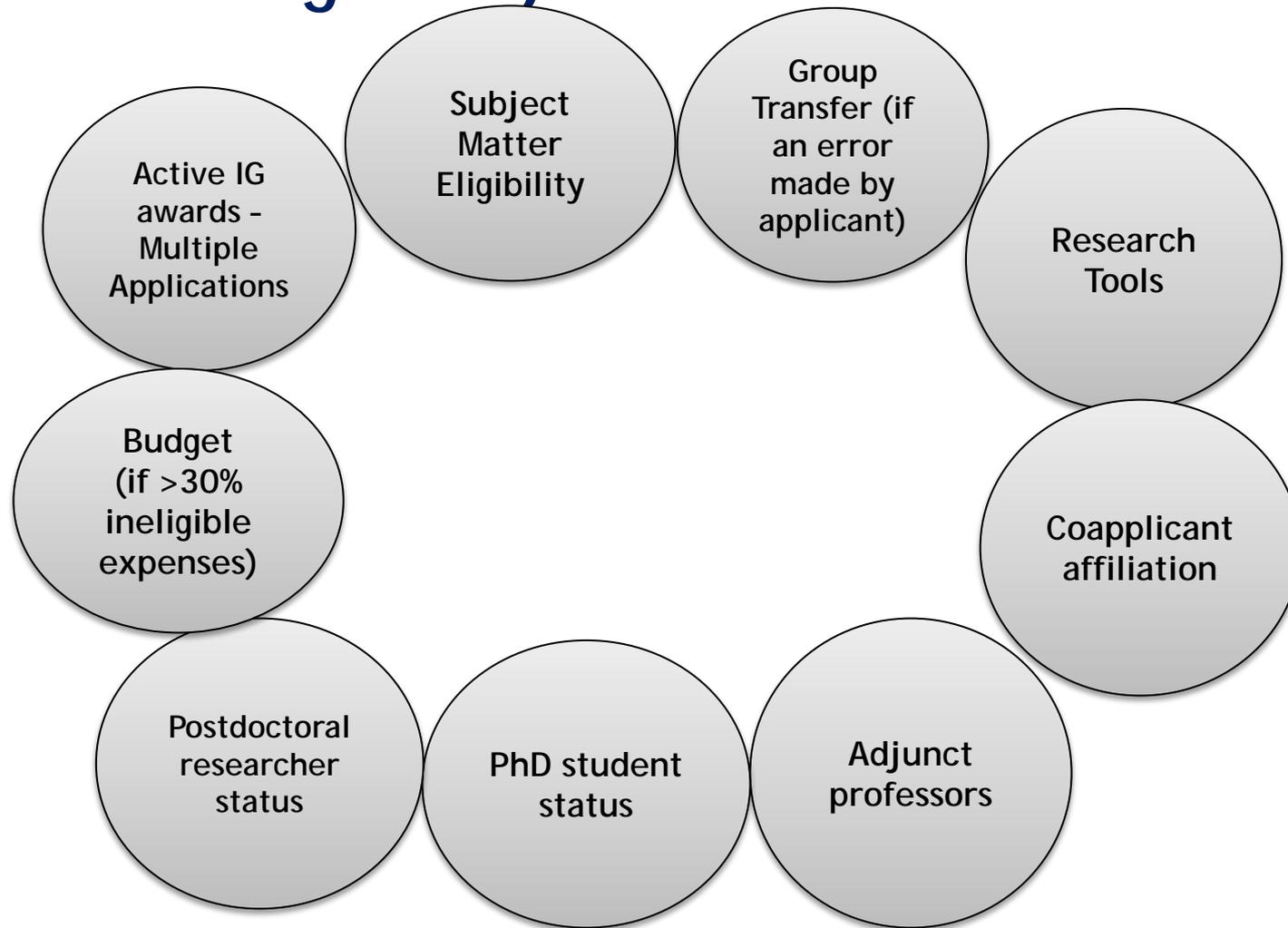
- ❖ Applicant: Principal Investigator and / or a team
- ❖ Duration: 3 - 5 years
- ❖ Value: \$7,000 - \$400,000 (max \$100,000 per year)
- ❖ Funding: No separate envelope for Emerging Scholars
- ❖ One-stage application process

