

Research Development Initiatives

Context

Developing high-quality research depends on establishing and promoting environments necessary for the generation of new knowledge and for experimentation in new methods, approaches and ideas. Such development requires theoretical and methodological experimentation in the early stages of the research process. Accordingly, the Research Development Initiatives (RDI) program supports research that both assesses and elicits the changing directions of research and the evolution of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. The program provides short-term support that enables grant holders to develop their research to a point where they are able to submit fully developed proposals to other programs with the aim of producing and effectively disseminating advanced research findings.

Objectives

The overall objective of the RDI program is to support research in its initial stages by supporting the development of new ways of analyzing, structuring, integrating and transferring knowledge in the humanities and the social sciences. The specific objectives of the program are to help researchers to:

- develop new research questions;
- explore conceptual and methodological perspectives and directions;
- critically analyze and assess research, including its achievements, impacts, strengths and state of development.

Description

SSHRC invites proposals that meet the program's overall objective of supporting innovative research in its initial stages that will lead to the development of mature research projects. Proposals should not be full-fledged, stand-alone projects that aim at advanced research results, as this type of research is already supported by Council's Standard Research Grants and other programs. Nor are RDI grants intended to support ongoing programs of research. Applicants must clearly distinguish their RDI project from previous or ongoing research. The proposal should address and develop a distinct, delimited research issue, present clearly defined plans for the research, and propose a budget that is fully justified by those plans.

The program supports research activities that can lead to the development of innovative programs of research. These activities may include, but are not limited to, case studies, pilot projects, critical analyses, research collaboration and new ways of producing, structuring, and mobilizing knowledge. Please note that SSHRC has a separate funding program for workshops and conferences. In addition, the RDI program encourages developmental activities that promote interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research.

Value and Duration

The maximum value of an RDI grant is \$40,000 over two years. Applicants may request support for one or two years. Competitions are held twice a year.

Note: RDI grants are **not** renewable. Council expects that the research that the grant supports may lead to mature research proposals suitable for submission to other funding programs, whether those of SSHRC or other agencies.

Eligibility

Applicants may be individual researchers or groups of researchers affiliated with Canadian universities or other postsecondary institutions, as well as scholarly associations in the humanities and social sciences. Foreign researchers not affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution are eligible to apply as co-applicants.

Researchers from other organizations, as well as the organizations themselves, are also eligible to apply, provided that the proposed research requires significant involvement of researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions.

More Information

If you have any questions about the Research Development Initiatives program, please contact:

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