

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Office of Research and Innovation



Note: Applications must be received by the Office of Research and Innovation a minimum of 5 business days in advance of the funding agency deadline unless otherwise stated. Please allow enough time for Chair and Dean approval in ROMEO.

Natural Sciences and Engineering Grants

- Canada Water Agency Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative** will fund projects implemented by domestic partners within the Canadian portion of the Fraser River Basin that address water quality and aquatic ecosystem health and at least one of the listed program priorities.
Application deadline: April 10, 2025
- Canada Water Agency EcoAction Stream 2: Freshwater Sustainability and Innovation across Canada** will fund projects that address at least one of the objectives identified in the call for applications and clearly demonstrate that activities will lead to measurable, positive results for the environment
Application deadline: April 10, 2025
- NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program** supports the training and mentoring of teams of highly qualified students and postdoctoral fellows from Canada and abroad through the development of innovative training programs. UNBC has a quota of one full application that can be submitted. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the ORI before April 4, 2025.
Letter of Intent deadline (mandatory): May 1, 2025 Full application deadline: September 22, 2025
- NSERC-ECCC Call for Proposals on Plastics Science and Innovation for a Cleaner and More Sustainable Future** will fund research that advances the science around plastic designs and alternatives, the sustainable use of plastics, and plastic waste diversion and recovery.
Letter of Intent deadline (mandatory): May 15, 2025 Full application deadline (by invitation only): September 18, 2025

Contact: Jacqueline Dockray—Natural Sciences (jacqueline.dockray@unbc.ca) or Mostafa Sabzevari—Applied Sciences and Engineering (seyedmostafa.sabzevari@unbc.ca)

Social Sciences and Humanities Grants

- SSHRC Metascience and AI Postdoctoral Fellowships Competition** is offered in partnership with the United States' Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the United Kingdom's UK Research and Innovation and will support early career researchers in the social sciences and humanities (with particular emphasis on philosophy, sociology of science, and metascience) who are interested in understanding the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) for science.
Application deadline: April 10, 2025
- SSHRC Connection Grants** support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives, which can often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects.
Application deadline: May 1, 2025
- SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants** support researchers to build capacity, foster existing partnerships, and further develop networks and/or consortia with European Union and other "associated countries" researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to Horizon Europe—Pillar II calls for proposals. Matching funding from the host institution is required and there is a quota for applications from each institution. Interested researchers should contact the Office of Research and Innovation well in advance of the application deadline.
Application deadline: May 22, 2025
- SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants** provide short-term and timely support for partnered research activities that will inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector.
Application deadline: June 15, 2025

Contact: Sharleen Balogh (sharleen.balogh@unbc.ca)

Health Sciences Grants

- CIHR Catalyst Grant: Oral Health Data Analysis** will fund targeted analysis of the Oral Health Component (OHC) of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) Cycle 7 data.
Registration deadline (mandatory): April 15, 2025 Full application deadline: May 13, 2025
- CIHR Operating Grant: New Investigator Research Grants in Child and Youth Health** is jointly sponsored by the SickKids Foundation and seeks to strengthen Canada's capacity and knowledge to respond to children's health challenges and needs.
Application deadline: April 21, 2025
- CIHR Team Grant: Bringing Biology to Cancer Prevention** aims to unite interdisciplinary research teams to advance the biological and mechanistic understanding of cancer etiology, genesis, and risk, linked with host, lifestyle, environmental, social, and other factors, to identify new targets and approaches for cancer prevention, risk reduction, and early detection.
Full application deadline: June 19, 2025 *Note that mandatory registration was previously required.
- CIHR Operating Grants: Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease Research** aim to advance research on health and social care related to neurodegenerative diseases at moderate, advanced and end of life stages of disease by working together across national borders and considering ethical issues.
Full application deadline: June 24, 2025 *Note that a mandatory pre-proposal was previously required.
- Health Research BC and Mitacs Health-System Focused Funding** will support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows across British Columbia to gain experience working with BC's health system.
Letter of Intent deadline (mandatory): June 30, 2025 Full application deadline (by invitation only): July 31, 2025

Contact: Crystal Carpenter (crystal.carpenter@unbc.ca)

