

Research Support Fund Allocation of Funds 2021-2022

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.

Program Overview

The [RSF](#) program helps Canadian postsecondary institutions cover a portion of the expenses associated with managing research funds awarded by the three federal granting agencies: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

The RSF provides essential supports for indirect costs of research. Indirect costs of research are operational expenditures incurred by AU to provide the necessary and ongoing support and infrastructure to facilitate the endeavors of researchers. These may include administrative support; ensuring adherence to regulatory requirements; improving research infrastructure, physical or virtual; provision of research resources benefitting the entire ecosystem; and supports for EDI strategy and implementation.

Institutions may utilize the RSF for expenditures in five categories: (1) Research Facilities, (2) Research Resources (3) Management and Administration of an Institution's Research Enterprise, (4) Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation, and (5) Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization.

Proposed Strategic Investment

The notional grant amount for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is \$341,031. Athabasca University expects to allocate the funds within the following categories, which would not be possible without the Research Support Fund:

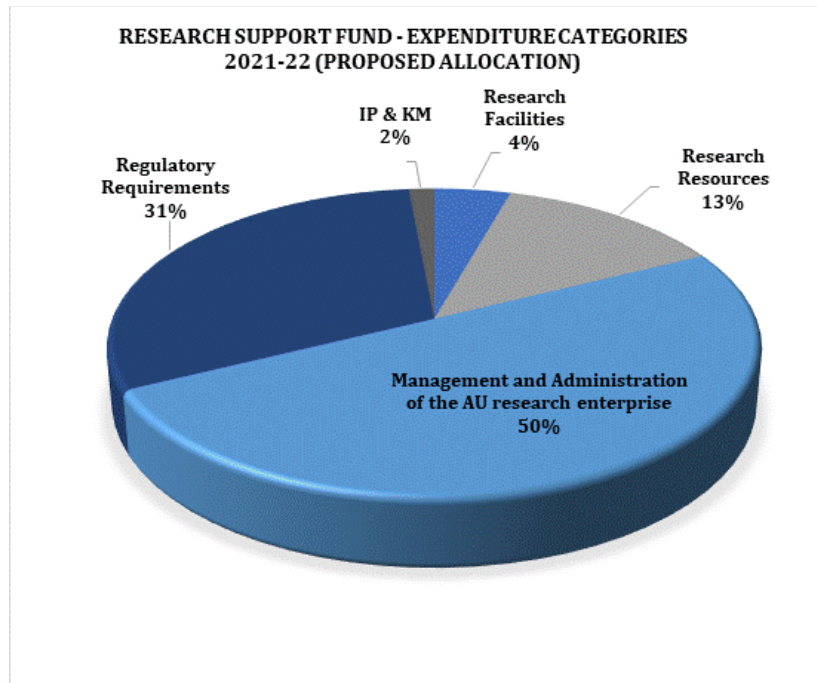
Research Facilities: Development and maintenance of AU's research websites.

Research Resources: Extending AU's internal digital research infrastructure to increase research activity and impact and coordinate with external digital infrastructure for the provision of additional access to digital tools and services for our researchers.

Management and Administration of an Institution's Research Enterprise: Implementation of Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives, salaries of research support staff time devoted toward the development and management of Tri-Agency funded grants, and grant management software licenses.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation: Costs associated with administrative support for Research Ethics Board and maintaining certification and memberships for research ethics.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization: Access to resources, training, and planning for researchers to support Knowledge Mobilization (KM) of the research community for the public good and support outreach activities (planning, development, impact, network, etc.).



Research Support Fund Outcomes and Impact

2021-2022

(April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022)

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.

Strategic Investment

In 2021-2022 Athabasca University invested its Research Support Fund award (\$341,031) in the following expenditure categories:

Research Facilities: Development and maintenance of AU's research websites.

Management and Administration of an Institution's Research Enterprise:

Implementation of Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives, salaries and benefits of research support staff time devoted toward the development and management of research grants, grant management software licenses, and costs associated with research staff attendance at research administration-related conferences and/or webinars for professional development.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation: Costs associated with administrative support for Research Ethics Board and maintaining certification and memberships for research ethics.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization: Costs associated with the administration of invention patent application.