Memo – New Training Funding Program

Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards (CIRTA)

December 18, 2025

CIRTA Overview

Competition Announcement	https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/news/launch-new-canada-impact-research-training-awards
Competition Frequency	One time only (2026)
Nomination deadlines	Phase (intake) 1: March 4, 2026 (8:00 p.m. eastern) Phase (intake) 2: Deadline to come
Value	• Doctoral scholarships valued at $40,000 per year for three years; • Postdoctoral research awards valued at $70,000 per year for two years. Memorial's allocation: 4 doctoral scholarships and 3 postdoctoral awards
Nominator edibility	Researchers (nominators) must hold an active grant from one of the three federal research funding agencies (CIHR; NSERC; SSHRC) and must be eligible to supervise doctoral and/or postdoctoral trainees.
Nominee eligibility	Only trainees (nominees) who are internationally based (both working and residing outside of Canada) at the time nomination are eligible.
Results Announced	Phase 1: TBA Phase 2: TBA
CIRTA program information and Q&A	https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/en/funding/opportunities/canada-impact-plus-research-training-awards.aspx https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/canada-impact-research-training-awards-qa

Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards (CIRTA)

Introduction

The Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards (CIRTA) is a one-time only initiative designed to support institutions to recruit top international research talent. CIRTA recognizes and supports international researchers at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels by providing high-quality training opportunities in priority fields.

Strategic Priorities

This initiative will invest in eight priority research areas as follows:

- advanced digital technologies (including artificial intelligence, quantum and cybersecurity);
- health, including biotechnology;
- clean technology and resource value chains;
- environment, climate resilience and the Arctic;
- food and water security;
- democratic and community resilience;
- manufacturing and advanced materials; and/or
- defence and dual-use technologies.

Applications

Nomination allocations will be distributed in alignment with program objectives and institutional research strategies. Eligible nominators (researchers) will select nominees (trainees). One nomination allows a researcher to recruit one trainee; however, institutions may provide a researcher with more than one nomination. Nominations must be used at the specified academic level (e.g. a doctoral nomination cannot be used to recruit a postdoctoral trainee).

Institutions will send the completed nomination packages to the appropriate agency(ies) for adjudication.

Eligible nominators

A nominator researcher must be eligible to supervise doctoral and/or postdoctoral research. Nominators must also hold an active grant as a main applicant awarded under one of the eligible funding opportunities:

CIHR	NSERC	SSHRC
• Catalyst Grant • Network Grant • Operating Grant • Project Grant • Team Grant • Training Grant	• Alliance grants - including peer reviewed special and joint opportunities • Canada 150 Research Chairs	• Artificial Intelligence Humanities Sandpit • Canada-France Calls for Proposals on Artificial Intelligence

	• Canada Excellence Research Chairs • Canada First Research Excellence Fund • Canada Research Chairs • Collaborative Research and Development grants (including DND/NSERC Research Partnership grants) • Collaborative Research and Training Experience program • Discovery Grants program • Discovery Grants – Subatomic Physics (individual, project and major resources) • Discovery Grants – Discovery Development Grants • Discovery Horizons • Idea to Innovation grants • Industrial Research Chairs (research project) • NSERC-CSE Research Communities Grants • Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative	• CMHC-SSHRC National Housing Strategy Longitudinal Outcomes Research • Department of National Defence Research Initiative (DNDRI) • Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative • Indigenous Science and the Impacts of Plastic Pollution • Insight Development Grants • Insight Grants • National Science Foundation Global Centres • New Frontiers in Research Fund - Exploration • New Frontiers in Research Fund - Global • New Frontiers in Research Fund - International • New Frontiers in Research Fund - Nordforsk-led Joint Initiative • New Frontiers in Research Fund - Transformation • Open Research Area • Partnership Development Grants • Partnership Grants • Partnership Grants - Partnered Research Training Initiatives • Policy Innovation Partnership Grants • Reconciliation Network in

		Response to Call to Action 65 • Research on Research Joint Initiative • Social Sciences and Humanities Research Network on Sustainable Agriculture in a Net-Zero Economy • Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative • Trans-Atlantic Platform Democracy, Governance and Trust

The area of the nominator's Tri-agency research grant does not limit them from being a nominator. However, the nominee's proposed area of research must fall within one of the outlined priority research areas.

