

Canada Research Coordinating Committee

PROGRESS REPORT

VISION TO ACTION

2018-23



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

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The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

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represented by the Minister of Industry, 2023

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CRCC at a glance

The Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) advances federal research priorities and the coordination of policies and programs of Canada's research funding agencies and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). It is a senior strategic forum for building consensus, and providing advice, direction and oversight on forward-looking initiatives that strengthen Canada's research enterprise.

The chair role rotates annually between the presidents of Canada's research funding agencies. Committee members include:

Alejandro Adem

President, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Ted Hewitt (Chair, 2023)

President, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Simon Kennedy

Deputy Minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Stephen Lucas

Deputy Minister, Health Canada

Mona Nemer

Canada's Chief Science Advisor

Roseann O'Reilly Runte

President and Chief Executive Officer, Canada Foundation for Innovation

Iain Stewart

President, National Research Council Canada

Michael Strong (Vice-Chair, 2023)

President, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

*Working together for an
equitable, connected and innovative
research enterprise*

Message from the ministers

Five years ago, the Government of Canada established the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) to help us meet the changing needs of Canadian researchers and communities across the country. We envisioned federal support for a diverse and inclusive research ecosystem to address the needs of all Canadians. We envisioned the co-development of culturally safe research environments with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples to ensure Indigenous Peoples have the capacity to pursue their own research priorities. We envisioned programs to help researchers from diverse disciplines, countries and generations work together to address complex global challenges, push the boundaries of knowledge and mobilize rapidly in crisis situations.

Working together, the CRCC and its member organizations have moved quickly from our global vision to action to support a research enterprise that is equitable, connected and innovative. The Committee has emerged as a strategic forum, helping us look forward anticipate change and respond accordingly.

A strong research community is essential to the health and prosperity of Canadians. We will keep working with Committee members and their organizations, as well as researchers and their partners across the country, to ensure that Canada has a research enterprise that is able to meet the needs of all Canadians, now and in the future.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health

Message from the Chair

As the inaugural chair of the CRCC, and now the first to serve for a second term, I am pleased to have this opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made guiding important changes across our member organizations and the research community in five, short years. Over that time, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked ever more closely together, engaging communities, institutions and researchers, to coordinate support for an increasingly equitable, connected and innovative research enterprise.

We engaged researchers through national consultations, ministerial discussions, and meaningful dialogue with Indigenous Peoples. We introduced a comprehensive equity, diversity and inclusion action plan, and measures to support early career researchers. With First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, we developed and have been implementing the first interagency strategic plan to strengthen Indigenous research capacity. We mobilized quickly to support Canada's research response to the COVID-19 pandemic, launched an integrated calendar of funding opportunities, and are developing a new research training strategy for the knowledge-based society. We have also strengthened and expanded high-level cooperation with international research funding agencies and created the game-changing New Frontiers in Research Fund. Widely recognized and respected for driving unprecedented international, interdisciplinary, high-risk / high-reward research, the program is now also a leading funder of global research on both pandemic recovery and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The CRCC has evolved into a strategic forum for our organizations to address multiple cross-cutting research and policy issues. While much work remains, Committee members and our organizations are working closely to coordinate policies and programs, and address evolving issues and emerging priorities, across the federal research ecosystem.

I would like to thank the ministers and my colleagues on the Committee, in member organizations and throughout the research community for their ongoing support and collaboration. I look forward to the future of Canadian research as we continue, together, to move from vision to action.

Ted Hewitt
Chair, Canada Research Coordinating Committee (2023)
President, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Vision to action

Since it was established, in late 2017, the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) has looked to the research community and partners across the country to help shape the policies and programs needed to support an equitable, connected and innovative research enterprise. In spring 2018, the Committee organized national consultations engaging more than 1,500 people from 47 universities and four colleges. They [called for bold measures](#) to support an increasingly diverse research community, assist early career researchers (ECRs), recognize Indigenous Knowledges, and advance Canadian leadership in innovative interdisciplinary and international research.

The Committee, in collaboration with the Minister of Science, turned to the research community again in 2019-20, leading ministerial consultations on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) that produced the uniquely Canadian [Dimensions Charter](#). At the same time, the Committee engaged First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in a dialogue that enabled the co-development of a [strategic plan](#) to advance culturally relevant, respectful models of support for research by and with Indigenous Peoples.

Since then, Canada's federal research funding agencies, in cooperation with other CRCC member organizations, have worked closely together at all levels, with guidance from external working groups and advisory bodies, to develop and align new policies and programs implementing CRCC priorities:

- providing leadership in interdisciplinary, international, high-risk / high-reward, rapid-response research;
- positioning Canada as a valuable partner in global research and innovation;
- increasing EDI in research;
- championing Indigenous self-determination, leadership and capacity in research and research training;
- supporting ECRs; and
- enhancing research training for a knowledge-based society.

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept around the world in late 2019 and early 2020, Canada's research response became another—and immediate—priority, affecting implementation of every initiative.

Progress in all priority areas over the past five years, highlighted below, reflects the commitment of member organizations, and the Committee's experience as a strategic forum, providing advice and direction on key initiatives to meet the changing needs of Canadian researchers and the Canadian research enterprise.

Providing leadership in interdisciplinary, international, high-risk / high-reward, rapid-response research

A game-changing program—with a global reputation

World-leading research is increasingly interdisciplinary and international in scope, as diverse research teams cross academic and geographic boundaries to meet local and global challenges. To address this shifting research landscape, the CRCC launched the [New Frontiers in Research Fund](#) (NFRF) in 2018, as a comprehensive funding mechanism for interdisciplinary, international and high-risk / high-reward research.

From its inception, the program has developed innovative merit review processes to achieve its goals. It led the way in applying [Declaration on Research Assessment principles](#), using brief narrative CVs from applicants to focus evaluations uniquely on the quality of each proposed project. It experimented with ways to overcome the limitations of traditional peer review in funding interdisciplinary high-risk research. And it became the first interagency program supporting investigator-led research to require all applicants to implement EDI best practices in their research design and practice. As a result, researchers from the four [federally designated groups](#) (women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and visible minorities) have success in [NFRF competitions](#) proportionate to their application rates, and ECRs lead almost half of all funded projects.

Over the past five years, NFRF has provided support, through three funding streams for more than 800 Canadian-led research [projects](#), engaging co-investigators from more than 40 countries.

Exploration at the edge

Launched in 2018, NFRF's [Exploration](#) stream provides funding for researchers to pursue high-risk / high-reward interdisciplinary research. The program prioritizes ambitious, outside-the-box projects, recognizing that higher risk can increase the potential for real impact. In five years, the NFRF program has awarded 650 Exploration grants, including 128 in the 2022 competition.

Transformative change

Launched in 2019, [Transformation](#) grants are unique in supporting large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary, international research projects with the potential to create significant and lasting change. The program offers up to \$4 million annually for six years, giving research teams sufficient time and resources for ambitious, moonshot projects. The [2020 competition](#) awarded \$144 million to seven projects, while the [2022 competition](#) awarded \$142 million to six projects.

International leadership on critical issues

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the Government of Canada launched a call for rapid-response research to learn more about the virus and develop tools to combat it. NFRF provided funds to support 15 of these projects. Since then, NFRF has continued to support pandemic-related research through the [innovative approaches to research in the pandemic context](#) (2021) and [research for postpandemic recovery](#) (2022) competitions.

In response to global challenges posed by climate change, the CRCC launched the NFRF [International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#) in 2023. Engaging funding organizations from Brazil, Germany, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, the initiative will enable interdisciplinary teams to develop climate change solutions in collaboration with affected communities around the globe.

To help researchers in Canada join international teams addressing societal challenges through Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, the three federal research funding agencies launched NFRF [Horizon Global Platform](#) competitions in 2020 and 2022.

Integrated calendar of funding opportunities

To facilitate interdisciplinarity, as well as access to all federal programs for university and college-based researchers, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and institutions, Canada's research funding agencies and the CFI established the [integrated calendar of funding opportunities](#) in 2020.

Positioning Canada as a valuable partner in global research and innovation

Strengthening international connections

The CRCC has helped broaden member organizations' relationships with international research funding agencies. These connections complement the organizations' own international strategies, and facilitate interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation in key research and research policy areas. In 2020, the Committee set out shared goals for international cooperation in its [International Framework: Statement of Objectives and Principles](#), and invited an interdisciplinary group of scholars to recommend approaches for developing international projects and programs.

The Committee signed a letter of understanding with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in 2019 and, since 2020, has held high-level meetings with the executive heads of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (France), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Germany), National Science Foundation (US), UKRI and four South African research funding agencies: the Agricultural Research Council, Human Sciences Research Council, National Research Foundation and South African Medical Research Council. In collaboration with the Fonds de recherche du Québec, the CRCC has also organized discussions with senior executives from international research funding agencies on open access publishing policies.

