

## Research Support Fund Allocation 2026/27

The Research Support Fund (RSF) assists Canadian postsecondary institutions to offset 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 research profile and capacity.

### **RSF Amount and Allocation Areas**

The notional grant amount for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is \$ \$754,378. 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 research proposal development and submission, grant-writing workshop facilitation, post-award financial administration, grants management software licensing, training of research administration personnel, and development of the redesigned institutional research strategy.

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

***Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization:*** Supports initiatives for research partnership development, innovation, commercialization of research products, 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.

## 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	<p>Projected: <b>59.4%</b> of RSF investment.</p> <p>Invested in resourcing eligible research administrative roles for life-cycle support of grant administration.</p> <p>Invested for grant administration systems, capacity building, and strategic plan mobilization.</p>	<p>Increased supports and success rates for Tri-Agency grants submitted.</p> <p>Maintain strong administrative processes and capacity in alignment with strategic research directions.</p>	<p>Number of grant applications submitted to Tri-Agency funding programs and success rates.</p> <p>Strategic research priority area inclusion in grant systems processes and reports.</p>	<p>Maintain or increase sponsored research revenue.</p> <p>Maintain or increase percentage of faculty holding external funding.</p>
(4) Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	<p>Projected: <b>13.3%</b> of RSF investment.</p> <p>Maintain strong compliance with regulatory requirements and ethics processes.</p>	<p>Continued regulatory vigilance, coordination, and management.</p>	<p>Providing effective support for ethics review processes, including the implementation of internal revisions and process improvements.</p>	<p>Maintain or enhance the efficiency in the processing of research ethics applications, amid an increasing number of requests.</p>
(5) Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization	<p>Projected: <b>27.3%</b> of RSF investment.</p> <p>Enhance services for innovation, partnership development, and impact.</p>	<p>Develop and refine research partnership development supports and impact initiatives, as well as the promotion and protection of IP.</p>	<p>Internal and external engagement in innovation and research partnership development supports and impact initiatives as well as the promotion and protection of IP.</p>	<p>Enhanced contribution of research partnership-related grant application submissions.</p> <p>Diverse and broad reach of knowledge mobilization initiatives supported through the RSF.</p> <p>Administration of agreements with industry, and for the protection and application of research findings.</p>