Eligible nominees

Nominees can be of any citizenship, including Canadian citizens, permanent residents and protected people. Nominees cannot have a current affiliation with a Canadian institution and must be currently studying or working abroad.

- For the doctoral award: nominees must be eligible to enroll in a doctoral program at the nominating institution in Canada as of the award activation date.
- For the postdoctoral award: nominees must be qualified to undertake postdoctoral research at the nominating institution in Canada as of the award activation date.

Participation of Canadian citizens in this program is intended for those who have previously left Canada for research and/or work experience who wish to return to Canada to continue their research.

Unlike the existing limiting eligibility windows in the Canada Grad. Research Scholarships- Doctoral (must be within 36 months of starting the doctoral program) and Canadian Postdoctoral Research Award programs (must be within 3 years of completing the doctoral degree), the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards do not have any windows of time that would limit eligibility.

All Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards must be activated by March 31, 2027. Exact relocation time may be affected by immigration processes.

Memorial University's Institutional Allocation

Memorial's maximum allocation is 4 doctoral scholarships and 3 postdoctoral awards. Allocation of scholarships/fellowships amongst interested faculty members will be carried out through an internal selection process.

Application Format

All submitted proposals are to be a maximum of 2 pages in length, with margins of 1 inch around each page, and 12-point font with single line spacing. Proposals must conform to the following format:

1. An introduction including confirmation of the requested trainee type (doctoral/postdoctoral), and an overview of the focus of the nominee's research within the eight priority research areas.

2. A brief overview of the nominator's active grant awarded under one of the eligible funding opportunities listed above (i.e. title, role in project, term, amount);

3. A description of the nominator's vision and plans for a successful training opportunity, including:
    a. the proposed research area of the nominee's project,
    b. existing research excellence to support the nominee in the proposed research area, including (but not limited to) existing faculty expertise, facilities/equipment, etc.
    c. planned support (i.e., financial and non-financial) for the nominee, including (but not limited to) EDI and immigration support, potential for building professional networks, career development, etc.

4. A completed Approval Form is also required, and is included at the end of the Call.

Please note that any additional information provided beyond that requested above will not be considered during the internal assessment process.

Review Process

All proposals received will be assessed by an internal Selection Committee whose members will be drawn from Memorial's campuses and chaired by the Vice-President (Research). For those proposals selected to go forward to CIRTA, nominators/nominees will work with Memorial's Research Initiatives & Services (RIS) and their respective academic units to prepare the application package.

Recruitment

Once the nominee has been identified, the nominator and the nominee will work with RIS (and other relevant offices) to complete the application that will be submitted to either the March 4, 2026, or the TBA 2026 application deadline. Please note that nominees only become doctoral students/postdoctoral researchers at Memorial once their application has been successfully awarded.

Nominators are encouraged to engage with SGS and the Internationalization Office to discuss the institutional supports available for new international students/postdocs. For more information for new students, online resources covering program applications, study permits, immigration contacts, and registration are available here: (https://www.mun.ca/sgs/new-students/) For more information regarding postdoctoral fellows, please contact the appropriate individual within your academic unit to coordinate the placement, including space and any in-kind supports.

Deadline

All applications are to be submitted via email to RIS (ris@mun.ca), and must be received by **5 pm on January 15, 2026**. Results of this process will be announced no later than end of day on January 23, 2026.

Contact

If you have any questions about this competition, please do not hesitate to contact RIS (ris@mun.ca)

Canada Impact+ Research Research Training Awards Competition
Proposal Approval Form

Canada Impact+ Research Research Training Award Program:
Intake (i.e., one vs. two):
Nominator:
Academic Unit:

We have prepared the attached Canada Impact+ proposal, and understand that if chosen by the Selection Committee, we will identify an external nominee at the appropriate level (i.e. doctoral or postdoctoral). Once identified, we will work with Memorial's Research Initiatives & Services (RIS) to prepare the application package, with the full application submitted in accordance with appropriate submission deadline.

Signature of Nominator Date

Signature of Department Head or designate Date

Signature of Dean or designate Date