October 15, 2015 - Formal Application (check internal deadlines)



ELIGIBILITY OVERVIEW

Eligibility Verification



Multiple Applications

Applicants may NOT apply - as Principal Investigator - for an Insight Grant AND an Insight Development Grant **within the same calendar year.**

This means:

- ❖ A researcher who applied for an Insight Development Grant in February 2015 *may not* apply for an Insight Grant in October 2015.
- ❖ A researcher who applies for an Insight Grant in October 2015, *may* apply for an Insight Development Grant in February 2016, provided that the objectives of the research are different.



Multiple Applications (cont'd)

Grant Retention:

- ❖ No limit to the number of applications on which a researcher may be listed as a co-applicant or collaborator.
- ❖ Only one grant of a particular type at a time.

Re-application:

- ❖ If you have a grant, you may re-apply to the same funding opportunity in its final year (or in the extension year).

Please refer to SSHRC's Regulations Regarding Multiple Applications for more information.

Subject Matter Eligibility

- ❖ SSHRC does not support research that is primarily health-related
- ❖ For eligibility-related advice, applicants may send a summary (including the proposed objectives) to the IG mailbox.

For further information, see the [Subject Matter Eligibility Guidelines](#).

Research Tools

- ❖ SSHRC supports tools that are relatively small (maximum \$100K)
- ❖ SSHRC does NOT support:
 - stand-alone tools that do not include a research component
 - capital investments in large research tools / infrastructure
- ❖ Requests **up to \$7,000** for research tools may be included in any application without need to refer to Guidelines
- ❖ For requests **between \$7,000 and \$100,000**, [see the Guidelines.](#)
- ❖ See Innovation.ca for other funding for research tools

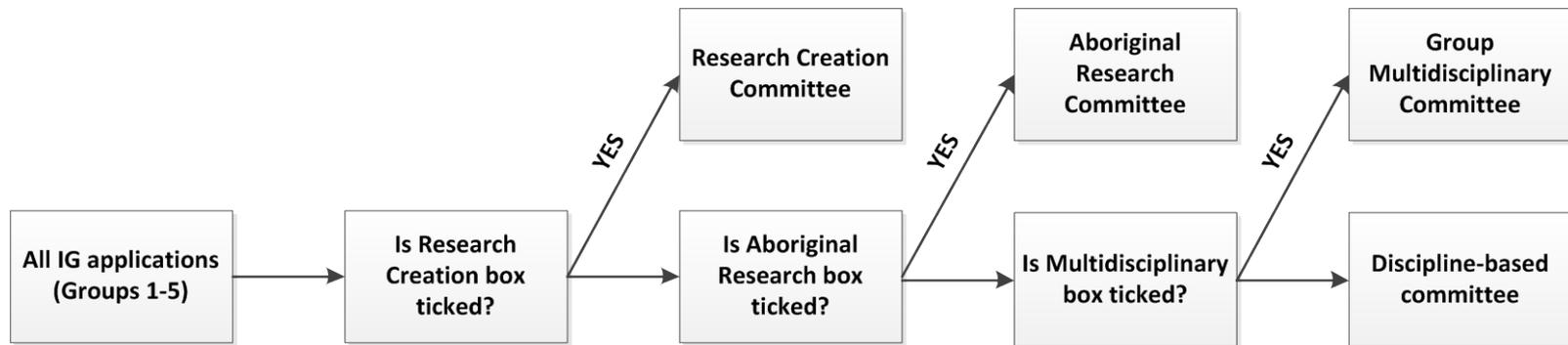


COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Research Groups

- ❖ **Group 1:** History; medieval studies; classics; literature; fine arts (+ **Research-Creation**); philosophy; religious studies; and related fields.
- ❖ **Group 2:** Anthropology; archaeology; linguistics; translation; political science; public administration; geography; urban planning and environmental studies; and environmental studies; and related fields.
- ❖ **Group 3:** Business and management; economics; and related fields.
- ❖ **Group 4:** Sociology; demography; **law; criminology; social work**; communication studies; journalism; media studies; gender studies; cultural studies; library and information science; and related fields.
- ❖ **Group 5:** Education, psychology; and related fields.