Such meetings and collaborations enhance the exchange of strategic business intelligence between Canadian and international research funders, and lay the groundwork for future cooperation through NFRF and other agency and departmental initiatives. They also create opportunities for Canadian leadership, bilaterally and multilaterally, on issues shaping international research. CRCC international meetings led directly to the formation of a permanent Canada-France joint committee on science, technology and innovation, and a CRCC-UKRI workshop on the promotion of EDI in research, engaging over 100 policy and program professionals from 17 British and Canadian member organizations.

Enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion in research

Research excellence

Excellent research brings diverse perspectives to the ways questions are defined and pursued, creating new understandings and opportunities for people around the world. To support researchers in Canada as they strive for excellence in all fields, the CRCC has promoted adoption of measures to inspire and sustain EDI across the research ecosystem. The Tri-Agency [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan \(EDI Action Plan\)](#), endorsed by the CRCC in 2018, provides a foundation for these initiatives, outlining measures to increase equitable access to research funding, and to support an increasingly inclusive and diverse research community.

Equitable access to funding

Canada's three federal research funding agencies began collecting self-identification data in 2018 to underpin evidence-informed decisions about funding access in their programs. Updated in 2020, the harmonized tri-agency [self-identification questionnaire](#) gathers voluntary data from all applicants and nominees to agency programs. Disaggregated data is publicly available on interactive dashboards hosted by [NSERC](#) and [SSHRC](#), online analyses of select [CIHR](#) competitions, and a [review](#) of the CFI's 2020 Innovation Fund competition.

Since 2018, all three federal research funding agencies and the CFI have taken steps aligned with CRCC goals to identify and mitigate systemic barriers limiting equitable access to funding. The agencies adopted a harmonized EDI training plan requiring mandatory [gender-based analysis plus](#) training for all staff and [bias in peer review](#) training for all peer and merit review committee members.

NSERC produced a guide on integrating EDI considerations in research, while CIHR took steps to consistently integrate EDI considerations throughout its funding opportunities. CIHR, NSERC and the National Research Council Canada supported the Canadian Black Scientists Network's [BE-STEMM 2023 conference](#). CIHR established an Anti-Racism External Advisory Committee, while SSHRC launched its external Advisory Committee to Address Anti-Black Racism in Research and Research Training.

Consistent with the *Accessible Canada Act*, all three agencies published accessibility plans as a first step in identifying and removing systemic barriers that prevent persons with disabilities

from participating fully in the research funding system. The CFI introduced a new EDI criterion in its 2023 Innovation Fund competition, focused on a research team's consideration of: systemic barriers specific to the field, principles of equity and diversity in the team's composition, and ways of ensuring an inclusive and collaborative research environment.

A diverse and inclusive research community

The CRCC also encouraged Canada's federal research funding agencies and the Committee's other member organizations to work in concert with postsecondary institutions to inspire and support an increasingly equitable, diverse and inclusive research enterprise. Initiatives include:

Dimensions

In 2018-19, Canada's federal research funding agencies, through two rounds of cross-country consultations, worked with Canadian institutions and the Minister of Science to develop the uniquely Canadian [Dimensions Charter](#). To date, 142 institutions have endorsed the charter, committing to embed EDI principles in their organizations to strengthen the quality, relevance and impact of their research.

The [Dimensions pilot program](#) complements the charter by recognizing the progress institutions make towards achieving comprehensive EDI goals that systematically address issues identified through community engagement, qualitative and quantitative data collection, and analysis. It offers four stages of recognition, assessed through a robust peer review process. The [first institutions to be recognized](#) were announced in April 2023.

The Dimensions program was developed in close collaboration with [17 postsecondary institutions](#) over three years. Together, the agencies and institutions also developed a handbook to help institutions carry out critical self analysis, implement remedying actions, and apply to the program for assessment. Through the process, the group has created a community of practice with unique expertise in advancing EDI in the postsecondary research ecosystem.

Institutional Capacity Building Grants

To help smaller postsecondary institutions implement EDI initiatives informed by evidence and engagement with affected groups, the agencies launched the [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Capacity-Building Grant](#) program in 2019. It held a second competition in 2020, investing a total of \$10 million, assisting 27 institutions in all.

Canada Research Chairs Program

The EDI Action Plan included implementation of the [2019 Addendum](#) to the 2006 Canadian Human Rights Settlement Agreement for the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP). The CRCP invests \$311 million each year to help Canadian institutions attract and retain 2,285 outstanding researchers. It requires institutions to set and meet equity targets and implement measures to support greater EDI, transparency and accountability. In 2019, the CRCP required institutions to set and meet new, population-based equity targets, and offered a \$50,000 stipend in 2020, 2022 and 2023 to support their work. As a result, the [representation](#) among

chairholders of individuals who are women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and racialized individuals has never been greater in the program's 23-year history.

Capping these initiatives, the CRCP launched the [Robbins-Ollivier Award for Excellence in Equity](#) in 2022, in recognition of the contributions of Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Louise Forsyth, Glenis Joyce, Audrey Kobayashi, Shree Mulay, Susan Prentice, Michèle Ollivier and Wendy Robbins to increase equity in the program and Canada's research ecosystem. Three awards, conferred annually, each recognize a researcher or research team leading bold, potentially game-changing projects that challenge the status quo, spark change, and take action to address persistent, systemic barriers to participation in the research ecosystem.

Canada Excellence Research Chairs / Canada First Research Excellence Fund

EDI was embedded as a foundational principle in these programs. Both help Canadian postsecondary institutions to attract leading international researchers, and to turn key strengths into world-class capabilities. Successful institutions must submit a comprehensive EDI action plan that includes measures to identify and mitigate systemic barriers, support ECRs, and integrate Indigenous-led research and Indigenous ways of knowing into their research wherever possible.

Canada Biomedical Research Fund / Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund

By increasing domestic capacity to produce life-saving vaccines and therapeutics, these two programs help ensure Canada is prepared for future pandemics. Recipients must demonstrate leadership in supporting ECRs and promoting greater EDI in their research disciplines and in Canada's research ecosystem. For additional information and data, see the EDI data annex.

Championing Indigenous self-determination, leadership and capacity, in research and research training

A Collaborative Research and Research Training Strategy

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Call to Action 65, the Government of Canada asked the CRCC to develop, in close collaboration with Indigenous partners, a strategy to increase the capacity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to lead their own research and partner with the broader research community. With this goal in mind, the CRCC established an interagency initiative: Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity (SIRC).

In 2018-19, SIRC awarded 116 Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation Connection Grants. The grants provided Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations, as well as postsecondary institutions, resources to organize community gatherings, workshops and events, to mobilize and exchange knowledge on Indigenous research and reconciliation. In collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, SIRC organized 14 regional discussions, followed by a national dialogue with grant recipients. These resulted in [Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada](#), an interagency strategic plan to advance

culturally relevant and respectful models of support for research conducted by and with Indigenous Peoples.

Implementing the strategy, SIRC engages interagency working groups dedicated to reducing administrative barriers to Indigenous community-led research, ensuring equitable access to funding opportunities, and supporting Indigenous perspectives in peer and merit review, ethics and all aspects of research. At the same time, SIRC engagement with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Justice Canada is raising awareness of the importance of Indigenous research in addressing the TRC's Calls to Action, and in implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Recognizing the importance of work underway, despite the impacts of COVID-19, the strategy's implementation has been extended to 2025-26. To ensure it stays rooted in Indigenous perspectives, and helps sustain collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, the agencies have also taken steps to support the following:

A Culturally Safe Environment for Indigenous Research

Central to implementing the strategic plan was establishing, in 2020-21, an external Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research composed exclusively of First Nations, Inuit and Métis members. The group evaluates peer and merit review models across the agencies, to ensure the processes are culturally appropriate, inclusive and relevant for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, and that they advance proper recognition and respect for Indigenous Knowledge systems and values. The group has developed guiding principles for the appropriate review of Indigenous research, as well as recommendations to streamline, within agency application processes, the submission process for letters of support from Indigenous communities and organizations.

To complement these initiatives, SIRC has organized learning opportunities to raise awareness of the strategy and increase understanding of Indigenous realities in research.

Indigenous Leadership

The establishment of the Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research in April 2022 was another important milestone in the implementation of the strategy. The Leadership Circle, composed of First Nations, Inuit and Métis members, provides guidance and oversight, identifying issues and opportunities to ensure successful implementation of the strategic plan. The Leadership Circle met with the CRCC in July 2022. It held its first in-person gathering, with ceremony and community, at University nuxethot'jne thaa?ehots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills, in St. Paul, Alberta, in October 2022.

To champion First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples' leadership in research, SIRC provided funding for the 2023 National Indigenous Citizenship Forum hosted by The First Nations University of Canada in partnership with the National Indigenous University Senior Leaders' Association.

Supporting early career researchers

Renewing the research enterprise

Recognizing that ECRs play a vital role in renewing and diversifying the Canadian research enterprise, the CRCC called on Canada's federal funding agencies and the CFI to provide targeted support for their work as they take up demanding positions while managing personal responsibilities and, in recent years, COVID-19 restrictions.

