



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

SSHRC  CRSH

The Insight Grant Funding Opportunity

September 2011





Scope of Presentation

Insight Grants

- Relationship to Standard Research Grants, former strategic grants and Insight Development Grants
- Application and evaluation processes
- Tips and questions



Program Architecture Renewal

Goals:

- greater overall program coherence
- simplified application process
- flexible funding options for individuals and teams
- new approach to multidisciplinary



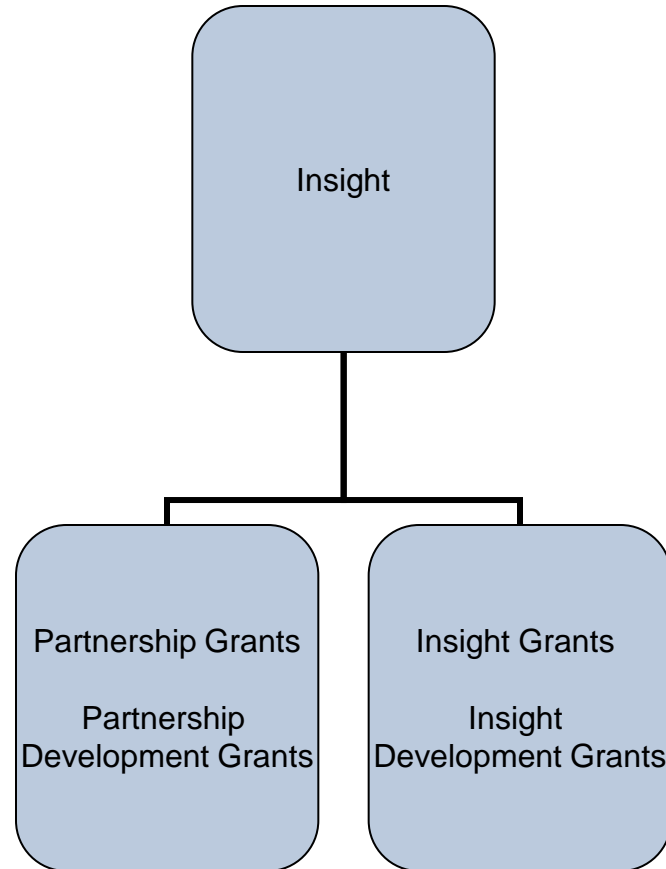
Structure

Three programs:

- Talent
- Insight
- Connection

Two funding streams:

- Individual researchers and informal groups or teams
- Formal partnerships



Insight Grants

- build knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector perspectives through support for the best researchers;
- support new approaches to research on complex and important topics, including those that transcend the capacity of any one scholar, institution or discipline;
- provide a high-quality research training experience for students;
- fund research expertise that relates to societal challenges and opportunities; and
- mobilize research knowledge, to and from academic and non-academic audiences, with the potential to lead to intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact.

Insight Grants: Features

- **Applicant:** Principal investigator alone or with a team
- **Duration:** 3 to 5 years
- **Value:** min. \$7,000, up to \$500,000 (with a maximum of \$200,000 in any given year)
- **Funding:** No separate envelope for New Scholars
- **Application process:** One-stage application

Evaluation and Adjudication: All Programs

- The clarity and consistency that were the goals of program architecture renewal extend to our modified evaluation and adjudication procedures, where the same essential variables are utilized for all programs.



Evaluation Criteria

- Challenge - Aim and importance of the endeavour
- Feasibility - The plan to achieve excellence
- Capability - The expertise to succeed

Weighting of Criteria

	Partnership Development Grants	Partnership Grants	Insight Development Grants	<u>Insight Grants</u>
Challenge	50%	40%	50%	40%
Feasibility	20%	30%	20%	20%
Capability	30%	30%	30%	40%

Specific Evaluation criteria (Insight Grants)

1. **Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (40%):**
 - originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge;
 - appropriateness of the literature review;
 - appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework;
 - appropriateness of the methods/approach;
 - quality of training and mentoring to be provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute; and
 - potential influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.

2. **Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (20%):**
 - probability of effective and timely attainment of the research objectives;
 - appropriateness of the requested budget, and justification of proposed costs;
 - indications of financial and in-kind contributions from other sources, where appropriate;
 - quality of knowledge mobilization plans, including for effective knowledge dissemination, knowledge exchange and engagement within and/or beyond the research community; and
 - strategies and timelines for the design and conduct of the activity/activities proposed.