IG Committee Assignment Process



Multidisciplinary Applications

- ❖ Application will be directed to the Group multidisciplinary committee (created if demand sufficient).*
- ❖ Expertise from another Group (a third Reader) will be sought, when deemed appropriate and if available.

**If no multidisciplinary committee is formed within the Group, application will go to the committee most suited to its primary focus/discipline.*

Research-Creation

- ❖ Unique opportunity for artist-researchers or teams of researchers & artists that combines creative and academic research practices.
- ❖ Collaborative merit review between SSHRC & the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA).
- ❖ **Creation process** is situated within the research activity and produces critically informed work in a variety of media (art forms).
- ❖ For help with applications, consult the [Research-Creation info found in the online Resource Centre](#).

Aboriginal Research

- ❖ All academic fields, as well as domains of knowledge specific to First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultural traditions
- ❖ Respectful research involving both aboriginal and non-aboriginal perspectives
- ❖ Research *by* and *with* Aboriginal Peoples
- ❖ Multidisciplinary committee
- ❖ For more info, contact Patricia MacCaughan at patricia.maccaughan@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca



ADJUDICATION OVERVIEW

Committee Membership

- ❖ Expertise drawn primarily from the academic community, as well as the public, private, and/or not-for-profit sectors, as appropriate.
- ❖ Number of committee members is a function of number of applications received.
 - Members assigned an equitable and reasonable distribution of work.
- ❖ Representation in terms of:
 - university size
 - geographical region
 - language
 - gender



Adjudication Components

❖ External Assessors

- 2 assessments per application, where possible
- Suggested Assessors
- Provides additional information to committee
- Committee factors in their opinions as they judge appropriate

❖ Committees

- 2 - 3 Readers
- Disciplinary or Multi-disciplinary
- Aboriginal Research

Adjudication Process

- ❖ Calibration exercise
- ❖ Submission of preliminary scores by Readers
- ❖ Preliminary ranking of applications
- ❖ Flagging process for applications ranked in the bottom 35%
- ❖ Committee discussion
- ❖ Final ranking of applications

Evaluation Criteria & Scoring

Challenge (40%): Aim and importance of the endeavour

Feasibility (20%): The plan to achieve excellence

Capability (40%): The expertise to succeed

Note	Description
5 - 6	Very good - excellent
4 - 4.9	Good - very good
3 - 3.9	Satisfactory - good
Below 3	Unsatisfactory

*No weighting assigned to sub criteria.

Budget Evaluation

- ❖ Increase in number of applications and budgets requested = declining success rate for Insight Grants
- ❖ Ensure proposed budgets are appropriate and well-justified
- ❖ Automatic failure on Feasibility if 50% or more of request insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate

Feedback:

- ❖ Applicants will receive the following information in their results packages:
 - Notice of Decision
 - Letter of Award (if the application was funded)
 - External assessments received
 - Committee Evaluation Form (if the application was discussed)
 - Competition statistics



APPLICATION PREPARATION

CHOOSE A TOPIC





CONSIDER A FUTURE CHALLENGE AREA

1. What new ways of learning, particularly in higher education, will Canadians need to thrive in an evolving society and labour market?
2. What effects will the quest for energy and natural resources have on our society and our position on the world stage?
3. How are the experiences and aspirations of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada essential to building a successful shared future?
4. What might the implications of global peak population be for Canada?
5. How can emerging technologies be leveraged to benefit Canadians?
6. What knowledge will Canada need to thrive in an interconnected, evolving global landscape?