In 2018-19, the agencies allocated 250 new Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs for emerging researchers with an additional \$20,000 research stipend each year for first term chairholders. At the same time, the agencies adopted a harmonized working definition of an ECR as a researcher within five years of their first independent research appointment, not including any eligible leaves (parental, medical, bereavement or other).

Proportional funding

In 2020, all three agencies began allocating funding for ECRs in their flagship programs (CIHR Project Grants, NSERC Discovery Grants, SSHRC Insight Grants and Insight Development Grants), proportional to their representation in the applicant pool. In 2020-22, the agencies allowed consideration of pandemic-related delays when determining an applicant's status as an ECR — effectively extending their access to these funding equalization measures. ECRs now have success rates comparable to those of other researchers in programs essential for establishing their research careers.

Peer and merit review

The agencies also established ways for ECRs and postdoctoral researchers to gain experience and understanding of the peer and merit review processes in which they compete for funding. Since 2019, SSHRC recruits merit review committee members to ensure there is at least one ECR on each Insight Grants and Insight Development Grants committee. Since 2021, the CIHR Reviewer in Training Program has annually offered more than 200 ECRs the opportunity to participate on peer review committees with the support of an experienced mentor. NSERC recruits ECRs to ensure equitable participation of researchers at all career stages on its selection committees. ECRs now make up half of all reviewers for NSERC scholarship and fellowship programs.

In addition, all three agencies have taken steps to ensure unsuccessful first-time ECR applicants receive enhanced feedback from review committees. In its 2023-28 strategic plan, the CFI also reiterated its commitment to encouraging the training, recruitment and retention of new researchers, through programs such as the John R. Evans Leaders Fund.

Developing research training for a knowledge-based society

Student success

The need for people with advanced research training has never been greater. Organizations in all sectors are turning to new knowledge and technology to help guide their work in an increasingly competitive, diverse and international environment. In response, the CRCC asked Canada's federal research funding agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy to support research training, with appropriate funding levels, that will help Canadian institutions attract and prepare a diverse population of students and postdoctoral fellows for careers in and outside of academia. The strategy's development will be guided by an external advisory committee, and will focus on five cross-cutting themes: EDI, evolving career paths, Indigenous research and training, international mobility and globalization, and harmonization and streamlining efforts.

In the past year, Canada's federal research funding agencies launched two initiatives aligned with this CRCC priority, to increase support for:

Indigenous scholars

Developed as part of the SIRC initiative, the [Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative](#) was launched in 2022, following discussions with national Indigenous organizations and the agencies' Indigenous advisory bodies, as well as Indigenous students, professors and university administrators across the country. The initiative provides \$17,500 awards and \$5,000 supplements to support Indigenous students in the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences and engineering, through the Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's program.

Black scholars

With funding provided in the 2022 federal budget, the agencies will increase both the number and proportion of [Black research trainees](#) supported through their scholarship and fellowship programs at the undergraduate, master's, doctoral, postdoctoral and post-health professional degree stages, starting in 2023-24.

Meeting the challenges of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic posed an unprecedented challenge for the Canadian research enterprise: to contribute to the global scientific response while continuing much-needed research and training in all fields. In response, the CRCC became a forum for sharing information and advice among member organizations, other federal agencies, and international partners, offering standing invitations to the presidents of the International Development Research Centre and the Public Health Agency of Canada in 2020. The Committee initiated targeted NFRF calls, and the research funding agencies introduced the coordinated supports for trainees and ECRs described above. In addition, the CRCC played a role in the following:

Accelerating evidence-informed decision-making in government

At the start of the pandemic, the CRCC encouraged accelerated information-sharing between the federal government and the academic research community, through the [CanCOVID](#) platform. Federal engagement with the platform was managed by the Office of the Chief Science Advisor, with funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and Health Canada.

Sustaining the research community

When the pandemic shut down universities and health research institutions across the country, the CRCC was called on to oversee delivery of the [Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund](#). Consistent with the Committee's priorities, the Fund incorporated measures to: reduce the influence of unconscious bias and systemic barriers in how funds were awarded, recognize how the pandemic affected people in different ways, and ensure fair access for untraditional research. In 2020-21, the Fund provided \$416 million in temporary wage support for 32,000 research personnel ineligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. In doing so, the Fund helped sustain 22,000 research projects across 126 organizations.

Canada's federal research funding agencies also authorized COVID-19-related extensions for existing grants and research projects.

A strategic forum for federal research support

From the outset, the CRCC has worked consistently to build consensus and coordination within the federal research ecosystem and advance national priorities. Engaging researchers, building networks, striking committees and setting up advisory bodies, member organizations have worked ever more closely, learning from each other and their respective research communities, to advance common goals.

Since 2018, the CRCC and its member organizations have introduced coordinated initiatives to enhance Canadian leadership in interdisciplinary and international research, increase EDI in the research ecosystem, support ECRs, and strengthen Indigenous research capacity. The Committee, in addition, helped support the Government's research response to the pandemic. The CRCC has also broadened its member organizations' relationships with international funding agencies, launched a global initiative for research on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and is developing a comprehensive research training strategy for the knowledge-based economy. The Committee's 2023-24 workplan includes each of these priorities, while adding new initiatives to: strengthen bilateral and multilateral international engagements, coordinate a Canadian approach to open access publishing, and advise the federal government on research security. The same plan also formalizes the operational principles of cooperation, consensus and transparency that have guided the CRCC from the beginning.

Today, CRCC initiatives are inspiring and sustaining an increasingly equitable, connected and innovative research enterprise. Recognition of these initiatives, and their growing impact, has established the CRCC as a strategic forum for delivering coordinated research policies and programs that benefit Canadians.

Annex I: Self-identification data collection in support of equity, diversity and inclusion

This annex represents a data set drawn from the self-identification questionnaire for tri-agency and agency-specific (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC and CFI) major funding opportunities from the 2022 competition year.¹ The tables and figures from the data set present a snapshot of self-identification information regarding the four designated groups as defined in the *Employment Equity Act*: women, Indigenous Peoples, members of visible minorities² and persons with disabilities³. Completing the [self-identification questionnaire](#) is mandatory; however, all questions provide an option to select “I prefer not to answer.”

The data set presents a summary of the application and award rates^{4,5} of tri-agency and agency-specific major funding opportunities (Tables 1a and 1b; Figures 1a-1d).⁶ The data distinguish between applications and award rates for research and training programs and provide an overview of the nominations and active chairs awards for the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP).

Application and award rates for tri-agency and agency-specific major funding opportunities

Application and award rates for major funding opportunities for competition year 2022 are outlined below as they relate to the four groups identified in the self-identification questionnaire. The data are collected from the questionnaires completed by the individual who has the primary responsibility for the application. Data were suppressed for the application and award rates when the numerator was less than 10.

¹ Competition year is defined by the fiscal year in which the first award payment for a competition is anticipated. Applications may be received in the previous fiscal year, and/or some awardees may receive their first payment in the subsequent fiscal year, but all application and award data for a given competition year will be kept together.

² Although the terms “members of visible minorities” and “visible minorities” are used in legal and statistical contexts in Canada, they are considered outdated and can be inaccurate in a general context as they do not always reflect provincial, territorial or other regional demographic compositions in Canada. Also, the word “visible” suggests that being white is the standard and the word “minority” limits the concept to numbers, when it is in fact more often about the power that is held by a dominant group. In general contexts, it is preferable to use the term “racialized group” or “racialized individuals.”

³ It is widely recognized that certain terms used in the *Employment Equity Act* do not reflect the most current, preferred or recommended terminology among equity-denied groups. The information presented in this annex aligns with the Act's terms because these continue to be used in the self-identification questionnaire from which the data are derived. The Act is currently under modernization review by the Employment Equity Act Review Task Force. (Source for footnotes 2 and 3: Government of Canada [Guide on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Terminology](#))

⁴ The application rate is calculated by dividing the number of applications in the competition year where the individual responsible for the application self-identifies as a member of an underrepresented group by the total number of applications in the competition year, multiplied by 100 (to calculate a percentage).

⁵ The award rate is calculated by dividing the total number of awardees from a competition year who identify as a member of an underrepresented group by the total number of awardees who received funding in a competition year, multiplied by 100 (to calculate a percentage). Here, awardees are the individuals responsible for the application and do not include their colleagues who are part of research teams, where applicable.

⁶ This first data set represents the individual identified as having the primary responsibility for the overall intellectual direction of the research, research-related activity or partnership; generally, the agencies refer to this person in various ways, such as the “principal investigator”, “project director” and “(nominated) principal applicant”; this also includes students and postdoctoral fellows who submit applications to the scholarships and fellowships programs.

