

RDC Research Award Guidelines

Research Data Centre at UNBC

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The Statistics Canada Research Data Centre at UNBC is part of the British Columbia Inter-university Research Data Centre, supported by SSHRC, CIHR, and Statistics Canada, and partner universities through the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN). The RDC is a secure computer lab housed in the UNBC library which facilitates access to Statistics Canada confidential microdata, including population, social, and health surveys, along with a variety of administrative databases. The RDC at UNBC shares the goals of the CRDCN which are to: “provide data access and services that enable Canada's social science and health researchers to conduct advanced statistical research of the highest standard”; “promote the career development of the next generation of HQP [highly qualified personnel] for positions in the academy, government and the private sector”; and “maximize the relevance and application of research results for informing Canadian and international public policy”. For information about the RDC at UNBC see <http://www.unbc.ca/rdc>.

Objective

The objective of the RDC Research Award is to support the development and implementation of research projects conducted in the Research Data Centre at UNBC and promote the goals of the CRDCN noted above. The RDC Research Award is also intended to assist researchers in obtaining external funding for their research in the future.

Overview of the Research Award

The RDC Research Award competition award is valued at up to \$5,000. Applications including multiple projects are encouraged. Eligible expenses include wages for analysts, research assistants, and/or research associates, or for graduate student stipends. For faculty members based at one of the UNBC regional campuses, eligible costs may also include costs associated with travel to/from the RDC on the Prince George campus. Course fees for related training are eligible. Travel costs for training and for conferences are not eligible. The funding period is May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025.

Eligibility

1. Researchers eligible for this grant include faculty members with tenured or tenure track appointments at UNBC including the Northern Medical Program. Faculty members with regular term appointments are eligible to apply as long as the end date of the term appointment is after the end of the Research Award. Post-doctoral fellows are eligible to apply if their term does not end before the end of the Research Award.
2. Researchers receiving a RDC Research Award must follow the usual Statistics Canada RDC application and receive approval for their research project before all of the award funds are allocated.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. Quality and completeness of the proposal including:
 - a. clarity of the research question(s) and/or hypotheses;
 - b. justification for the research;
 - c. clarity and detail of the proposed methodology;
 - d. identification of the Statistics Canada dataset to be used and sound rationale for why the confidential data are required; and
 - e. identification of a proposed statistical software which is available in the RDC, or one which can be installed at minimal cost.

2. Clear and reasonable budget, reflecting eligible expenses.
3. Demonstrated skills and experience of the researcher (or team) to complete the work, or feasible plan to access collaborators with required expertise.
4. Future positive impacts relating to the goals of the CRDCN and also likelihood of the Research Award assisting the researcher to obtain external grants in the future.

Application process

1. The deadline for submission of applications is **April 19, 2024**.
2. **Applicants planning on applying must consult RDC Analyst, Larine Sluggett, at rdc@unbc.ca, for assistance with identifying an appropriate dataset for the proposed research and for any other questions about the RDC working environment at least one week prior to the application date.** Applications that have not been reviewed by the RDC prior to the submission deadline will not be accepted. Please note: Applicants wishing to resubmit a prior unsuccessful application must set up a new appointment for the current competition.
3. Eligible researchers must complete the UNBC RDC Research Award application form on-line via Romeo at <https://www.unbc.ca/research/romeo>.
4. Submission will include a 3-page proposal to be uploaded to Romeo. 1 additional page is allowed for references and 1 additional page allowed if application includes multiple projects. The proposal includes: *a) overview of the problem and research question(s) or hypotheses; b) brief description of the relevance of the research; c) the proposed methodology; d) the specific Statistics Canada dataset(s) that will be used for analysis and rationale for why the confidential dataset is required; e) the proposed statistical software to be used; f) timeline of activities; and g) proposed budget.*
5. Applications will be adjudicated by a committee and decisions rendered by **April 30, 2024**.

RDC Research Award Expectations and Guidelines

1. Researchers successful in this Research Award competition must follow the usual Statistics Canada RDC application and receive approval for the project before all of the Research Award funds will be allocated. Up to 50% of the awarded amount will be made available to assist with completion and submission of the RDC application to Statistics Canada. The remainder of the awarded amount will be available when the researcher receives approval from Statistics Canada to proceed with the project.
2. Only one RDC Research Award per primary applicant will be granted per year, however, each application may involve multiple projects.
3. Duration of the Award will be 12 months. Under exceptional circumstances this period may be extended an additional 6 months, with permission from the Academic Director of the UNBC Research Data Centre.
4. Residual funds are to be returned to the UNBC RDC Research Award fund.
5. Funds can only be used as indicated in the approved budget.
6. A final summary report is due to the Office of Research and Innovation two months after the term of the award ends. This short report (2 pages maximum) should outline how the funds were used and project outputs.
7. To avoid delays in the approval of your project and receipt of grant funds, researchers should contact the RDC to complete the RDC security screening process at their earliest convenience. For general questions about the UNBC RDC and this Research Award, please contact Larine Sluggett, RDC Analyst.
8. Researchers may be invited to present a summary of their research results at RDC sponsored workshop or seminar.