3. **Capability—The expertise to succeed (40%):**
 - quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published outputs of the applicant and any team members relative to their roles in the project and their respective stages of career;
 - evidence of contributions such as commissioned reports, professional practice, public discourse, public policies, products and services, development of talent, experience in collaboration, etc.; and
 - potential to make future contributions.

Adjudication Components

- There are two basic adjudication components - external assessments and committee/committee member evaluations. Again, they are used depending upon the specific funding opportunities (as per the following chart)

Adjudication

	Partnership Development Grants	Partnership Grants	Insight Development Grants	Insight Grants
Type of Adjudication Committee	Multi-disciplinary / multi-sectoral	Multi-disciplinary / multi-sectoral	Multi-disciplinary	Thematic and/or Multi-disciplinary and/or Disciplinary
Number of Readers	3	3	3	2/3
Use of External Assessments	NO	NO-LOI YES-Formal (3-6)	NO	YES

Adjudication Committees

- Emphasis on Multidisciplinary/Multisectoral committees
 - Expertise drawn from the academic community, and the public, private, and/or not-for-profit sectors, as appropriate

- Why?
 - Follows general research trends
 - Blue Ribbon Panel recommendation (2008)
 - Goals of simplicity and flexibility



Insight and Insight Development Grants: Research Groups at Application Stage

- **Group 1:** History; medieval studies; classics; literature; fine arts; philosophy; religious studies; and related fields
- **Group 2:** Anthropology; archaeology; linguistics; translation; political science; public administration; law; criminology; geography; urban planning and environmental studies; and related fields
- **Group 3:** Business and management; economics; and related fields
- **Group 4:** Sociology; demography; communication studies; journalism; media studies; gender studies; cultural studies; library and information science; and related fields
- **Group 5:** Education, psychology; social work; career guidance; and related fields

Committee Members

- Number of committee members is a function of applications received. We aim for an equitable and a reasonable distribution of work
- Specific members chosen for broad-ranging expertise/experience and scholarly stature
- We also seek balance in terms of:
 - university size (small, medium and large)
 - geographical region
 - language
 - gender



Committee Members as Readers

- Minimum of two
- Assigned based on expertise and suitability
- Optional cross-committee evaluation
 - For multi- or interdisciplinary proposals to be considered by a committee member from another discipline, applicants must indicate secondary and tertiary disciplines and areas of research, and include a rationale
 - applications will go to the committee most suited to its primary focus/discipline
 - additional expertise from another committee will be sought, when deemed appropriate



External Assessments

- SSHRC will seek two to three external assessments per application depending on the requested budget
- Suggested Assessors
- Seek to avoid conflicts of interest; will not seek assessments from:
 - a close friend
 - a relative
 - a research collaborator
 - an institutional colleague
 - a student previously under the applicant's supervision
 - a person with whom the applicant is involved in a dispute
 - a person with whom the applicant is involved in a partnership

Preparing an Insight Grant Application - Advice for Applicants

- **Application composition**
 - Similar to SRG and IDG
 - SSHRC CV for applicant, co-applicants and collaborators with mandatory attachments

- **Application modules (modules with page limits are to be included as attachments)**
 - Identification
 - Participants
 - Research Activity
 - Response to Previous Critiques (1 p.)
 - Request for Multidisciplinary Evaluation (1 p. - if appl.) - **NEW**
 - Summary of Proposed Research (1 p.)
 - Detailed Description (6 pp.)
 - Knowledge Mobilization Plan (1 p. - required) - **NEW**
 - List of References (10 pp.)

Application modules

- Research Team, Student Training, Previous Output (4 pp.)
- Funds Requested from SSHRC
- Budget Justification (2 pp.)
- Funds from Other Sources
- Research Contributions (4 pp.)
- Intended Outcomes of Proposed Activities - **NEW**
- Environmental Impact (Appendix A)
- CEEA Pre-screening (Appendix B)
- Sport Participation Research Initiative (Statement of Relevance)
- Statement of Alignment with priority Areas(1 p. - if appl.) - may select up to two - **NEW**
- Suggested Assessors
- Exclusion of Potential Assessors



Insight Grant Application

- **General considerations**
 - Present a well-written and carefully-crafted proposal; edit and proofread; consider the tone
 - Do not submit a premature proposal; project must be fully-developed and feasible
- **CV(s)**
 - Organize publications as per instructions; indicate refereed items and those stemming from previous SSHRC grants
 - Avoid “inflating” the CV
 - Career Interruptions/Special Circumstances
- **Response to previous critiques**
 - Can provide an opportunity to justify choices made
- **Summary of proposed research**
 - Frequently-used; be clear, thorough, and use accessible language



Preparing the Insight Grant Application

- **Detailed Description**
 - provide clear and precise objectives: why conducting the research? why is it important?
 - include complete literature review that situates what is proposed
 - outline theoretical or conceptual framework
 - ensure methodology makes sense in terms of objectives and personnel involved
 - explain all key terms and concepts

- **Description of Team/Student Training Plans**
 - applicant should demonstrate the need for the team and outline each person's role; members are assessed in terms of what they are to do
 - SSHRC is open to both team applications and single-member applications.

