Institutional Plan for the Use of SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) Funds

SSHRC Eligible Disciplines & Areas of Research

SSHRC Disciplines

Anthropology	Geography	Political Science
Archaeology	History	Psychology
Archival Science	Industrial Relations	Religious Studies
Classics, Classical & Dead Languages	Interdisciplinary Studies	Social Work
Communications & Media Studies	Law	Sociology
Criminology	Library & Information Science	Urban & Regional Studies, Environmental Studies
Demography	Linguistics	Women's Studies
Economics	Literature, Modern Languages	
Education	Management, Business, Administrative Studies	
Fine Arts	Mediaeval Studies	
Folklore	Philosophy	

SSHRC Areas of Research

Agriculture	Forestry, Sylviculture	Mental Health
Arts & Culture	Gender Issues	Multiculturalism & Ethnic Studies
Biotechnology	Global/Climate Change	Northern development
Children	Globalization	Not subject to research classification
Communication	Health	Politics & Government
Economic & Regional Development	Housing	Population Studies
Education	Immigration	Post-Secondary Education & Research
Elderly	Indigenous Peoples	Poverty
Employment & Labour	Information Technologies	Productivity
Energy & Natural Resources	Innovation, Industrial & Technological Development	Science & Technology
Environment & Sustainability	International Relations, Development & Trade	Social Development & Welfare
Ethics	Law & Justice	Transportation
Family	Leisure, Recreation & Tourism	Violence
Financial & Monetary Systems	Literacy	Women
Fisheries	Management	Youth

Athabasca University is mindful of the need to increase supports to cultivate research excellence in the humanities and social sciences. The SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) will be used to offer both SSHRC Explore Grants and SSHRC Exchange Grants to SSHRC-eligible researchers in accordance with the guidelines established for the SSHRC Institutional Grant.

==SSHRC Explore Grants will==
- support social sciences and humanities researchers at any career stage;

- allow small-scale innovation and experimentation by providing funding to develop a research project or conduct pilot work; and

- enable researchers to hire students at any level to participate in their research projects thereby contributing to their professional development.

==SSHRC Exchange Grants will==
- support the organization of small-scale knowledge mobilization activities, such as workshops and seminars, to encourage collaboration and dissemination of research results within and beyond the academy (hereafter called SSHRC Exchange Grant: Knowledge Mobilization); and

- allow researchers to present their research at scholarly conferences and other dissemination venues that align with SSHRC's mandate to advance their careers and encourage the exchange of ideas and research results at the national and international level (hereafter called SSHRC Exchange Grant: Conference).

General eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be SSHRC-eligible, full-time AUFA academic staff members, at any career stage, for whom research is a required component of their workload.

- Applicants who hold a SSHRC Explore grant may also hold an Academic Research Fund grant within the same 12 months (and vice versa).

- SSHRC Explore Grant awards must be expended within 12 months of the receipt of the award; no extensions shall be granted.

- For SSHRC Explore Grants, a fully complete expense claim, with original receipts and final report, must be submitted within 30 days of the end of the 12-month period. Any remaining funds will be returned to the SSHRC Explore fund at the end of the 30-day period and any unclaimed expenditures will become the responsibility of the award recipient.

- Applicants who hold a SSHRC Exchange Grant: Conference cannot hold an Academic and Professional Development Fund grant within the same fiscal year.

- SSHRC Exchange Grants must be expended in accordance with the approved application.

- For SSHRC Exchange Grants, a fully complete expense claim, with original receipts and final report, must be submitted within 30 days of the event for which funding was provided. Any remaining funds will be returned to the SSHRC Exchange fund at the end of the 30-day period and any unclaimed expenditures will become the responsibility of the award recipient.

- Applicants may not hold a subsequent SSHRC Explore Grant (or an Academic Research Fund Grant) OR a SSHRC Exchange Grant (or an Academic and Professional Development Grant) until a fully complete expense claim, with original receipts, and final report have been submitted for the previous grant.

Eligibility criteria for SSHRC Explore Grant

- SSHRC-eligible, full-time AUFA academic staff members, at any career stage, for whom research is a required component of their workload.

- Must commit to submitting a SSHRC grant application (e.g., Insight; Insight Development; Connection; Engage; other) within the next 12 to 18 months.

- Value of award: Up to $6,000 CDN.

Evaluation criteria for SSHRC Explore Grant applications, in addition to those established for the Academic Research Fund include:
- Overall quality of the application, including knowledge mobilization plan.
- Quality of training to be provided to trainees (For additional information, refer to the SSHRC Guidelines for Effective Research Training).
- Potential social, economic or environmental impact of the research.
- Commitment to submit a SSHRC grant application (e.g., Insight; Insight Development; Connection; Engage; other) within the next 12 to 18 months.

  The Academic Research Fund Committee shall rank the SSHRC Explore applications in each competition in order of merit (highest to lowest) based on these criteria.

Eligibility criteria for SSHRC Exchange Grant: Conference

- SSHRC-eligible, full-time AUFA academic staff members, at any career stage, for whom research is a required component of their workload.
- Preference will be given to applicants whose target audience extends beyond the academy.
- Value of award: Up to $1,000 CDN if the conference is in Canada; $1,400 CDN if the conference is outside Canada.

Evaluation criteria for SSHRC Exchange Grant: Conference applications, in addition to those established for the Academic and Professional Development Fund include:
- Overall quality of the application.
- Description of social, economic or environmental impact of the research.
- Rationale for selection of the event in terms of reaching a target audience beyond the academy.

Eligibility criteria for SSHRC Exchange Grant: Knowledge Mobilization
- SSHRC-eligible, full-time AUFA academic staff members, at any career stage, for whom research is a required component of their workload.
- Eligible expenditures shall be relate directly to hosting the knowledge mobilization event and shall not include travel costs of any university staff member(s).
- Value of award: Up to $2,000 CDN.

Criteria for evaluation of SSHRC Explore Grant: Knowledge Mobilization applications, in addition to those established for the Academic and Professional Development Fund include:
- Overall quality of the application, including the knowledge mobilization plan. (For additional information, refer to the SSHRC Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization).
- Rationale for the workshop or seminar, including its target audience.
- Potential impact of the event, including how it will encourage collaboration and dissemination of research results within and beyond the academy.

Administration of the SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG)

- The SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) is awarded to Athabasca University and is administered by the Research Centre.

- The Academic Research Fund Committee and the Academic and Professional Development Fund Committee shall adjudicate applications for the SSHRC Explore Grants and SSHRC Exchange Grants, respectively.

- The Academic Research Fund Committee and the Academic and Professional Development Fund Committee shall rank the top three to five SSHRC Explore and SSHRC Exchange Grant applications in each competition in order of merit (highest to lowest) based on the evaluation criteria for the respective grants, as outlined below.

- Applicants to the SSHRC Explore and SSHRC Exchange Grant: Conference, shall use the Academic Research Fund and Academic and Professional Development Fund applications, respectively. Applicants to the SSHRC Exchange Grant: Knowledge Mobilization shall use the related form. All forms are found on the AU Research Portal.

- Applications SSHRC Explore Grant and SSHRC Exchange Grant: Conference must be submitted to one of the posted deadlines for the respective committees and meet the criteria for the related competition, as well as any additional criteria specified for these grants.

- Applications for the SSHRC Exchange Grant: Knowledge Mobilization must be submitted to the Academic and Professional Development Fund by the February 1 deadline.

- Decisions of the adjudication committee regarding the award (or denial) of a SSHRC Explore or SSHRC Exchange Grant are final and are not open to appeal.