SSHRC'S PERFORMANCE IN 2022-23: REPORT ON COMPETITIONS

September 2023 | Prepared by Programs Planning and Operations Division

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Introduction

The Report on Competitions is developed annually for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's (SSHRC) Programs Committee. The report aligns with the committee's mandate to assess how SSHRC's programs support achieving organizational objectives, and to inform recommendations to the governing council on strategic directions for program budget allocations and the overall structure and balance of SSHRC's programs.

The report provides an annual overview of activities undertaken by SSHRC program portfolios and incorporates feedback from committee members and observers. Point-in-time data on applications evaluated and awarded during the 2022-23 fiscal year are included to inform and support committee discussions and foster continuous learning and improvement in SSHRC programs. The report includes information on competitions where the merit review was held between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023. Grants and scholarships resulting later in the funding cycle from the reallocation of funds between programs and funding opportunities or from additional government funding are not included.

The report includes data on acceptance rates and workload for SSHRC's merit review committee members, and an overview of their academic backgrounds and representation across the four designated groups— women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and visible minorities. Once again, the report includes multi-year trends and feedback from committee members and observers received through questionnaires.

The report complements corporate reports, including the annual Departmental Results Report, as well as comprehensive competition data provided on SSHRC's website, including the interactive dashboards. Additional related information and data are publicly available on SSHRC's Award Search Engine, SSHRC's Competition Statistics page and the Open Government Portal. In support of transparency and open government policy, SSHRC will make the report publicly available on the Open Government Portal. Key elements of the report will be highlighted on SSHRC's website and social media throughout the coming year.

Overview

Merit review by committees is continually adjusted to evolve and align with international best practices and to incorporate policy and practice changes informed by stakeholders in the research community. The analysis in the Report on Competitions supports learning and improvements in SSHRC competitions.

In parallel, the Programs Planning and Operations Division annually administers an internal SSHRC-wide consultation on program and program-policy related changes. Referred to as "One Launch," the consultation aims to systematically harmonize and coordinate changes across most of SSHRC's funding opportunities.

The following are key findings in this year's report:

- Except for the Indigenous Research Committee for Insight Grants, which used a hybrid format, all other funding opportunity committee meetings were held virtually.
- Committee members' workload continues to be monitored and is stable, except for a slight increase in the number of assigned applications for Partnership Engage Grants.
- Award rates for women and Indigenous applicants were higher than the related application rates. Award rates for applicants who self-identify as having disabilities and those who self-identify as visible minorities were generally lower than the application rates, except for a few funding opportunities.
- Award rates for French applications were higher than application rates and slightly higher than last year's. Generally, French applications had high success rates.
- Application submissions for special supplements for Ukraine trainees closed in December 2022. Funding support was provided for 46 trainees.

Special Response Fund for Trainees

In March 2022, in response to the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, the three federal research funding agencies established a time-limited Special Response Fund for Trainees (Ukraine)—SRFT-Ukraine—to support trainees directly impacted by the conflict. This temporary fund allowed all active and eligible grant holders across the three agencies to apply for a supplement to provide up to one year of relief and assistance, either through salary or stipend, to trainees in Canada whose research in Ukraine had been interrupted by the ongoing conflict, or to trainees in Canada who were expected to return to Ukraine in 2022, but could not because of the ongoing war. The SRFT-Ukraine application portal closed in December 2022. Through this fund, SSHRC provided $1,434,578 to support 46 trainees directly impacted by the crisis in Ukraine, including 11 master's students, 17 doctoral students and 18 postdoctoral researchers.

COVID-19 Support Measures

SSHRC continued to implement measures to provide support and relief to the research community. The following two were communicated on June 20, 2022, on SSHRC's website, as well as through webinars and networks of administrators of research and graduate studies:

- COVID-19 exceptions to tri-agency post-award regulations for trainees; and
- Transcripts for the fall 2022 scholarships and fellowships competitions.

SSHRC will continue its efforts to monitor and understand COVID-19's possible long-term impacts on social sciences and humanities research and support, as required.

Key Changes Implemented in the 2022-23 Competition Cycle

New funding opportunities:

- **Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) specifically for Black scholars:** The existing USRA program supports more than 3,000 students annually in the natural sciences and engineering fields. New awards were added to the existing USRA program to support Black students across the mandates of the three research granting agencies: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and SSHRC. This program is advertised on the SSHRC Talent webpage, but is administered by NSERC.

- **Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative:** The Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative provides financial support to meritorious Indigenous students who have applied to the CGS M program. This initiative was launched in 2022-23 and will continue for 2023-24.

