

The [Canada Impact+ Research Chairs program](#) is a one-time initiative designed to support institutions in attracting world-leading researchers whose work addresses critical national and global challenges. The program puts an emphasis on tangible impacts that are expected to move beyond discovery to generate social, economic and policy impacts, working in close collaboration with partners across various sectors. The total competition budget is ~\$1 Billion which is anticipated to be distributed across the councils: NSERC: up to \$530 million, CIHR: up to \$340 million and SSHRC: up to \$198.5 million. **It is anticipated that ~100 chairs will be awarded.**

Impact+ Chairs must advance one or more of the following strategic priority areas:

- 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.

Impact+ Chairs is a quota-based program where eligible [Canadian Institutions are assigned a maximum dollar value per year](#) for which they may apply. There are two sizes of awards to recognize the varying costs of research within different research disciplines:

1. \$1 million per year
2. \$500,000 per year

Impact+ Chairs are tenable for 8 years with potential for a four-year extension at 50% of the initial award value per year.

ELIGIBILITY OF NOMINEES

Nominees must be full professors or associate professors expected to be promoted to full professor within one or two years of the nomination. Alternatively, if they come from outside the academic sector, nominees must possess the qualifications necessary to be appointed at these levels.

Only candidates who are internationally based (both working and residing outside of Canada) at the time of the intake's application deadline are eligible to apply. There are established procedures to allow non-Canadian chairholders and their teams to work in Canada.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI):** The tri-councils emphasize EDI as fundamental to research excellence. Nominations must demonstrate the highest EDI standards in the research team and design components.
- **Indigenous Research:** If relevant, research should be co-created with Indigenous communities, valuing Indigenous knowledge and supporting decolonization.
- **Knowledge Mobilization and Translation:** Research should involve partnerships across sectors to enhance the uptake of results for the benefit of all Canadians.
- **Sustainability:** Host institutions will be expected to leverage additional resources to sustain the research advantage created by the Chair after the award ends. It is expected that additional contributions (cash and/or in-kind) will be secured by institutions and chairholders.
- **Research Security:** The Government of Canada's [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) will apply to this funding opportunity.

Full details of each of these areas can be found on [the program website](#).

ASSOCIATED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Distinguished Chair Awards

- On an exceptional basis, institutions may request an additional \$500,000 per year for the \$1M award (bringing the annual value to \$1.5 million) over eight years if their nominees have received exceptional international recognition through prestigious awards or prizes.
- Prestigious awards or prizes include, but not limited to: Nobel, Turing, Fields, Abel, Wolf, Tyler, Draper, Johan Skytte, Berggruen.

BOREALIS Research Chairs

- Additional chairs may be funded by the Department of National Defence (DND), if their work aligns with Defence Research and Development Canada's (DRDC) activities.

Emerging Leaders

- Institutions can request funding to recruit an internationally based early career researcher (ECR) within the same strategic priority area as the Impact+ Chair. Total competition budget of \$120 million, with no set tri-agency distribution.
- Awards are made only after acceptance of the Impact+ Research Chair, with institutions responsible for recruiting and nominating an eligible internationally based candidate for a tenure-track role who must start within 12 months of accepting the Impact+ Chair award.
- Emerging Leader awards are valued at \$100k for 6 years, potentially renewable once at 100% for 6 years. **The award cannot only support salary.**
- The institution must commit to supporting the infrastructure needs of the ECR, if applicable, through CFI Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund (CFI-CIRIF)

- Through [the new Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund](#), the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) will invest up to \$400 million to support the infrastructure needs of the chairholders and complementary ECRs (as applicable), including both capital and operating and maintenance (O&M) costs.
- The CFI will fund up to 100 percent of total eligible project costs and up to \$6 million per project.
- The CFI-CIRIF application must be submitted within 3 months of accepting the Impact+ Chair award.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The Impact+ Chairs consists of a two staged nomination process:

1. **Internal selection:** Interested applicants submit an application to SFU's job advertisement.
2. **Institutional nomination:** The successful applicant(s) will prepare the required documents, including a proposed research program, to be nominated by SFU to the Impact+ Chair program.

SFU's Office of the VPRI (OVPRI) will provide substantial support in the preparation and development of the nomination to the program including project management, budget planning, proposal development and editing. If successful, Canada Impact+ Research Chair awardees will also receive substantial support for their research programs and for administration of the grant.

SFU'S INTERNAL SELECTION PROCESS

SFU is eligible to apply for up to \$6 million dollars per year. This means SFU can submit 6 \$1M/year nomination, 12 \$500K/year nominations, or some combination of both.

SFU's job advertisement was posted December 17, 2025: <https://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/academic-careers/current-canada-research-chair-opportunities/canada-impact-research-chairs.html>

SFU's 2026 internal selection process will involve two parallel processes:

1. Nomination for the Impact+ Chair award led by the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI).
2. Appointment to an academic appointment per the process set out in the SFU Faculty Association collective agreement

Review process:

- The OVPRI will intake applications submitted to SFU's Impact+ job advertisement.
- Application review will begin upon submission with consideration for participations in next steps beginning on January 19, 2026.
- Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis by the VPRI and AVPR, with a focus on alignment with program objectives.
- Engagement with potential nominees, Faculty Deans, and academic units will also occur on a rolling basis.
- The selection committee will meet as needed to identify applicants to be put forward for nomination.

After a nominee has been identified, the faculty appointment process will begin (a non-advertised search in an appropriate academic unit, with appointment conditional on the successful award of the Impact+ Chair). Candidates who are successful through the internal selection process will be appointed to an [appropriate academic department/school/faculty](#) at SFU.

TIMELINE OVERVIEW

	Intake 1	Intake 2
Nominee review and selection	Rolling basis	Rolling basis
Application Development	ASAP	ASAP
Registration Deadline	March 10, 2026	June 15, 2026
Application Deadline	March 24, 2026	June 29, 2026
Results *The nominee must start at SFU within 12 months of this date	June 30, 2026	September 30, 2026
Award Start Date *Actual start date at SFU may be later	September 1, 2026	November 1, 2026
CFI-CIRIF Application submission (Estimated)	September 30, 2026	December 30, 2026
Emerging Leaders Start Date (Estimated)	July 1, 2027	October 1, 2027

For any questions, please contact research_chairs@sfu.ca