The collection of this data is still relatively new, and caution should be exercised in interpreting the data, particularly for competitions with low numbers of applications. As more data are collected in coming years, trends can be tracked and analyzed for a clearer picture of each group's participation in the Canadian research enterprise and in accessing available funds.

Table 1a: Summary of application and award rates for tri-agency and agency-specific major funding opportunities

| | Women | | Indigenous Peoples | | Persons with disabilities | | Members of visible minorities | |
|--|-----------|------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Research Program | App. rate | Award rate | App. rate | Award rate | App. rate | Award rate | App. rate | Award rate |
| SSHRC Insight Grants | 49.9% | 53.1% | 1.4% | 1.6% | 6.2% | 6.4% | 26.3% | 25.1% |
| SSHRC Partnership Grants | 59.3% | 65.7% | 3.1% | 3.1% | 8.8% | 7.3% | 19.1% | 17.7% |
| NSERC Discovery Grants | 24.6% | 25.2% | 0.7% | - | 3.2% | 3.1% | 31.7% | 29.4% |
| NSERC Partnership Grants | 20.0% | 19.9% | - | - | 2.2% | 2.0% | 39.5% | 38.7% |
| New Frontiers in Research Fund* | 37.6% | 40.0% | - | - | 6.5% | 8.2% | 38.5% | 37.9% |
| CIHR Project Grants | 35.8% | 35.8% | 0.8% | 1.7% | 2.6% | 2.2% | 25.1% | 22.3% |
| CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund | 35.1% | 34.9% | - | - | 4.4% | 5.1% | 31.2% | 30.7% |
| Training Program | App. rate | Award rate | App. rate | Award rate | App. rate | Award rate | App. rate | Award rate |
| Canada Graduate Scholarships - Master's* | 61.5% | 63.4% | 2.1% | 2.4% | 10.8% | 10.1% | 27.8% | 27.8% |
| Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships* | 60.3% | 60.2% | 4.5% | 8.4% | 7.8% | 12.0% | 36.4% | 38.6% |
| Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships* | 48.3% | 56.3% | - | - | 5.7% | - | 28.3% | - |
| SSHRC Doctoral Awards | 65.9% | 68.0% | 4.9% | 5.8% | 17.0% | 15.1% | 22.9% | 24.0% |
| SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships | 52.2% | 52.7% | - | - | 13.1% | 9.9% | 21.7% | 18.7% |
| NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships | 34.5% | 40.4% | - | - | 6.9% | - | 33.8% | 32.5% |
| NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships (Doctoral) | 43.1% | 46.7% | 2.0% | 3.3% | 8.5% | 7.9% | 29.7% | 29.2% |
| CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowships | 55.8% | 50.7% | - | - | 3.5% | - | 33.6% | 30.1% |
| CIHR Doctoral Research Awards | 67.6% | 70.6% | 2.5% | - | 5.6% | 4.5% | 36.8% | 33.2% |

*Tri-agency funding opportunities

Table 1b: Nominations and filled chair awards for the Canada Research Chairs Program

| Women | | Gender equity-seeking groups*** | | Indigenous Peoples | | Persons with disabilities | | Racialized individuals**** | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nomina tions* | Program represent ation** | Nomina tions* | Program represent ation** | Nomina tions* | Program represent ation** | Nomina tions* | Program represent ation** | Nomina tions* | Program represent ation** |
| 49.5% | 45.1% | 1.5% | 0.7% | 6.3% | 3.9% | 7.5% | 6.3% | 34.4% | 26.1% |

*Nomination data includes all nominations submitted in cycles 2022-1 and 2022-2.

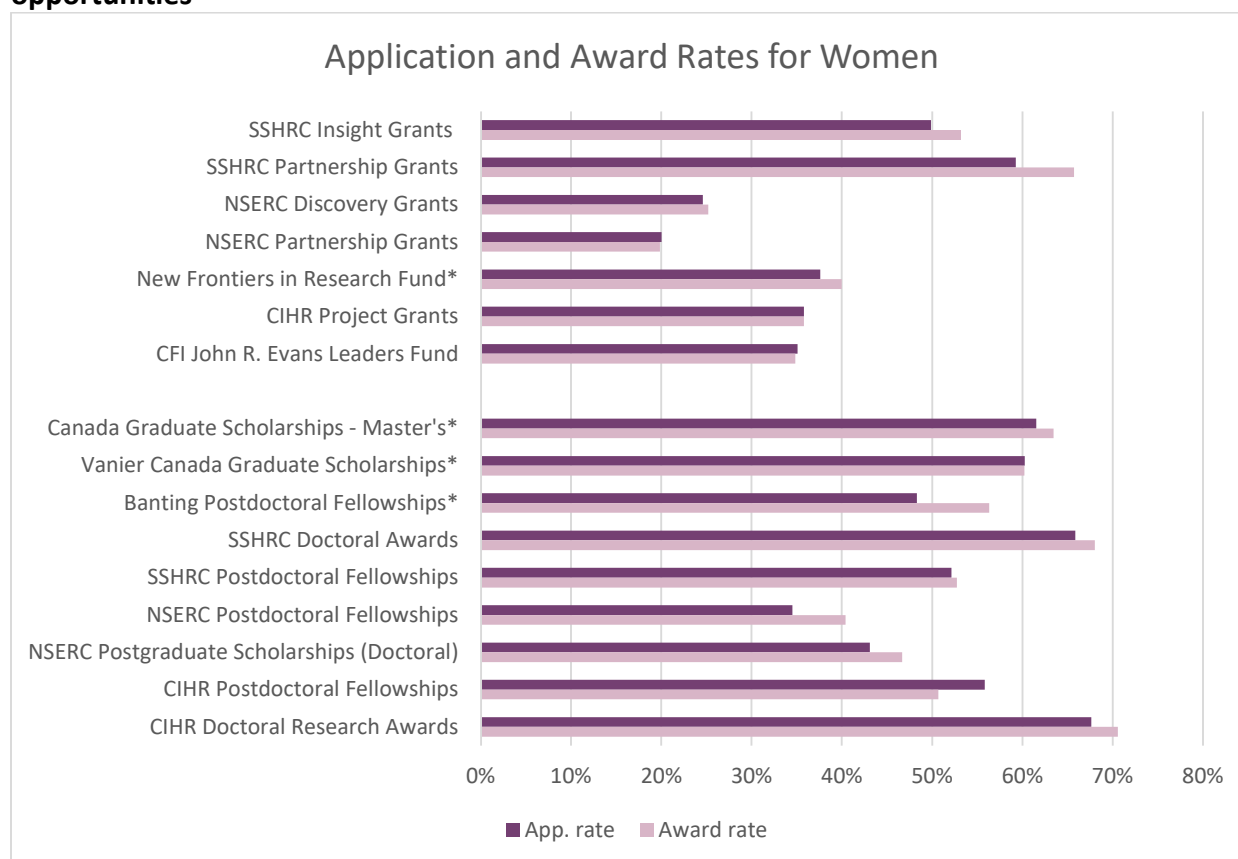
** Program representation as of March 2023.

*** Includes respondents who self-identified as gender-fluid, nonbinary, trans, or Two-Spirit, as well as respondents who did not identify with any of the options provided in the self-identification questionnaire.

**** The CRCP uses the term “racialized individuals” to report on the number of individuals who self-identify as members of a visible minority.