- **Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (PEG RSJI):** As part of the response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 71-76, SSHRC, in collaboration with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), proposed a unique opportunity for short-term funding to support Indigenous community-led research and related activities involving community decision-making processes, research and actions regarding residential school sites in Canada. In 2022, this NCTR-SSHRC initiative took the form of a one-time funding opportunity, the PEG RSJI.

- **Coordination Hub for the Reconciliation Network in response to Call to Action 65:** In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action 65, the goal of SSHRC and the NCTR's collaboration was to support the establishment of a national research program. Launched in 2022, this research program took the form of a reconciliation network that requires the creation of a coordinating body, the Reconciliation Network Coordination Hub. This was a one-time special initiative managed by the Research Partnerships Portfolio.

- **Reconciliation Network in Response to Call to Action 65:** Launched after the Coordination Hub initiative, the main objective of the Reconciliation Network in Response to Call 65 is to award grants to support new and existing formal partnerships over five years to advance research, research training and knowledge mobilization in the social sciences and humanities. As part of the Reconciliation Network, the teams funded under this initiative will participate in coordination activities managed by the NCTR in its role as coordination hub for the network. The results will be announced in November 2023 and reported in next year's Report on Competitions.

- **New Knowledge Synthesis Grants competitions:** SSHRC launched and administered two new Knowledge Synthesis Grants competitions: the first on Gender-Based Violence, launched in spring 2022 in partnership with Women and Gender Equality Canada; the second on Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization, launched in fall 2022 in partnership with Genome Canada. The latter corresponds to one of the 16 future global challenge areas identified in 2018 in partnership with Policy Horizons Canada through SSHRC's Imagining Canada's Future initiative.

- **[Pan-Canadian Knowledge Access Initiative (PCKAI):](#)** Renewed for the 2023-29 period, this directed call managed by the Research Partnerships Portfolio was relaunched in 2022-23. Launched initially in 2020, PCKAI is a special initiative that provides greater access to scholarly publications to increase the discoverability and impact, in Canada and internationally, of Canadian social sciences and humanities research. The PCKAI will provide funding to move a current offering in the open access Canadian ecosystem forward to support both authors and journals from the social sciences and humanities community. The results will be announced in summer 2023.

SSHRC Merit Review Committees

SSHRC Merit Review

SSHRC research grants and scholarships are evaluated through an independent merit review process. Committee members evaluate the merit of applications and provide scores using a pre-established scoring system provided by SSHRC. Hundreds of volunteers are enlisted and contribute to the process. SSHRC seeks to ensure a diversity of societal perspectives and lived experiences across Canada and internationally. While most committee members are drawn from Canadian universities, members are also recruited from colleges and other sectors, including public, industry and not-for-profit organizations, depending on the needs of the funding opportunity. The majority of members and committees are functionally bilingual, with the exception of a few merit review committees that operate in English only.

Who Were Our Committee Members in 2022-23?

In 2022-23

Number of competitions: **22**
Number of committees: **106**
Total number of committee members: **938**
(**33** international[1])
Average age[2]: **49**
Average number of years served[3]: One: **58%;** Two: **24%;**
Three: **12%;** Four: **5%**
Average acceptance rate: **38%**
Average rate of returning members[4]: **32%**
Number of committee members who withdrew from the process: **69**

Self-identification[5]

51% Women
42% Men
-% Other[6]
4% Indigenous identity
9% Persons with disabilities
17% Visible minorities
4% Prefer not to answer (on average, to designated group questions)

Language profile[7]

English: **75%**
French: **25%**

Sectoral representation[8]

98% Postsecondary
< 1% Industry
1% Not-for-profit
1% Public

Institutional representation[9]

44% large
28% medium
18% small
1% college
4% international
5% other

Institutional positions

36% Associate Professor
27% Full Professor
24% Assistant Professor
12% Other
1% Adjunct Professor

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[1] Defined as members from international institutions.

[2] Based on 374 responses to the question in the self-identification EDI questionnaire, completed in 2022-23.

[3] Based on 418 responses to the 2022-23 merit review experience surveys.

[4] Defined as members who served on a funding opportunity committee in the previous round/cycle.

[5] Based on 427 completed EDI self-identification questionnaires. See **Appendix E** for more information.

[6] The Other category includes the following responses: Gender-fluid, Nonbinary, Two-Spirit, Trans man, Trans woman and I don't identify with any option provided. Self-identification data is Protected B and we do not disclose an aggregated data point that groups fewer than 10 people (<10).

[7] Based on the first official language of committee members.