Other Grants and Scholarships

- New Frontiers in Research Fund Transformation Competition** is designed to support large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary research projects that address a major challenge with the potential to realize real and lasting change.
NOI deadline (mandatory): April 15, 2025 LOI deadline (mandatory): June 17, 2025 Full application deadline (by invitation only): March 3, 2026
- PICS Climate Foresight Dialogues Program** will support all aspects of planning and hosting a Fall 2025 multi-day, retreat-style Dialogue to explore a proposed challenge and collaborative responses to problems in climate change and climate action that require interdisciplinary and intersectoral responses. Following the Dialogues, PICS will invite Dialogue leads to develop research proposals for up to three years of PICS research funding.
Application deadline: May 15, 2025

Contact: See funding description

Internal Grants

- Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia Partnering Fund** aims to assist faculty and students in obtaining and leveraging funding for research and educational programs that speak to the goals of the Foundation Partnering Fund (see description for details).
Application deadline: April 15, 2025
- UNBC Green Grants** are accepted from any member of the UNBC community, including students, staff, faculty and campus based organizations, and provide one-time seed funding for research, education and civic engagement projects that promote sustainability at UNBC.
Application deadlines: twice per year in February and October
- UNBC Green Travel Grants** are accepted from any member of the UNBC community, including students, staff, and faculty, and provide financial support for travel and registration fees for conferences, training sessions, etc. that add to the sustainability knowledge and skills base at UNBC, or communicate the UNBC experience to a broader audience.
Application deadline: Continuous intake
- Research Strategic Initiatives Grants (RSIG)** welcome requests from all UNBC faculty, research organizations, graduate and undergraduate student groups engaged in research. Funds are directed toward research activities for which other sources of funding are not available.
There are four application deadlines per year: January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1
- Graduate Student Travel Award** provides financial support for graduate students participating in knowledge dissemination activities, such as workshops, seminars, scholarly conferences, community engagement events, and other knowledge transfer activities.
There are four application deadlines per year: January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1

Contact: See funding description

A Look Ahead / Continuous Intake Grants

- BC Conservation Fund Stream 1, Intake 2** EOI deadline: July 4, 2025
- SSHRC Policy Innovation Partnership Grants** Deadline: September 10, 2025
- Horizon Europe Funding Calls** Deadlines vary, see link for details
- Environment and Climate Change Canada Funding Programs** Deadlines vary, see link for details
- NSERC Alliance Advantage Grants** (Continuous Intake)
- NSERC Alliance Society Grants** (Continuous Intake)
- NSERC Alliance International Grants** (Continuous Intake)
- Mitacs Accelerate** (Continuous Intake)
- Mitacs Globalink Research Award** (Continuous Intake)
- Mitacs Elevate Postdoctoral Fellowship** (Continuous Intake)
- SERNbc Seed Grants** (Continuous Intake)
- Project Learning Tree—Green Jobs** (Continuous Intake)
- Rio Tinto Aluminum Canada Fund** (Continuous Intake)
- Pacific Salmon Foundation—Partnered Initiatives** (Continuous Intake)
- Science Horizons Youth Internship Program** (Continuous Intake)
- Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation—Innovative Medical Research & Practices** (Continuous Intake)
- FHSS Scholarly Book Awards** (Continuous Intake)



Hiring students to work on grant-funded research

Many funders, including the tri-agencies (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR), encourage and/or require the involvement of students or other Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) in grant-funded research, and many research projects can greatly benefit from this work. There are a few considerations when proposing to hire students or otherwise involve them in grant-funded activities.

- ◆ **Stipend vs. salary.** The decision to pay a student a stipend vs. a salary/hourly wage is dictated by the nature of their involvement, not by the budget. If the involvement of the student in the research is of an educational nature and will contribute to them obtaining a degree, it may be appropriate to pay them a stipend. However, if the student will be expected to perform specific duties and the work will not directly lead to them obtaining a degree, they must be paid a salary or hourly wage. For more information, see the [Research Personnel Recruitment Guide](#).
- ◆ **Stipends.** Rates for stipends are at the discretion of the faculty member, but should be adequate to support the student in their studies. Some benchmarks for appropriate stipends are the new [Harmonized Tri-agency Scholarship and Fellowship Programs](#) and the [Estimated Total Costs for UNBC Students](#).
- ◆ **Salaries or hourly wages.** If students are to be paid a salary or hourly wage, they must be paid at least minimum wage (currently \$17.40/hour in BC) plus statutory benefits. To calculate the total cost of hiring a student, please see the [Student Costing Worksheet](#) on the UNBC Human Resources webpage.

Reminder: all grant and contract applications **must** be received by the Office of Research and Innovation via ROMEO a minimum of 5 business days in advance of the agency deadline. Please allow enough time for Chair and Dean approval prior to the internal deadline.