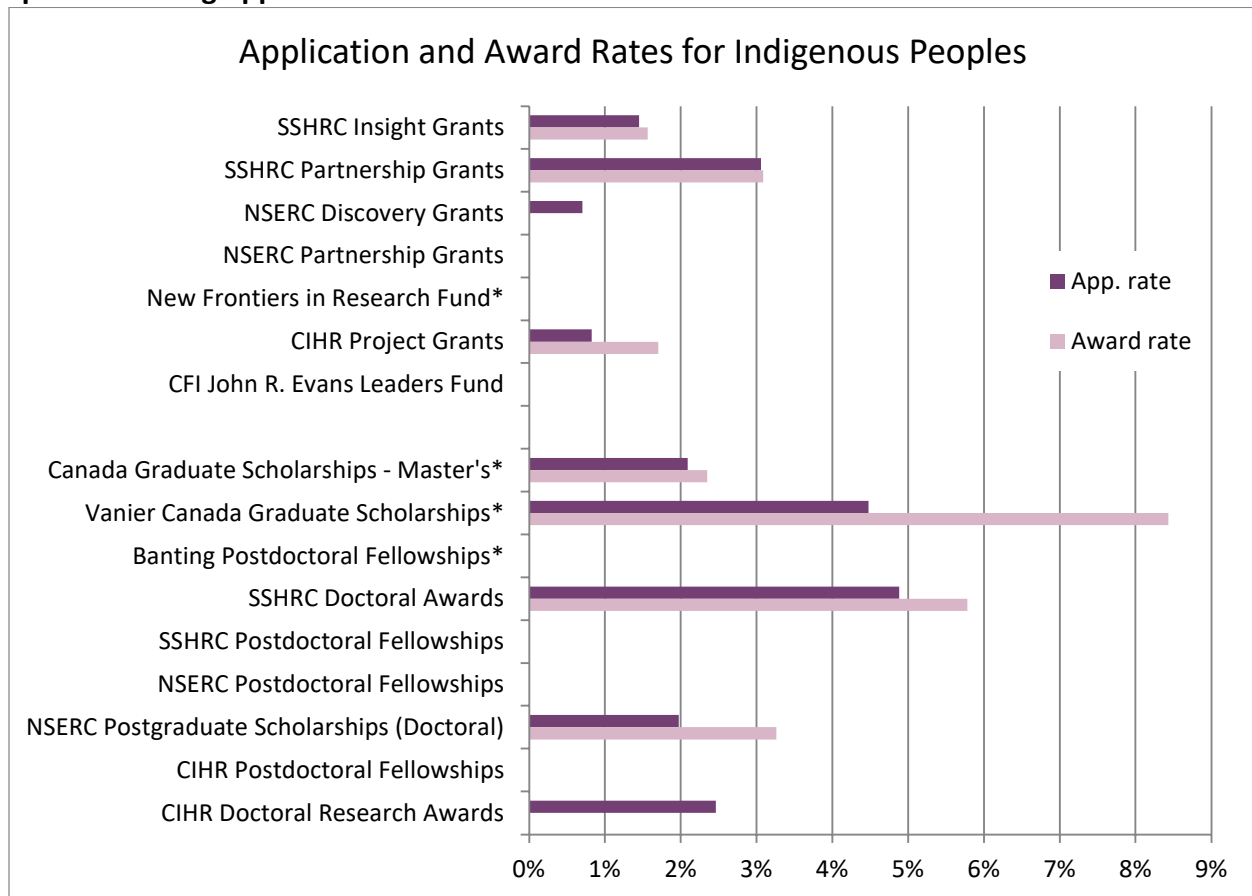
Note: Figures 1a-1d below are visual representations of the data provided in Table 1a, above.

Figure 1a: Application and award rates for women by tri-agency and agency-specific funding opportunities



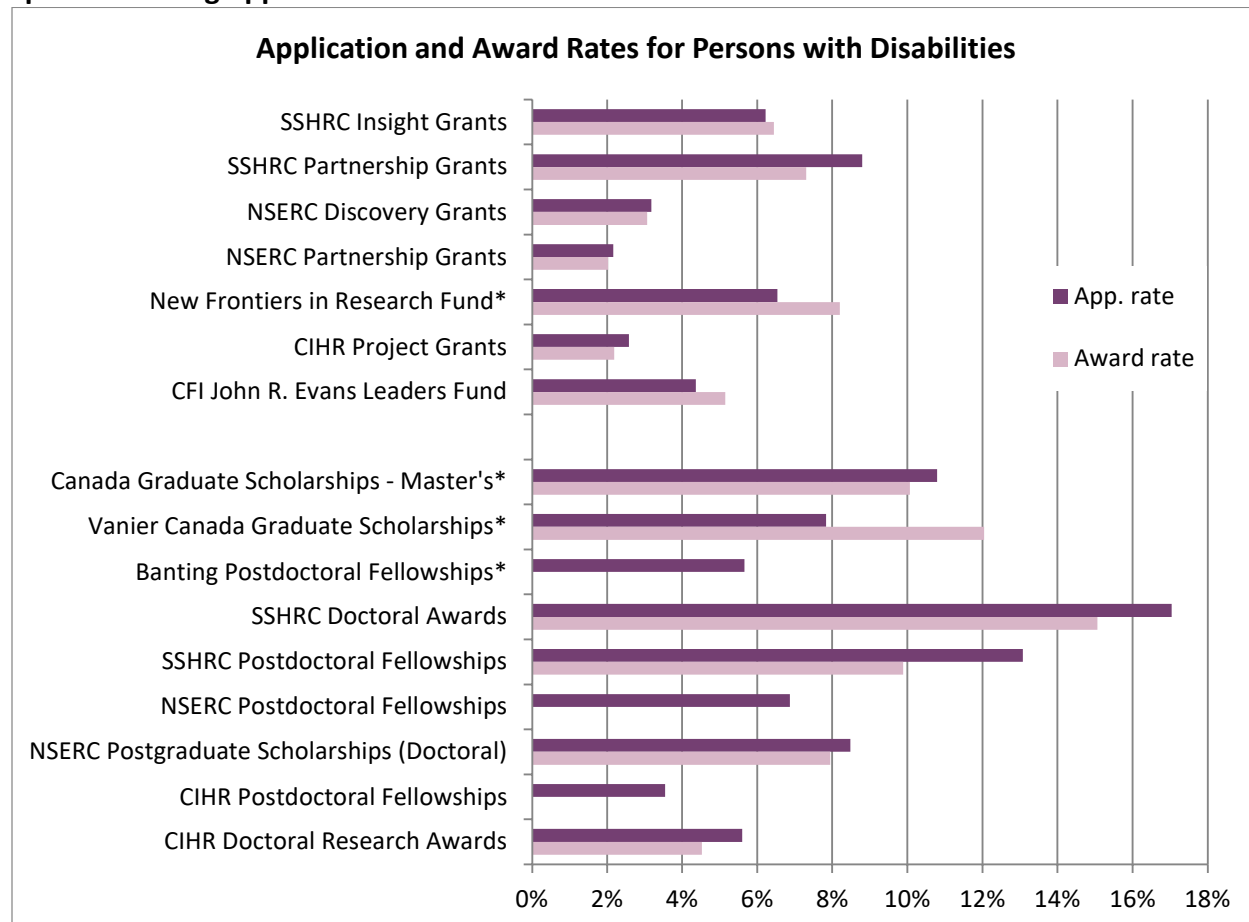
*Tri-agency funding opportunities

Figure 1b: Application and award rates for Indigenous Peoples by tri-agency and agency-specific funding opportunities



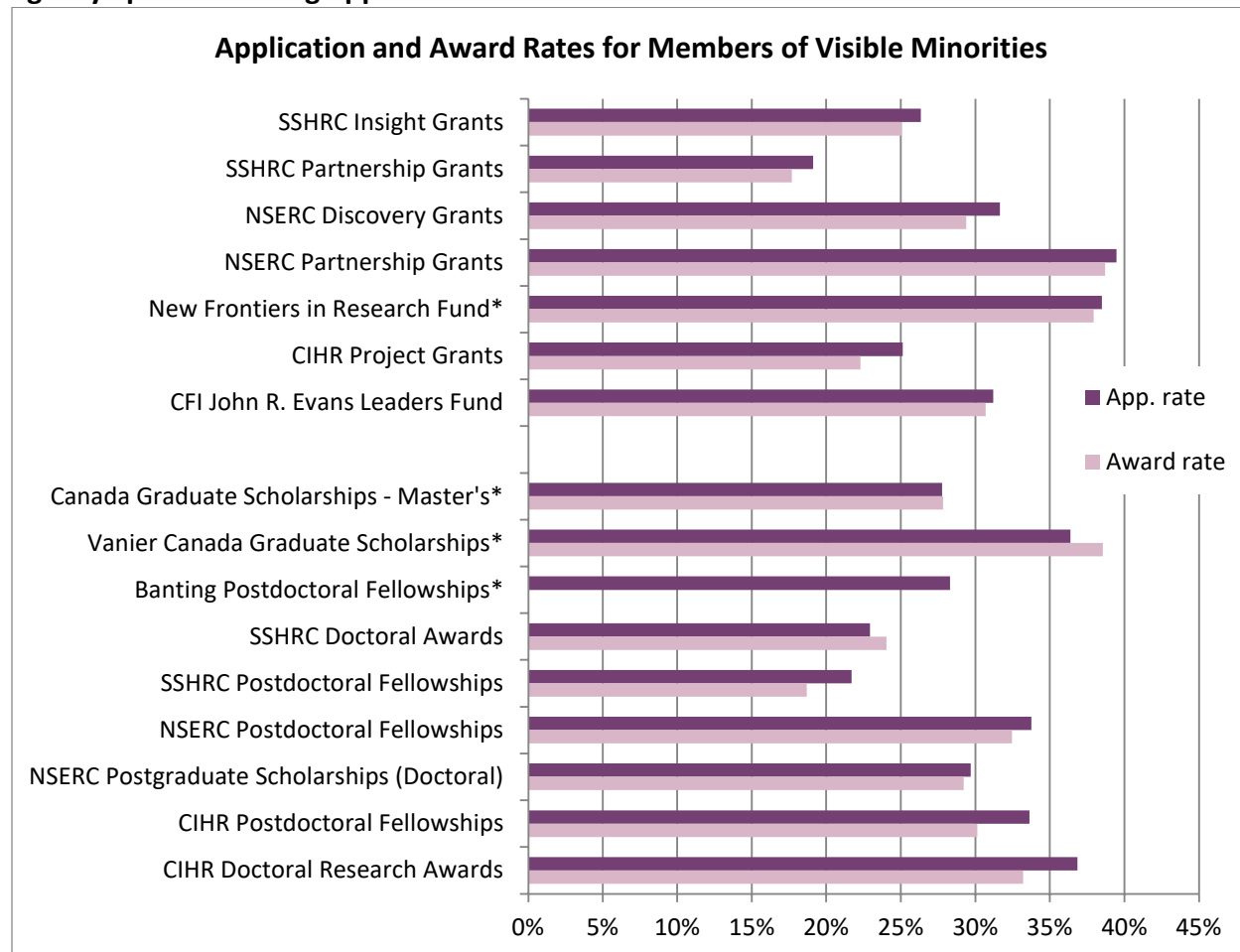
*Tri-agency funding opportunities

Figure 1c: Application and award rates for persons with disabilities by tri-agency and agency-specific funding opportunities