[8] See **Appendix F** for more information, including a breakdown by funding opportunity.

[9] The Canada Research Chairs definition is used to define the institution size. Colleges are based on an internal list of colleges. International institutions are based on information in our database (organization country); it also includes international colleges. See **Appendix F** for more information, including a breakdown by funding opportunity.

Disciplinary Backgrounds

Percentages are calculated based on member participation and the number of participants who identified these subject areas as one of their main disciplines. Individuals participating on more than one committee during the year are counted each time they participate. There were no significant changes since last year.

MAIN DISCIPLINES

- 5%
- 1%
- 26%
- 68%
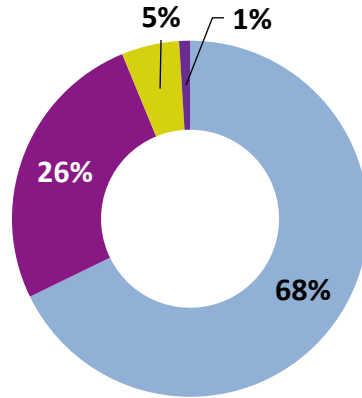
- ■ SOCIAL SCIENCES
- ■ HUMANITIES
- ■ INTERDISCIPLINARY
- ■ OTHER

SOCIAL SCIENCES BREAKDOWN % of social sciences members	68%
Economics	14.5%
Industrial Relations	12.7%
Criminology	11.3%
Archaeology	8.9%
Folklore	8.2%
Political Science	6.9%
Education	6.1%
Linguistics	5.8%
Demography	5.6%
Anthropology	5.6%
Urban and Regional Studies, Environmental Studies	4.3%
Social Work	2.9%
Psychology	2.4%
Management, Business, Administrative Studies	2.3%
Law	1.1%
Sociology	1.1%
Geography	0.2%

HUMANITIES BREAKDOWN % of humanities members	26%
Communications and Media Studies	20.6%
Classics, Classical and Dead Languages	19.7%
Philosophy	18.5%
History	15.5%
Mediaeval Studies	9.7%
Archival Science	5.9%
Literature and Modern Languages	3.8%
Religious Studies	2.9%
Library and Information Science	2.5%
Fine Arts	0.8%

INTERDISCIPLINARY BREAKDOWN % of interdisciplinary members	5%
Interdisciplinary Studies	87.5%
Women's Studies	12.5%

OTHER BREAKDOWN % of other members	1%
Not specified	55.6%
Other	44.4%

Committee Member Surveys and Observer Reports: Overview and Key Findings

418 completed committee member surveys

15 competitions surveyed

50% response rate

9 observer reports

Committee member surveys: To support continuous improvement, SSHRC seeks feedback from the merit review community on a variety of issues. Online surveys are distributed to most committees for member feedback following the merit review process. The surveys seek to capture experiences with the merit review process holistically and obtain feedback on the usefulness of tools and guidelines.

Appendix A presents the quantitative results to survey questions and a three-year trend analysis.

Observer reports: SSHRC also invites members of the academic community to observe and provide insight and guidance on ways to improve the merit review process. Observers attend merit review meetings and submit a narrative report to SSHRC. **Appendix B** lists the observer reports received in 2022-23 and presents an overview of the quantitative results and select quotes extracted from narrative comments.

Key Findings

Feedback from committee members and observers provides valuable insights across a number of elements of the merit review process. The participation rate in the survey dropped, going from 51% to 50%, a very small drop of one percentage point from the previous year. The decrease could be attributed to the lower number of competitions surveyed (from 16 to 15).

Key findings from open-ended questions and highlights from the survey and observer reports are provided below. For more details, see **Appendices A and B**.

These key findings and select results do not include all feedback received in 2022-23; rather, these findings seek to highlight some of the prominent or cross-cutting issues that surfaced from a qualitative data analysis (using NVivo software) of the narrative comments received. These findings can be used to build on successes and inform further changes and improvements at the program level.

Bias Awareness Training

For the survey question "What types of bias awareness training have you completed?", 11% of committee members selected "A different bias awareness training offered or recommended to me." These individuals have mainly taken a **different bias awareness training offered at university level** rather than the unconscious bias training module (Bias in Peer Review) offered by SSHRC.

As in previous years, committee members provided views on SSHRC's training module, which aims to promote understanding of unconscious bias, how it can affect merit review, and ways to mitigate various kinds of biases. For the question on its usefulness as a tool, this year 56% rated it as extremely useful or very useful compared to 52% last year.

This year, only 9% of survey respondents disclosed that they did not complete the unconscious bias training module or a different bias awareness training offered or recommended to them, compared to 12% last year.