- **Outcomes**
 - will be used for statistical and reporting purposes but also by committee

- **Budget and Budget Justification**
 - be reasonable and justify proposed expenditures
 - read *Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide* and lists of eligible and ineligible expenses in advance
 - budget should clearly relate to research objectives

Submitting the Application

- Leave enough time
- Complete all mandatory fields
- Attach all mandatory electronic uploads (application)
- Ensure all co-applicants and collaborators (i.e., participants with SSHRC CVs) have submitted their "Accept Invitation Form"
- Verify and correct data until the "Verification Report" indicates successful verification
- Click on the "Submit" button (Submit to Research Administrator) for institutional approval
- PhD students and postdoctoral researchers may submit their applications directly to SSHRC

Feedback

- Applicants receive:
 - Notice of Decision
 - External assessments
 - Summary of the adjudication committee's comments
 - Committee statistics

Statistics for the first Insight Competition

➤ Insight Development Grants

- 630 eligible applications; 194 awards
- Commitments of \$10,474,793 over two years
- Success rate for New Scholars: 30.9% of applicants shared \$5,474,291
- Success rate for Regular Scholars: 30.7% of applicants shared \$5,000,502
- Applicants applied to one of the five broad research areas
- 9 committees subsequently created based on disciplines implicated in the proposals and on applicants' request for disciplinary or multidisciplinary review

Co-operative funding arrangements

- **Sport Participation Research Initiative**
 - Funding for policy-relevant research related to Canadians' participation in sport
 - Selected from the "recommended but not funded" (4A) list
 - Interested applicants must select "Sport Participation Research Initiative" from the drop-down list on the Insight Grant application form

- **Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Infrastructure Funding**
 - Infrastructure funding possible through CFI's Leaders Opportunity Fund
 - Requests and enquiries should be directed to CFI
 - Interested applicants must select "Canada Foundation for Innovation Leaders Opportunity Fund" from the appropriate drop-down list on the Insight Grant application form

Multiple Applications

Applicants may not apply for an Insight Grant and an Insight Development Grant within the same calendar year (as principal investigator)

This means:

- A researcher who applied for an Insight Development Grant in February 2011 may not apply for an Insight Grant in October 2011
- A researcher who applies for an Insight Grant in October 2011 may apply for an Insight Development Grant in February 2012, provided that the objectives of the research are different

Multiple Applications

Grant Retention:

- A researcher may not hold an SRG and an IG at the same time; a researcher may hold an SRG and an IDG at the same time, provided that the objectives are different.
- There is no limit to the number of applications on which a researcher may be listed as a co-applicant or collaborator
- A researcher who received a Sports Canada grant after applying to last year's SRG competition may apply for an IG this fall provided that the application is for a project with different objectives. He or she will not be eligible for another Sports Canada grant, as two such grants cannot be held at the same time

Re-application:

- Grant holders may re-apply to the same funding opportunity in the final year

Please refer to SSHRC's regulations regarding multiple applications for more information

Important Deadlines

- Insight Grants - October 15, 2011
- Partnership Development Grants - Nov. 30, 2011
- Insight Development Grants - February 1, 2012
- Partnership Grants
 - LOI Feb. 15, 2012
 - Formal Nov. 1, 2011 (current competition; Nov. 1, 2012 for next)

Contacts and Useful Information

- **On applying for and holding multiple applications:**
http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/policies-politiques/multiple_apps-demandes_multiples-eng.aspx
- **Institutional eligibility:** For postsecondary institutions or not-for-profit organizations that are not yet eligible yet wish to administer SSHRC grants. Contact: secretariat@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
- **Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide:** http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/index_eng.asp
- **Sport Participation Research Initiative:** http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/sport_can-eng.aspx
- **CFI infrastructure funding:**
<http://www.innovation.ca/en/programs/funds/leaders-opportunity-fund>



Research Portfolio Program Officers are
always available.

Questions? ...