

RDI

**SSHRC'S Research Development
Initiatives Program**

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.

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:

- 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.

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.

In addition, the RDI program encourages developmental activities that promote interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research.

Value & 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.

RDI grants are not renewable. SSHRC 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 organisations, as well as the organisations themselves, are also eligible to apply, provided that the proposed research requires significant involvement of researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions.

Typical RDI Proposal Titles

- Material Imagination and Religious Architecture in Canada
- The Impact of World Heritage Status on Communities
- Parenting Children with Hidden Disabilities
- Motivational Factors of Female Jazz Musicians
- Human Resource Patterns in the Agricultural Industry
- Exploring the Phenomenon of Occupational Presence
- Qualitative Field Methods for Use with Deployed Soldiers
- Trans-Systemic Reconciliations in Aboriginal Law
- Conceptualizing Sport Volunteer Tourism
- The Work of Canada's Mental Health Commission

Evaluation & Adjudication

An interdisciplinary selection committee with broad expertise will assess and adjudicate all RDI proposals according to the following criteria:

- **significance and originality** of the proposed research
- **quality** of the plans for the proposed research
- **applicant's qualifications** for carrying out the proposed research
- **feasibility** of the proposed research activities to meet the objectives of the RDI program
- **appropriateness of the budget** requested.

1. Significance and originality

- To what extent does the proposed research add to what has already been done in the area?
- Has the researcher shown familiarity with the literature?
- To what extent is the proposed research different or new compared to what the researcher has already done?

2. Research plans

- Is there a clear cut research component?
- Do the research plans present a clear road map of the steps to be taken?
- Do the plans clearly delineate the various roles of the researcher, students etc?

3. Applicant's qualifications

- Does the applicant have the necessary qualifications (as demonstrated by their CV) to carry out the research?

4. Feasibility

- Does the proposal meet with the overall purpose of the RDI program?
- Does it address one or more of the three RDI objectives?
- Does it propose initial research that is open ended and will lead to more advanced research?

5. Appropriateness of budget

- Is the budget well justified in terms of research plans?
- Does it make best use of the two pages allowed?

Scoring

Each of the five criteria are weighted equally and given a score out of 10 separately by two readers.

In order to pass, applications must score at least 6/10 in each category.

The scores of the two readers are tallied and an initial ranking of all the proposals is prepared.

Adjudication meeting

Each proposal is fully considered:

- introduced by the two readers who describe the study and give reasons for their scoring
- discussed by the full committee (particularly where there is a large discrepancy between the two readers' scores)
- initial scores adjusted if necessary

Final ranking of proposals agreed

All applicants receive a notice of the decision and a summary of the adjudication committee's comments.

Reasons for rejection

	%
• Research plan not fully developed/elaborated	60
• No/poor indication of next stage of research	55
• Budget insufficiently justified	45
• Developmental/innovative aspects not demonstrated	35
- Discipline-specific	
- Applicant's previous or ongoing research	
• Insufficient information about merits or significance of research	30
• Stand-alone project/Not relevant to RDI	20
• Applicant's qualifications/record of research achievement	15
• Budget excessive or inappropriate	10
• Research over-ambitious	10
• Application incomplete	<10

Timelines

Next application deadline: October 7, 2009

Results announced: February 27, 2010

For more information

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Questions?