SSHRC continues to collect self-identification data from applicants and committee members, as it has since 2018. SSHRC can build on its fifth year of collecting self-identification EDI data from applicants and committee members, which are provided in **Appendix E.**

Accessibility Improvements

Six percent (6%) of committee member survey respondents expressed having encountered barriers to their merit review participation. Responses to the "How can SSHRC improve the accessibility of the adjudication process for committee members?" survey question highlighted **the format of merit review**

meetings. Some members would prefer to meet in-person to overcome social and technological barriers; others would prefer to keep the virtual format to avoid travelling in difficult conditions.[10]

> *"It's a tough question to answer, because the committee's meetings were entirely remote, on a digital platform. I think in-person meetings would be more accessible for people with disabilities and more conducive to discussions and exchanges of ideas."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Insight Grants**

> *"While I would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet colleagues and complete the committee work in person, the reality is that having the meetings online makes the process much more accessible. Due to family commitments, I would not have been able to fly to Ottawa and spend a week there for the adjudication meetings."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Insight Grants**

The following four areas of concern also surfaced from the qualitative analysis:

- **having a more reasonable workload**
- **improving the support materials provided and exploring new tools**
- **having more time to review and discuss applications**
- **recruiting more committee members from marginalized groups to reinforce EDI requirements and practices**

Some representative quotes:

> *"We were given too many files to review. This was my first experience. I loved reviewing the files, they were very interesting and important projects, but there were too many. The consequence is that I feel I could not do this again unless the number per reviewer decreased, and also that I could not give the degree of time and attention to the individual files that I would have liked."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Partnership Development Grants**

> *"The small font on the competition spreadsheets might present an obstacle for some reviewers during adjudication meetings. I do not have a concrete solution, but I wonder if the use of tools, like the magnifier in the Windows 10 Ease of Access toolkit, might be worth exploring."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Doctoral Awards**

> *"Longer time periods to review the applications can help people with certain disabilities. I have an auto-immune condition that causes me to need to take relatively frequent sick days, which means I need more time to finish my commitments and avoid stressful periods of being overwhelmed with work."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Partnership Development Grants**

> *"Try to include committee members from more of the marginalized groups that the EDI program is attempting to serve. While it is difficult to find bilingual members from some IBPOC [Indigenous, Black and People of Colour] communities, it is nonetheless important. The committee members did an excellent job of looking for a serious commitment by applicants to integrate EDI into their projects and this*

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[10] See 6.5 Barrier: Committee member workload and committee meetings in SSHRC Accessibility Plan.

affected file rankings. Therefore, SSHRC must make every effort to include the voices and experiences of marginalized individuals/groups on the committee to provide feedback and inform assessment, especially if applications are borderline for funding. Even if SSHRC cannot find committee members from all groups, it would be helpful to have advisors from those groups to listen to the deliberations and comment."

Committee member survey respondent, Partnership Grants—Stage 2

SSHRC Successes

For the survey question "Please provide one thing that SSHRC did really well to support the evaluation process", **the support provided by SSHRC staff** was most frequently cited. Committee members praised the excellent support from SSHRC staff. Overall, survey respondents described program staff as courteous, professional and extremely helpful through the entire merit review process.

This analysis dovetails with the quantitative data results shown in Appendix A: 97% of survey respondents rated the support from SSHRC staff as excellent (85%) or good (12%) (n=418). In Appendix B, the observer reports confirmed this (see question #2). Seven observers rated the level of support provided by SSHRC staff as excellent; two considered it good. In addition, a very low percentage (2%) of committee members identified the level of support from SSHRC staff as a reason that would deter them from serving again.

The following two quotes are representative of comments related to SSHRC staff support:

"The staff member assigned to our committee was great. Knowledgeable about the process/policies, but very careful not to influence decision-making."
Committee member survey respondent, Insight Development Grants

"Assigning a main support staff person to each committee. They were extremely available and helpful. And because it was the same person the whole way through, there was a certain level of ease of interaction and knowing the background related to various issues/questions as they arose."
Committee member survey respondent, Doctoral Awards

The following three areas also surfaced from qualitative analysis:

- **the support material, instructions and communications**
- **the merit review process**
- **the pleasant working climate**

Again, Appendices A and B contain more details about the quantitative data in the tables and graphs on committee members' appreciation of the tools and guidelines provided by SSHRC, as well as their appreciation of the merit review process generally. The following three quotes highlight this:

"Clearly communicating the evaluation criteria and procedure. I felt well-prepared to evaluate the submissions."

