

**Research Support Fund  
2023 - 2024**

<b>Eligible expenditure category</b>	<b>Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)</b>	<b>Performance Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Target Outcome</b>	<b>Progress Report November 2024</b>
Research facilities	Support for Core Facilities.	Promote development growth of Core research facilities and multi-user space.	Core Facilities offer centralized research equipment and expert technical support to the broader research community.	Core Facilities provide effective and efficient usage of research resources under a sustainable operation model.	Operational support provided to Core Facilities in 2023-24.
Research resources	Acquisition of a Core Facilities software management tool.	Support operations of Core research facilities and multi-user space.	Core Facilities offer centralized research equipment and expert technical support to the broader research community.	Core Facilities provide effective and efficient usage of research resources under a sustainable operation model.	Core Facilities software tool acquired; implementation underway.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Support for a Mitacs Business Development Specialist.	Support for student research placements with industry.	Number of annual Mitacs placements	Increased capacity for work integrated learning through student research	Mitacs placements increased to 578 internship units, ranking Dalhousie 1 <sup>st</sup> of 15 universities in Atlantic Canada for submissions and 11 <sup>th</sup> of 86 nationally.
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	Support University Committee on Laboratory Animals (UCLA) members.	Support UCLA members' professional development and training.	Conference attendance	UCLA members are more fully informed of current issues and initiatives.	Support provided to members of the University Committee on Laboratory Animals (UCLA).
Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization	Recruitment of a new position in the Office of Commercialization and Industry Engagement – Manager, Computer Science.	Support development and growth of applied research partnerships with industry collaborators in the big data ocean sector.	Engagement and collaboration with industry partners in the oceans sector.	Increased industry partnerships and/or contracts with technology partners in the oceans sector.	Manager started May 2023; demonstrating tangible advances in industry engagement and researcher support.

**Incremental Project Grant  
2023 - 2024**

<b>Eligible expenditure category</b>	<b>Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)</b>	<b>Performance Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Target Outcome</b>	<b>Progress Report November 2024</b>
Research facilities	Deferred maintenance undertaken in the Life Sciences Centre (LSC).	Support and improve research capacity.	Research space is renewed with continued adherence to safety standards.	Research space is renewed to provide a safe environment to support important research priorities.	High priority deferred maintenance work has been completed, addressing safety compliance issues.
Research facilities  Research resources  Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Creation of a Data Handling, Advancement, and Transformation Centre (IWK Health Centre).	Digitize and preserve research administration records in a secure electronic environment, advance administrative capacity through training, and enhance research support through faculty and researcher education.	Number of digitized files, reduction in storage requirements, number staff trained, increase in grant submission/success rates, and number of collaboration consultations.	A paperless administration system, improved grant and contract administration, and research excellence through continued education in best practices for research design and methodology, data analysis, grant writing, research ethics, contracts administration, and financial management.	The Data Handling, Advancement and Transformation Centre has been established. More than 1,500 files, totaling 54 GB, have been digitized with 745 training hours provided, 14 new collaboration consultations, and an increase in grant submission/success rates.
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Recruitment of a Clinical Trials Study Start-up Specialist (x2) and Research Nurse Patient Navigator (Nova Scotia Health).	Make Nova Scotia Health the partner of choice for clinical trials.	Reduced administrative burden on research teams and improved start-up timelines expected by industry partners.	Better support patients and families as they interact with matching engines and virtual clinical trial platforms through equitable access to these services.	Two Clinical Trials Study Start-up Specialists and a Research Nurse Patient Navigator onboarded. SSUS team has mapped the startup study process and is onboarding studies and teams into the NovaStudies Connect Platform.

**Research Security  
2023 - 2024**

<b>Eligible expenditure category</b>	<b>Output (investment or expense of RSF grant funds)</b>	<b>Performance Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Target Outcome</b>	<b>Progress Report November 2024</b>
Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise	Support development and resourcing of Research Security Management and Review Committee, including recruitment of a new position – Director, Research Security.	Integrate national security considerations into the development and evaluation of research partnerships.	Positive results following Agency review of funding applications.	Development and evolution of processes to support critical evaluation of research partnerships, including who researchers partner with and what areas of research are at higher risk, to support researchers and government funders to undertake consistent, risk-targeted due diligence to identify and mitigate potential national security risks to research.	Agency review of funding applications subject to research security considerations have been favourable, with results consistent with past success rates.
Research resources	Support development of a risk assessment support tool – SecureScholar.ca.	Access to a cost-effective but rigorous platform for Canadian research security due diligence that supports rapid sharing of relevant open-source due diligence information across Canada's research security community of practice.	The percentage of projects where topic-based risks can be effectively identified and assessed using SecureScholar.ca and the percentage of projects where organization-based risks can be effectively identified and assessed using SecureScholar.ca.	Production version of SecureScholar.ca platform capable of supporting the majority of topic- and organization-related research security due diligence.	SecureScholar.ca Beta is currently undergoing user testing.

<p>Research resources</p> <p>Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise</p>	<p>Support the development of a new service to provide secure, reliable storage to university researchers, including recruitment of a new support position.</p>	<p>Provide secure and reliable storage to university researchers to conduct and store research data.</p>	<p>Number and amount of research data stores moved or housed on the new storage infrastructure and the number of consulting engagements that are completed by the new support position.</p>	<p>Introduction of storage technology stack that will increase security and resiliency for researcher storage data leading to an improved security posture overall for the research community.</p>	<p>New storage technology stack implemented. Work to move research data off lab purchased consumer grade network attached storage (NAS) systems, which are insecure, onto this secured managed centralized NAS which will be more secure, reliable, and cost effective, continues.</p>
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