*Tri-agency funding opportunities

Figure 1d: Application and award rates for members of visible minorities by tri-agency and agency-specific funding opportunities



*Tri-agency funding opportunities

Notes:

- A dash (–) indicates categories where fewer than ten responses were received.
- The CRCP requires that all nominees submit a self-identification form as part of a complete nomination package; as such the data presented in this table correspond to the nomination rate in 2022 funding cycles and program representation as of March 2023. This data must not be used to calculate award rates or success rates. For additional program statistics, consult the [program website](#).
- The CRC nominations represent the percentage of nominations in all cycles of the reporting year (2022-1 and 2022-2) in which nominees self-identify as a member of an underrepresented group.
- Program representation reflects the percentage of active chairs as of March 2023 who self-identify as a member of an underrepresented group.

Annex II: Early career researcher data for flagship investigator-initiated research grant competitions

Each agency has provided an update to last year's report, providing data from the 2022 and 2023 competition years from their flagship investigator-initiated research programs, based on grant amounts committed at the time of offer. Please see the Data Annex from [previous years](#) for data from 2014 to 2021.

CIHR has included data from the Project Grant program, which began in 2016.

NSERC has included data from the Discovery Grants program. The Discovery Launch Supplements, which began in 2018, are included for 2020-2022.

SSHRC has included data from two funding opportunities separately. The first table includes data for the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity, which began in 2011; the second table includes data for the Insight Grants funding opportunity, which began in 2012.

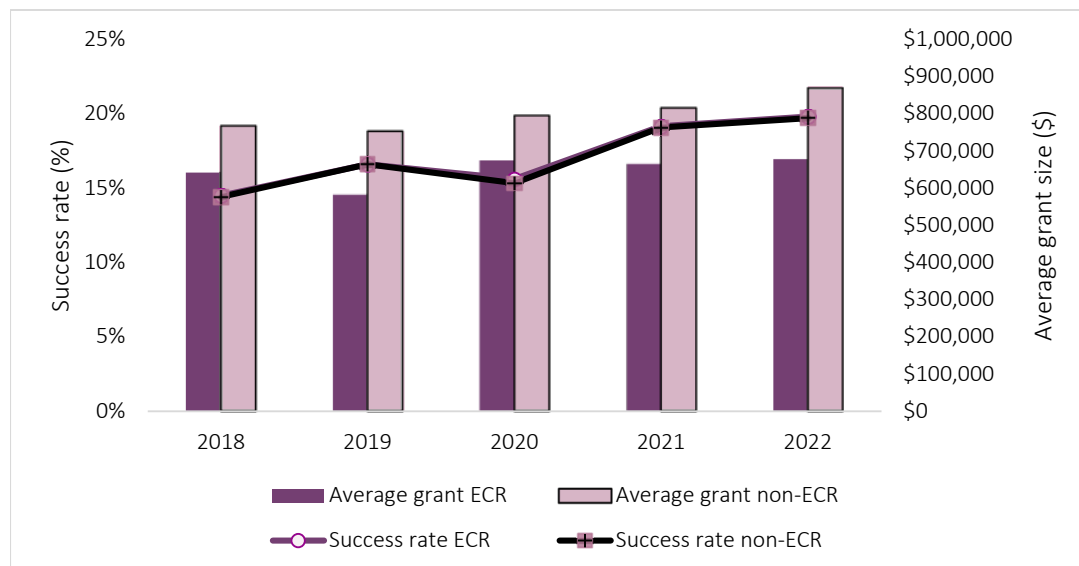
The CFI has included data from the John R. Evans Leaders Fund.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Project Grants are designed to support people at any career stage to build and conduct health-related research and knowledge translation projects while capturing ideas with the greatest potential for important advances in fundamental or applied health-related knowledge, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes. There are two Project Grants competitions per year (spring and fall). Grant values and durations are proportionate to the requirements of the research proposed and vary depending on the research field, research approach and scope of project activities: they are not explicitly capped.

At CIHR, an early career researcher (ECR) has historically been one who, at the time of application, has held a full-time, independent research appointment for a period of up to five years (60 months), excluding leaves of absence. ECR status was validated only for project competitions. ECRs in Open Operating Grant program competitions (2014 to 2015) were considered those within five years of the date of their last degree. Within the overall competition budget, there is a specific funding envelope to ensure the proportion of grants going to ECRs is at least equal to the proportion of applications submitted by ECRs. Competition processes and peer review for this cohort are fully integrated in the entire competition, with no additional steps required on the part of applicants.

Figure 1: Canadian Institutes of Health Research success rates (lines) and average grant sizes (bars) for early career researchers and non-early career (established) researchers for the Project Grants from 2018 to 2022



Canadian Institutes of Health Research Table

| Open Operating Grant Program and Project Grants | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of applications—ECRs | 1,130 | 1,016 | 1,121 | 1,139 | 1091 |
| Number of applications—total | 5,117 | 4,629 | 4,489 | 4,395 | 3,994 |
| % of all applications | 22.1% | 21.9% | 25.0% | 25.9% | 27.3% |
| Success rate—ECRs | 14.5% | 16.6% | 15.6% | 19.1% | 19.8% |
| Success rate—established researchers | 14.4% | 16.6% | 15.3% | 19.1% | 19.7% |
| Average grant—ECRs | \$641,404 | \$581,139 | \$673,052 | \$663,380 | \$676,640 |
| Average grant—established researchers | \$765,262 | \$750,253 | \$792,275 | \$813,471 | \$866,234 |
| Total Open Operating Grant program / Project Grant program funds awarded—ECRs | \$105,190,260 | \$98,212,527 | \$117,784,111 | \$144,616,856 | \$146,154,293 |
| Total Open Operating Grant program / Project Grant funds awarded | \$545,981,020 | \$547,613,842 | \$526,597,846 | \$649,782,320 | \$640,774,125 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 19.3% | 17.9% | 22.4% | 22.3% | 22.8% |
| | | | | | |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—ECRs | \$145,751 | \$140,158 | \$155,533 | \$152,109 | \$157,370 |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—established researchers | \$169,984 | \$166,980 | \$174,951 | \$179,988 | \$188,533 |
| Total Open Operating Grant program / Project Grant program funds awarded—ECRs (per year of grant) | \$23,903,223 | \$23,686,639 | \$27,218,346 | \$33,159,544 | \$33,992,000 |
| Total Open Operating Grant program / Project Grant program funds awarded (per year of grant) | \$121,814,153 | \$123,707,806 | \$117,492,829 | \$144,932,544 | \$141,644,083 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 19.6% | 19.1% | 23.2% | 22.9% | 24.0% |

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

NSERC Discovery Grants support ongoing programs of research with long-term goals rather than a single, short-term project or collection of projects. Discovery Grants are five-year grants. There is one Discovery Grants competition per year. Individuals can apply for and hold only one Discovery Grant at a time. Discovery Grant holders cannot reapply for another until the last year of their current award.