Committee member survey respondent, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships

"The whole discussion and review process went really smoothly."
Committee member survey respondent, Insight Development Grants

"Overall, I found this to be a very pleasant and collegial experience. It was lovely to give back to this community and wonderful to learn about other disciplines from experts in those fields."
Committee member survey respondent, September 2022 Connection Grants

Changes or Improvements Requested From SSHRC

For the survey question "Please provide one thing that SSHRC could change or improve to make your experience better," **the scoring system, including (auto)calibration and short list,** stood out. The quantitative data results in Appendices A and B are less conclusive about this, but are still important to consider.

The following three quotes are representative of comments related to the scoring system:

"The practice of assigning scores to categories (challenge, feasibility, capability), and then fitting a more detailed evaluation form to those scores feels backwards to me. In fact, the evaluation forms (the reader review forms) are too detailed to be usefully applicable, because the applications are too different from each other in methodologies and approaches. A better practice would be to just score on the three broad categories, and then provide free-form feedback to the applicant on areas for improvement."
Committee member survey respondent, Insight Grants

"Autocalibration. It seemed to be a simple shift of the mean, but the distributions of scores across members seemed sufficiently different (esp. the mode for many seemed to be extremely high) that a simple shift might not be sufficient to 'calibrate' scores."
Committee member survey respondent, August 2022 Partnership Engage Grants

"I suggest that the committee does not need to see the numbers behind the initial scoring that developed the short list. It might be a fairer and less biased process at that point to present the shortlist in alphabetical order and ask each committee member to rank the files rather than having us so focused on the first-round scores. I found that really distracting and it let some files rise to the top because certain members of the committee generally gave higher scores than others. The ranking is the only thing that matters at that point."
Committee member survey respondent, Impact Awards

The following four areas also surfaced from the qualitative analysis, with the first and last two appearing to be linked:

- **the workload**
- **the time allotted to review the applications**
- **the schedule of merit review meetings**
- **the format of merit review meetings**

While committee members continued to identify heavy workloads as a key challenge in SSHRC merit review processes, it remains stable compared to previous years. SSHRC continues to monitor concerns about workload in the context of the increased demands it places on researchers beyond their existing supervision, research, teaching and other departmental duties. Workload can be exacerbated by unforeseen technological challenges, delays or by committee members dropping out at the last minute, leading to the redistribution of applications to the remaining members. As indicated in Appendix C, workload is the main reason that would deter committee members from serving again and is a real concern.

> *"The workload needs to be decreased. It is the reason why I am not sure about participating again, even though the rest of the experience was positive. Doing more than 50 hours of work during a teaching semester, even over a few weeks, is an unreasonable request. The applications themselves can be streamlined and the number of files per person needs to be reduced."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Partnership Development Grants**

The time allotted to review the applications is another key challenge. As indicated in Appendix A, most committee members spent an average of 45 to 90 minutes to review one application. That time is multiplied by the number of applications to be reviewed. Therefore, the need to allow more time to review the applications has been clearly expressed.

> *"Two weeks isn't enough time to review applications. For evaluation work to be done properly, reviewers should receive applications at least six weeks before meetings."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Insight Development Grants**

The schedule of merit review meetings should also be improved. A few committee members expressed concerns about the timeframe and the time zone difference. As indicated in Appendix A, the competition schedule/timing is also a significant reason that would deter committee members from serving again.

> *"One 3-hour adjudication meeting was not enough time to discuss all proposals. In the future, a 4-5 hour meeting or 2 meetings (2-3 hours each) may be required to adequately address all proposals."*
> **Committee member survey respondent, Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence**

The format of merit review meetings is another important concern. Discussions on holding in-person versus remote merit review processes are not new among SSHRC committee members. The format of merit review meetings is still something to think about in a postpandemic context. Some merit reviewers who supported remote merit review processes noted they were both time- and cost-effective, avoiding the need for travel and thus limiting environmental impacts. Other committee members favoured in-person meetings because they faced some technological challenges remotely, including connectivity issues, and they felt the videoconference meetings became tiresome day after day. Other comments emerged this year regarding the possibility of hybrid committees.