Please see website for sub-questions.



General Considerations

- ❖ Don't submit a premature proposal
- ❖ Define terms
- ❖ Edit and proofread
- ❖ Proofread
- ❖ Proofread

General Considerations

❖ CV(s)

- Categorize according to instructions
- Avoid “inflating” the CV
- Include significant career interruptions / special circumstances



Previous Critiques

- ❖ Response to Previous Critiques
 - Opportunity to justify a choice made with regard to research plan

Summary

- ❖ Summary of Proposed Research
 - Important introduction; be clear, thorough, use accessible language (may be used by media if funded)

Detailed Description

- ❖ provide clear and precise objectives: why is it important?
- ❖ include a complete and up-to-date literature review
- ❖ outline theoretical / conceptual framework
- ❖ ensure methodology makes sense in terms of objectives and personnel involved

Knowledge Mobilization Plan

- ❖ Be creative and ambitious
- ❖ Go beyond traditional venues
- ❖ Where applicable, reach out to the community or public
- ❖ See Guidelines for Effective KM



Description of team / student training plans

- ❖ Demonstrate the need for the team
- ❖ Describe each person's role and justify their inclusion in the research
- ❖ A student's work must be meaningful
- ❖ Guidelines for Effective Research Training



Budget and Budget Justification (part of Feasibility Score)

- ❖ Automatic failure on Feasibility if 50% or more of request insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate
- ❖ Option of failure if 30% or more deemed inappropriate
- ❖ Be reasonable and **justify** proposed expenditures
- ❖ Relate clearly to research objectives
- ❖ Describe other sources of funding
- ❖ See *Tri-council Financial Administration Guide*



Submitting Your Application

START EARLY IF YOU HAVE A TEAM!

- ❖ Co-applicants must:
 1. Create and verify their SSHRC CV
 2. Accept the invitation
 3. Upload their Research Contributions (PDF)

- ❖ Collaborators must:
 1. Fill out a profile
 2. Accept invitation

Submitting your application

- ❖ Leave enough time... *remember internal deadlines*
- ❖ Complete all mandatory fields
- ❖ Attach all mandatory electronic uploads to the application
- ❖ **VERIFY AND PREVIEW YOUR APPLICATION!**

Submitting your application

- ❖ Click the "Submit" button (i.e., Submit to Research Administrator) for institutional approval
- ❖ Institutions forward applications to SSHRC

NOTE: PhD students and postdoctoral researchers may submit their applications directly to SSHRC

FOR RGOS: only 1 application per researcher allowed (the system will allow more than 1 application to be submitted)

IG Competition Statistics

	2013-14	2014-15
Number of Committees	27	28
Number of eligible applications	2,183	2,144
Overall success rate	21.1 %	23.0 %
Requested amount	\$ 418,915,922	\$ 434,889,623
Awarded amount	\$ 88,110,413	\$ 98,130,302
Funding rate	21.0 %	22.6 %

<http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/results-resultats/stats-statistiques/index-eng.aspx>



Useful Links

Guidelines

[Subject Matter Eligibility](#)

[Definition of Terms](#)

[Tools for Research](#)

[Research Training](#)

[Knowledge Mobilization](#)

[Regulations Regarding Multiple Applications](#)

Joint Initiatives

[Sports Participation Research Initiative](#)

[Genome Canada](#)

[Canadian Foundation for Innovation](#)

Further Information

[Insight Grants](#)

[Future Challenge Areas](#)

[Research Creation](#)

[\(Resource Center\)](#)

[Aboriginal Research](#)

- [Statement of Principles](#)

- [Guidelines for Merit Review](#)

[Competition Statistics](#)

[Tri-Agency Financial Admin Guide](#)

NOTE: To access the webpage, right-click and click 'Open hyperlink'

Assistance

Insight Grants

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Technical Support

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Questions?