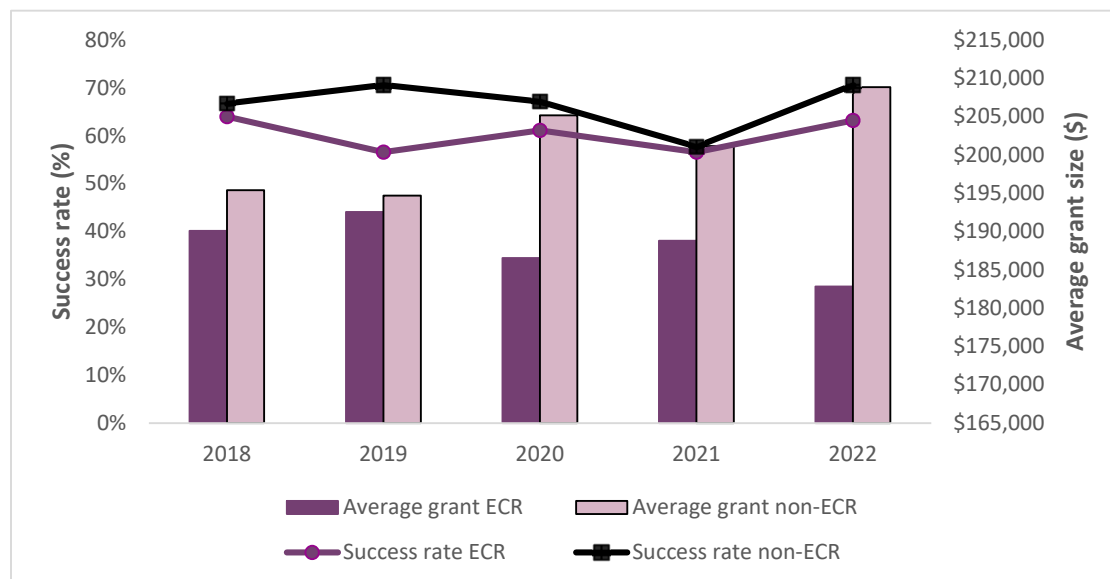
Individuals submitting an application are categorized as either ECRs or established researchers. From 2014 to 2016, ECRs were defined as people within two years of the start date of their first eligible position at a university with no prior academic or non-academic independent research experience. From 2017 to 2018, the ECR eligibility window was increased to three years; in 2019, it was increased to five years. In all years reported, the window for being considered an ECR could be adjusted to include instances when they had an eligible delay in research (owing to illness, parental leave, etc.).

While applications from ECRs are evaluated against the same three selection criteria as established researchers, it is recognized that individuals applying early in their career may not have had the opportunity to make the same levels of contribution to training as established researchers. For this reason, NSERC implements a different quality cut-off for funding ECRs, ensures the overall ECR success rate is at least 50%, and offers additional sources of support to those awarded a Discovery Grant. These include:

- an annual \$5,000 top-up on their Discovery Grant;
- the Discovery Launch Supplement, introduced in 2018, a one-time award valued at \$12,500; and
- since 2017, offering ECRs scheduled to apply for their second Discovery Grant the option of accepting an additional year of funding on their existing Discovery Grant at the same level.

In comparison to previous years, increases in funds awarded to ECRs in 2018 and later reflect the Discovery Launch Supplements and the additional year of funding. In addition to the flagship Discovery Grants program, NSERC also devotes funds to a number of Discovery funding programs, many of which provide support to ECRs.

Figure 2: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council success rates (lines) and average grant sizes (bars) for early career researchers and non-early career (established) researchers for Discovery Grants from 2018 to 2022



Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Table

| Discovery Grants | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of applications—ECRs | 677 | 882 | 889 | 866 | 837 |
| Number of applications—total | 3,213 | 3,404 | 3,372 | 2,008 | 2518 |
| % of all applications | 21.1% | 25.9% | 26.4% | 43.1% | 33.2% |
| Success rate—ECRs | 64.0% | 56.6% | 61.1% | 56.6% | 63.2% |
| Success rate—established researchers | 66.7% | 70.6% | 67.1% | 57.7% | 70.6% |
| Average grant—ECRs | \$190,094 | \$192,549 | \$186,540 | \$188,798 | \$182,804 |
| Average grant—established researchers | \$195,366 | \$194,672 | \$205,158 | \$201,134 | \$208,830 |
| Total Discovery Grants funds awarded—ECRs | \$82,310,534 | \$96,081,926 | \$101,291,334 | \$92,510,996 | \$96,703,082 |
| Total Discovery Grants funds awarded | \$412,869,600 | \$442,598,291 | \$443,084,989 | \$225,058,041 | \$344,375,947 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 19.9% | 21.7% | 22.9% | 41.1% | 28.1% |
| | | | | | |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—ECRs | \$32,099 | \$32,508 | \$31,509 | \$31,883 | \$30,884 |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—established researchers | \$40,355 | \$40,071 | \$41,032 | \$40,227 | \$41,766 |
| Total Discovery Grants funds awarded—ECRs (first year of grant) | \$13,898,839 | \$16,221,571 | \$17,108,139 | \$15,622,666 | \$16,337,597 |
| Total Discovery Grants funds awarded (first year of grant) | \$82,179,749 | \$87,547,244 | \$85,466,870 | \$42,132,075 | \$65,872,170 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 16.9% | 18.5% | 20.0% | 37.1% | 24.8% |

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Insight Development Grants support the development of new research in its initial stages. Applications are project-based and may be submitted by individual researchers or research teams. Insight Development Grants are valued at up to \$75,000 over one to two years.

Within the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity, funding is available for two distinct categories of scholars: emerging scholars and established scholars. Emerging scholars may submit projects that build on and further the applicant's (or team's) graduate work and/or represent a continuation of their overall research trajectory. Applications by established scholars must explore new research questions and/or approaches that are distinct from the applicant's previous/ongoing research. Emerging scholar status is validated for Insight Development Grants and at least 50% of funds are reserved for applications from emerging scholars. The emerging scholar category is used as a proxy for ECRs within the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity.

When applying, emerging scholars must demonstrate that they have not successfully applied, as principal investigator or project director, for a grant offered through SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR. In addition, they must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- have completed their highest degree no more than six years before the competition deadline (SSHRC considers only the date of completion of the first doctorate);
- have held a tenured or tenure-track postsecondary appointment for less than six years;
- have held a postsecondary appointment, but never a tenure-track position (in the case of institutions that offer tenure-track positions); or
- have had their careers significantly interrupted or delayed for health or family reasons within the past six years.

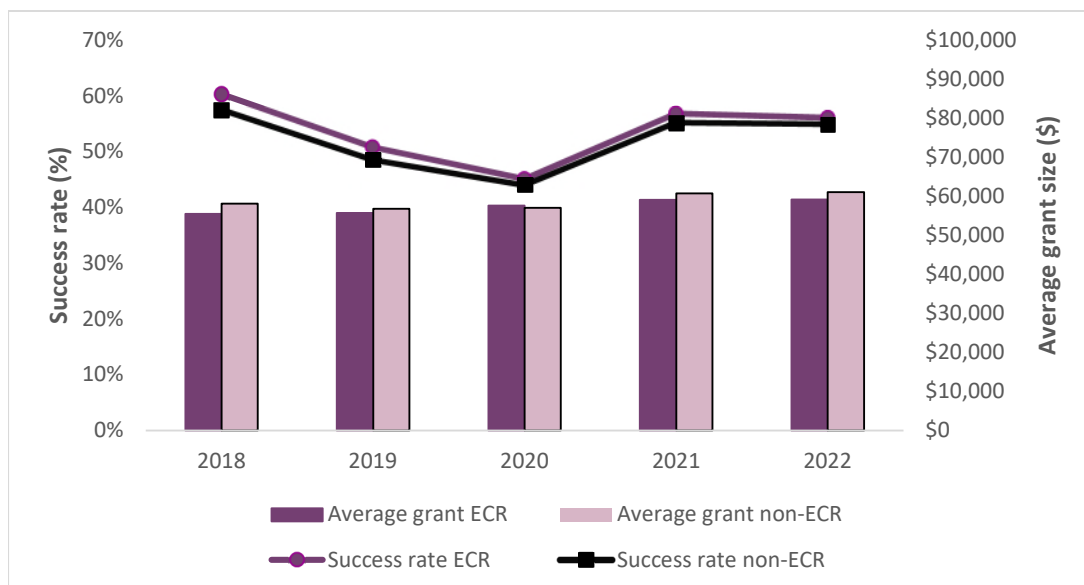
Insight Grants support long-term, investigator-driven research excellence in the social sciences and humanities. Applications are project-based and may be submitted by individual researchers or research teams. Insight Grants are valued at \$7,000 to \$100,000 per year over two to five years, up to a total of \$400,000. Two funding streams are available, depending on the scale of the proposed project:

- Stream A for requests between \$7,000 to \$100,000; and
- Stream B for requests between \$100,000 to \$400,000.

Insight Grants are available to both emerging and established scholars. There is no reserved budget envelope for emerging scholars within Insight Grants, as the Insight Development Grants emerging scholars stream serves this purpose. Neither emerging scholar nor ECR status is validated within the scope of the Insight Grants funding opportunity. Instead, a proxy is used to identify ECRs. Applicants who have completed their first highest degree no more than six years before the competition deadline are identified as ECRs.

Insight Development Grants and Insight Grants success rates in the 2018 competition year and following have risen relative to the programs' historic averages due to increased government funding starting in 2018.