"Hope that we can meet in person for the final stage of the grant. The review committee was beginning to gel and there is a lot to be gained from developing networks with our colleagues across the country, whether we sometimes disagree or not on research excellence. I have really enjoyed the face-to-face meetings pre pandemic."
Committee member survey respondent, Partnership Grants—Stage 1

Other Reasons Not to Serve Again

As previously mentioned, the workload associated with the merit review of each application makes it a time-consuming process and remains a major factor in determining whether committee members will volunteer again. In Appendix A, other than the reasons indicated in the graph named "Which of the following reasons would deter you from serving again? (2022-23)," the format of the merit review meetings is important to consider in future to keep committee members. The following two quotes reflect this:

"I would be more likely to return for a committee with in-person adjudication meetings. The several hours of Teams meetings over a few days is a major deterrent."
Committee member survey respondent, Insight Grants

"I know that others have said the opposite, but I strongly feel that the meetings should take place in person, or at least offer the possibility of in-person participation (i.e., hybrid)."
Committee member survey respondent, Partnership Development Grants

2022-23 Funding Opportunities

Research Training and Talent Development

Summary of 2022-23 Competition Statistics

Competition	Eligible applications*	Awards**	Success rate***	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships	533	150	28%	N/A	$13,230,000
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships / CGS—Doctoral Program	2,185	630 (SSHRC)/ 423 (CGS)	48%	N/A	$36,900,000 (SSHRC)/ $44,415,000 (CGS)
CGS—Master's Program****	2,932*****	1,365	47%******	N/A	$23,887,500
CGS—Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements*******	86	86	100%	$727,045	$508,080
Impact Awards	65	5	8%	N/A	$300,000

Use of acronyms: CGS—Canada Graduate Scholarships; N/A—not applicable.

*SSHRC Impact Awards are based on a nomination process rather than an application process. The term "Eligible nominations" is used for Impact Awards.

**Awards data are drawn immediately following adjudication. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

***The success rate for the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and CGS Doctoral is influenced by institutional selection processes and quotas that limit the total number of applications.

****These are the competition results immediately post-adjudication (based on the approval memo). It does not include additional awards made later through the availability of additional funds. These statistics are based on the December 1, 2021, competition deadline.

*****The eligible applications reflect the number of individuals (2,932) who submitted a CGS M application, which was used for calculating the success rate. Each individual had the option to apply to a maximum of three institutions, which resulted in a total of 4,183 applications (child applications) across institutions. This number of child applications excludes applications with an "Ineligible" or a "Withdrawn" status.

******The success rate for the CGS M program takes into consideration the total number of CGS M awards and the total number of CGS M allocations.

*******SSHRC's total allocation is 125 awards per year.

Harmonized Response to COVID

Given the continued COVID-19 pandemic, harmonized measures were maintained. Implemented in 2021 to provide flexibility to applicants and award holders, in 2022-23 these measures consisted of the following:

- **COVID circumstances considered:** Applicants were invited to include impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on any aspects of their application in the Allowable Inclusions (special circumstances) section of their application.
- **Flexible post-award regulations:** All training award recipients were given the option of delaying the start date of their award or requesting an unpaid interruption of up to four months for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Part-time research:** SSHRC supported training award holders who, given the challenges posed by the COVID-19 situation, could devote only part-time hours to their research. These individuals could continue to hold their awards and be paid the full amount.
- **Unofficial transcripts:** the agencies continued to accept unofficial transcripts if official transcripts could not be obtained.

Anticipated Changes in 2023-24

ADJUSTMENTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO COVID-19

SSHRC will continue to monitor the pandemic's impact on research trainees and institutions and, in collaboration with the other research funding agencies, evaluate the rationale for maintaining these measures.

FUNDING DESIGNATED FOR BLACK STUDENT RESEARCHERS

In Budget 2022, the federal research funding agencies received funding for Black scholars, starting in 2023-24 for five years and ongoing. This new funding allows agencies to support approximately 400 additional Black scholars annually through existing scholarships and fellowships programs. SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR implemented the awards in the past year across their existing programs: the Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA), the CGS M and CGS Doctoral (CGS D) programs, and the agency-specific postdoctoral fellowships. SSHRC proceeded with the first round of award offers in spring 2023.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In 2023-24, access to Mitacs Training will be expanded to all postdoctoral fellowship and doctoral award holders. Award holders will be provided instructions on how to access Mitacs Training as part of their results package.

