RESEARCH

Research Support Fund Allocation 2024/25

The Research Support Fund (RSF) assists Canadian postsecondary institutions with the costs associated with managing their research enterprise, helping them to maintain a world-class research environment. AU acknowledges the essential support of the RSF to enhancing the university's priority and capacity on research.

RSF Amount and Allocation Areas

The notional grant amount for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is $675,977. Athabasca University expects to allocate the funds within the following three categories:

Management and Administration of the Institution's Research Enterprise: Research administration supports for grant application and research proposal development, grant-writing workshop facilitation, post-award financial administration, grants management software; training of research administration personnel, and development of the redesigned Strategic Research Plan.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation: Coordination of AU's research ethics activities and processes.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization: Supports initiatives for research development, commercialization, and digital knowledge mobilization.

The table below charts a pathway for success—from output to outcomes—in each of these categories of strategic utilization of the RSF.

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RSF Performance Objectives

RSF Eligible Expense Category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds).	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome
(3) Management and Administration of the Institution's Research Enterprise	Projected: 54.1% of RSF investment. Invested in resourcing eligible research administrative roles for life-cycle support of grant administration. Invested for grant administration systems, capacity building, and strategic plan mobilization.	Increase supports and success rates for Tri-Agency grants submitted. Maintain strong administrative processes and capacity in alignment with strategic research directions.	Number of grants submitted to Tri-Agency funding programs and success rates. Strategic research priority area inclusion in grant systems processes and reports.	Maintain or increase sponsored research revenue. Maintain or increase percentage of faculty holding (i.e., awarded) external funding.
(4) Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	Projected: 17.8% of RSF investment. Maintain strong regulatory requirements and ethics processes.	Continued regulatory vigilance, coordination, and management.	Effective delivery of ethics reviews and process enhancements.	Maintain or increase the number and efficiency of research ethics applications processed.
(5) Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization	Projected: 28.2% of RSF investment. Enhance services for research development, knowledge engagement, and impact.	Develop and refine research development supports and impact initiatives.	Internal and external engagement in research development supports and impact initiatives.	Enhanced contribution of research development to grant submissions. Diverse and broad reach of knowledge mobilization initiatives supported through the RSF.

Research Support Fund Outcomes and Impact 2024/25

For the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

Strategic Investments

In 2024-2025 Athabasca University (AU) invested its Research Support Fund award ($675,977) in the following expenditure categories:

Management and Administration of an Institution's Research Enterprise: Salaries and benefits for research administration support for grant development and facilitation, provision of financial services, grants management software, and capacity building.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation: Coordination of AU's research ethics activities, processes, and related certification/memberships costs for animal care.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization: Supports and initiatives for research development, innovation, commercialization, and digital knowledge mobilization.

The table below charts a pathway for success—from output to outcomes—in each of these categories of strategic utilization of the RSF.

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RSF-2024-00069 Performance Outcomes

RSF Eligible Expense Category	Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds).	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Reported Outcome
(3) Management and Administration of the Institution's Research Enterprise	Projected: 54.1% of RSF investment. Invested in resourcing eligible research administrative roles for life-cycle support of grant administration. Invested for grant administration systems, capacity building, and strategic plan mobilization.	Increase supports and success rates for Tri-Agency grants submitted. Maintain strong administrative processes and capacity in alignment with strategic research directions.	Number of grants submitted to Tri-Agency funding programs and success rates. Strategic research priority area inclusion in grant systems processes and reports.	Maintain or increase sponsored research revenue. Maintain or increase percentage of faculty holding (i.e., awarded) external funding.	**ACHIEVED: 50.68%** Tri-Agency funding levels were maintained. The proportion of faculty holding external funding experienced a modest decrease of 8.3% compared to the previous year, largely attributable to retirements and other transitions; newly appointed faculty members defer submitting funding applications while they establish their research programs, with submissions anticipated in the current year.
(4) Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	Projected: 17.8% of RSF investment. Maintain strong regulatory requirements and ethics processes.	Continued regulatory vigilance, coordination, and management.	Effective delivery of ethics reviews and process enhancements.	Maintain or increase the number and efficiency of research ethics applications processed.	**ACHIEVED: 17.76%** The overall number of ethics applications processed decreased slightly (8.6%) from the previous year due to a reduction in applications submitted by students. However, faculty applications were up by 10.20%. Maintained a high level of rigour in the review and processing of ethics applications for all grant funded research projects requiring approval, while also seeking continual improvement.

(5) Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization	Projected: 28.2% of RSF investment. Enhance services for research development, knowledge engagement, and impact.	Develop and refine research development supports and impact initiatives.	Internal and external engagement in research development supports and impact initiatives.	Enhanced contribution of research development to grant submissions. Diverse and broad reach of knowledge mobilization initiatives supported through the RSF.	**ACHIEVED: 31.56%** AU continues to grow its research impact through strategic partnerships and innovation supports, with consultations with researchers, and multiple meetings with external organizations. Key activities include participation in province-wide initiatives, collaboration seed funding, support for local projects, leadership in national networks, and engagement in Alberta's innovation ecosystem. AU continues to promote research impact through the development and delivery of knowledge mobilization resources and supports.