Figure 3: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council success rates (lines) and average grant sizes (bars) for early career researchers and non-early career (established) researchers for Insight Development Grants from 2018 to 2022



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Table

| Overall | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of applications—ECRs | 1,000 | 884 | 960 | 905 | 791 |
| Number of applications—total | 2,675 | 2,493 | 2,681 | 2,288 | 2,138 |
| % of all applications | 37.4% | 35.5% | 35.8% | 37.9% | 37.0% |
| Total Insight Development Grants / Insight Grants funds awarded—ECRs | \$39,941,520 | \$29,049,725 | \$30,550,140 | \$36,237,645 | \$34,713,561 |
| Total Insight Development Grants / Insight Grants funds awarded | \$139,711,962 | \$122,615,958 | \$129,715,263 | \$143,453,836 | \$131,503,792 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 28.6% | 23.7% | 23.6% | 25.3% | 26.4% |
| Insight Development Grants | | | | | |
| Number of applications—ECRs | 798 | 739 | 782 | 751 | 658 |
| Number of applications—total | 1,139 | 1,128 | 1,256 | 1,175 | 1,055 |
| % of all applications | 70.1% | 65.5% | 62.3% | 63.9% | 62.4% |
| Success rate—ECRs | 60.3% | 50.9% | 45.3% | 56.9% | 56.1% |
| Success rate—established researchers | 57.5% | 48.6% | 44.1% | 55.2% | 54.9% |
| Average grant—ECRs | \$55,434 | \$55,694 | \$57,567 | \$59,089 | \$59,193 |
| Average grant—established researchers | \$58,087 | \$56,849 | \$57,050 | \$60,776 | \$61,053 |
| Total funds awarded—ECRs | \$26,663,844 | \$20,940,988 | \$20,378,648 | \$25,231,168 | \$21,842,324 |
| Total Insight Development Grants funds awarded | \$38,048,922 | \$31,685,401 | \$32,302,006 | \$39,452,804 | \$35,151,966 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 70.1% | 66.1% | 63.1% | 64.0% | 62.1% |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | | |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—ECRs | \$28,016 | \$27,950 | \$28,995 | \$29,787 | \$30,077 |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—established researchers | \$29,419 | \$29,482 | \$28,805 | \$31,188 | \$30,873 |
| Total funds awarded—ECRs (per average duration of grant) | \$13,543,093 | \$10,512,432 | \$10,232,683 | \$12,674,951 | \$11,040,846 |
| Total Insight Development Grants funds awarded (per average duration of grant) | \$19,324,171 | \$15,984,153 | \$16,237,526 | \$19,891,917 | \$17,757,491 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 70.1% | 66.1% | 63.1% | 64.0% | 62.1% |
| Insight Grants | | | | | |
| Number of applications—ECRs | 202 | 145 | 178 | 154 | 133 |
| Number of applications—total | 1,536 | 1,365 | 1,425 | 1,213 | 1083 |
| % of all applications | 13.2% | 10.6% | 12.5% | 12.7% | 12.3% |
| Success rate—ECRs | 47.5% | 43.4% | 41.0% | 48.1% | 54.1% |
| Success rate—established researchers | 47.3% | 46.1% | 44.2% | 53.2% | 51.3% |
| Average grant—ECRs | \$138,309 | \$128,710 | \$139,336 | \$148,736 | \$178,767 |
| Average grant—established researchers | \$140,072 | \$147,108 | \$158,334 | \$165,177 | \$171,418 |
| Total funds awarded—ECRs | \$13,277,676 | \$8,108,737 | \$10,171,492 | \$11,006,477 | \$12,871,237 |
| Total Insight Grants funds awarded | \$101,663,040 | \$90,930,557 | \$97,413,257 | \$104,001,032 | \$96,351,826 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 13.1% | 8.9% | 10.4% | 10.6% | 13.4% |
| | | | | | |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—ECRs | \$36,524 | \$34,498 | \$37,947 | \$40,403 | \$44,898 |
| Average grant (per year of grant)—established researchers | \$36,316 | \$37,422 | \$40,267 | \$41,296 | \$42,573 |
| Total funds awarded—ECRs (per average duration of grant) | \$3,521,152 | \$2,155,487 | \$2,719,850 | \$2,961,743 | \$3,286,273 |
| Total Insight Grants funds awarded (per average duration of grant) | \$26,605,122 | \$23,338,470 | \$24,729,810 | \$26,425,472 | \$24,305,357 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 12.8% | 8.7% | 10.4% | 10.6% | 13.4% |

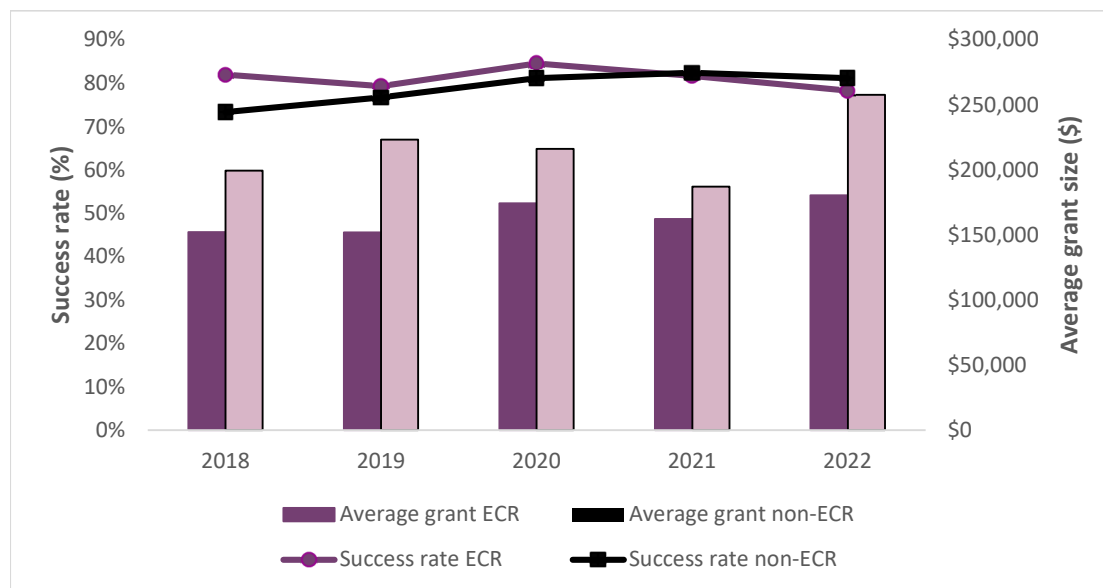
Canada Foundation for Innovation

The John R. Evans Leaders Fund is designed to help institutions attract and retain the best people by providing them with the foundational research infrastructure needed to be or become leaders in their field. The John R. Evans Leaders Fund also offers institutions the opportunity to create competitive research support packages in the form of infrastructure and a portion of the operating and maintenance costs, coupled with direct research support from partner organizations (Canada Research Chairs Program, Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program, NSERC and SSHRC).

Canadian universities, affiliated research hospitals and research institutes recognized as eligible by the CFI can apply for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund if they have received a minimum annual average of \$200,000 in research funding over the last three years from the three federal research funding agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC). Research community members listed on the proposal must be:

- recognized innovative leaders or have demonstrated the potential for excellence in the proposed research field;
- engaged in or embarking on research or technology development that is innovative, high quality and meets international standards; and
- current faculty members with full-time academic appointments or candidates that the university is in the process of recruiting to full-time academic positions in a strategic sector.

Figure 4: CFI success rates (lines) and average grant sizes (bars) for early career researchers and non-early career (established) researchers for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund from 2018 to 2022 (FY of award)



Canada Foundation for Innovation Table

| John R. Evans Leaders Fund | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Number of applications—ECRs* | 283 | 334 | 273 | 300 | 327 |
| Number of applications—totals** | 452 | 665 | 464 | 522 | 614 |
| % of all applications | 62.6% | 50.2% | 58.8% | 57.5% | 53.3% |
| Success rate—ECRs | 82.0% | 79.3% | 84.6% | 81.7% | 78.3% |
| Success rate—established researchers | 73.4% | 76.7% | 81.2% | 82.4% | 81.2% |
| Average grant—ECRs | \$152,209 | \$151,889 | \$174,267 | \$162,407 | \$180,646 |
| Average grant—established researchers | \$199,564 | \$223,418 | \$216,270 | \$187,337 | \$257,877 |
| | | | | | |
| Total John R. Evans Leaders Fund funds awarded—ECRs | \$35,312,473 | \$40,250,531 | \$40,255,643 | \$39,789,797 | \$46,245,309 |
| Total John R. Evans Leaders Fund funds awarded | \$60,058,409 | \$96,998,760 | \$73,777,455 | \$74,072,384 | \$106,330,609 |
| % of funds to ECRs | 58.8% | 41.5% | 54.6% | 53.7% | 43.5% |

* The CFI defines ECR as “Researcher who, at the time of application, has held a full time, independent research appointment for a period within 5 years or has a prospected appointment in the near future upon receiving the awards.”

The ECR was identified based on the following algorithms:

FY 2020-2021 and prior: The difference from the year of first PhD in their career and the proposal submission year is within 10 years.

FY 2021-2022 and beyond: The difference from the first research-related appointment date and the proposal submission date is within five years.

** On average, 1-3% of applicants' data were excluded due to missing values.