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships

💰 Value:	$45,000 per year
📅 Duration:	1 or 2 years
Application deadline:	September 14, 2022
Application system:	SSHRC Online System
Adjudication dates:	January 18–31, 2023
Adjudication method:	Videoconference
Number of committees:	8
Number of committee members:	54 (including eight international)
Committee member statistics:	**30% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 184 experts 56 accepted 2 members withdrew from the process **46% returning members** 25 out of 54 committee members served in the previous round/cycle Committee members reviewed an average of **20 applications**

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications. Both the number of applications and the number of awards can vary each year, which affects the success rate.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success Rate Trend
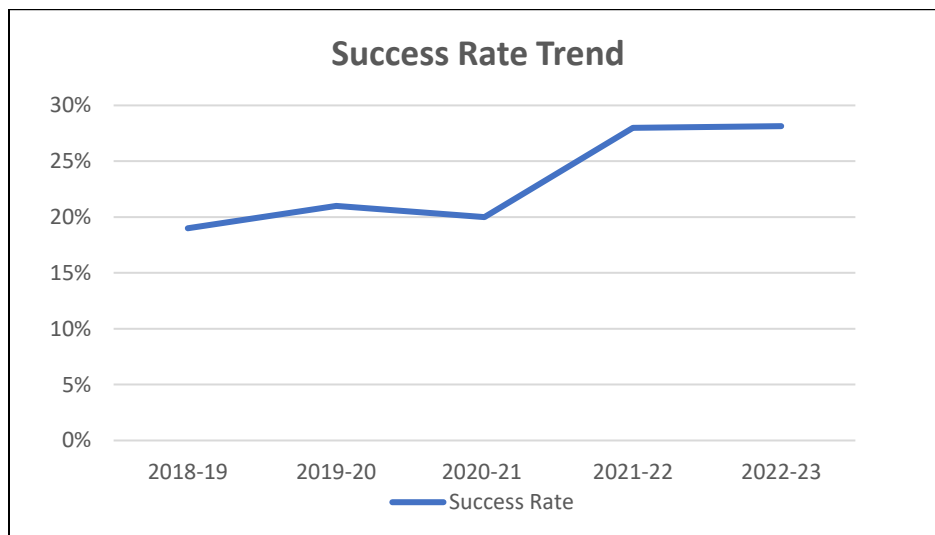
Supplements: Supplements are allocated after the results of the SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship competition are released.

- **Jules and Gabrielle Léger Fellowship:** $10,000 awarded annually to a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient conducting research on the historical and contemporary contribution of the Crown to the life of the country.
- **Bora Laskin National Fellowship in Human Rights Research**: $10,000 awarded annually to a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient conducting research in the field of human rights.

See the Joint Initiatives section for additional postdoctoral awards and supplements granted through partnered initiatives.

New in 2022-23

18-POINT SCORING SCALE

For the 2022-23 competition, applicants received total scores out of 18, instead of average scores out of six. This change aligned with SSHRC Partnerships, Connection and Insight Grants, which all employ the same base six scale and return relative ranks based on total scores out of 18. This enlarged range of scores enabled committee members to provide a more nuanced ranking of applications recommended for funding.

ARM'S-LENGTH REFEREE

For the 2022-23 competition, the application package did not require arm's length referees[11]. Instead, applicants were free to invite an acknowledged expert in the discipline who could provide the merit review committee with insight into the application package in relation to the evaluation criteria. This change was made to ensure that the required application components were available to all emerging scholars.

ELIGIBILITY ACCOMODATION DUE TO COVID-19

To offset the effect of the pandemic on recent PhD graduates, the eligibility window to apply to this funding opportunity has been extended since September 2021.

VIDEOCONFERENCING PLATFORM

This year, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships committee members met using MS Teams instead of Webex. The new platform was comparatively well received by members.

Competition Observations

96% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (88%) or good (8%).

84% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (46%) or good (38%).

n=24

"The SSHRC staff were swift to answer emails and friendly throughout the process. The orientation/calibration session was incredibly useful."
Committee member survey respondent

"The adjudication manual was fantastic. I even printed it out and had it handy during the reviewing process."
Committee member survey respondent

"Applications were very high quality in general."
Committee member survey respondent

Support for EDI consideration during merit review: Of survey respondents, 54% indicated that the unconscious bias training module was extremely or very useful. Some members indicated that more instruction from SSHRC could be useful during the merit review of applications presented by members

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[11] Applicants were provided with instructions explaining that arm's-length referees cannot be a relative, friend, etc.; cannot be in a position to benefit from the funding of the application; cannot be affiliated with the applicant's current or proposed institution; and cannot be professionally affiliated with the applicant.

of equity-deserving groups, as well as work that falls under the Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research. Members encouraged SSHRC to reconsider the weight of the evaluation criteria in this context.

> *"Despite providing room for "special circumstances" as well as training on bias, the way the competition is organized, and the added weight given to the criterium of "capacity" (measured in great part by previous funding and publications), is a barrier to equity."*
> **Committee member survey respondent**

> *"I also would encourage SSHRC to reconsider (or at least reformulate) its guidance on how to assess applications that do not tick the 'Indigenous research' box, but which clearly focus on Indigenous communities. Should such a file be treated as though the applicant ticked the box?"*
> **Committee member survey respondent**

Anticipated Change to the 2023-24 Competition

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS INSTRUCTIONS

For the 2023-24 competition, instructions for drafting the Research Contributions document will be aligned with SSHRC instructions for the same document in grant competitions. This change will encourage committee members to consider a variety of research contributions while making their assessments, including traditional academic publications, non-refereed and forthcoming contributions, creative outputs and other relevant services and experience.

Doctoral Awards (SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships / CGS—Doctoral Program)

💰 Value:	$20,000 per year (SSHRC) / $35,000 per year (CGS)
📅 Duration:	12, 24, 36 or 48 months (SSHRC) / 36 months (CGS)
Application deadline:	October 17, 2022 (directly to SSHRC) Set by the institution (through a Canadian university with a quota)
Application system:	SSHRC Online System
Adjudication dates:	March 1–21, 2023
Adjudication method:	Videoconference
Number of committees:	18
Number of committee members:	117 (including 18 international)
Committee member statistics:	**32% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 413 experts 130 accepted 13 members withdrew from the process **37% returning members** 43 out of 117 committee members served in the previous round/cycle Committee members reviewed an average of **38 applications**

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications submitted to the national competition. The rate is calculated using the combined total of SSHRC and CGS Program awards, relative to the number of applications eligible at the national stage.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success Rate Trend
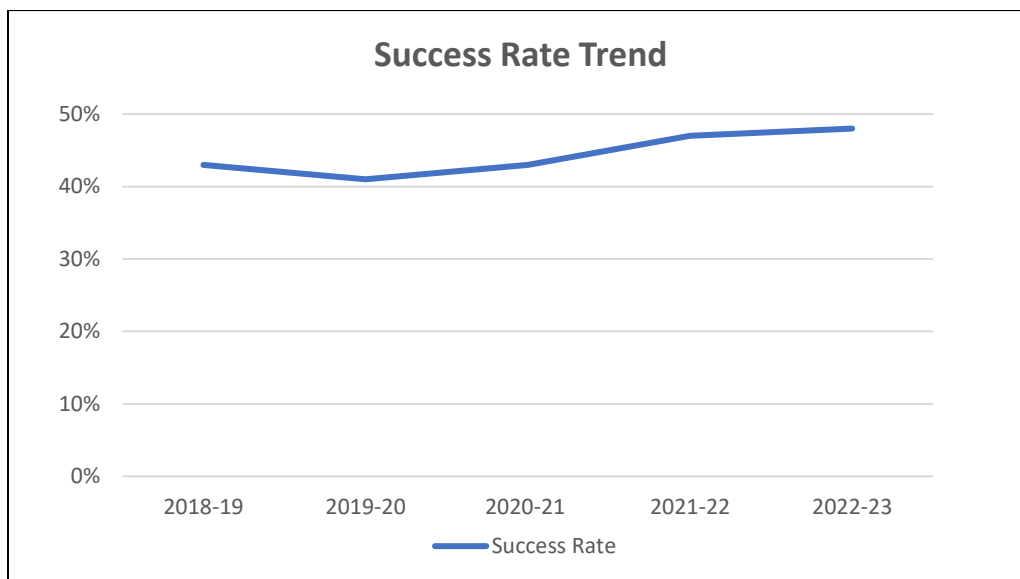
Supplements: Supplements are allocated after the results of the SSHRC doctoral awards competition are released.

- **Aileen D. Ross Fellowship:** $10,000 awarded annually to a SSHRC doctoral award recipient conducting poverty-related research in sociology.
- **Queen's Fellowship:** $10,000 awarded annually to a SSHRC doctoral award recipient entering a program in Canadian studies at a Canadian postsecondary institution.

See the Joint Initiatives section for additional doctoral awards and supplements granted through partnered joint initiatives.

New in 2022-23

DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH DESIGN MODULE

The Diversity Considerations in Research Design module introduced last year was still used as an awareness tool and was not subject to merit review in 2022-23.

CITIZENSHIP PORTION OF SSHRC CV FOR DOCTORAL AWARDS

The citizenship portion of the SSHRC CV was updated to include the option for applicants to self-identify as a protected person.

SIX-POINT SCORING SCALE

In 2021-22, the SSHRC Doctoral Awards program harmonized with other SSHRC funding opportunities by asking committee members to employ a six-point scoring scale instead of the five-point scale previously used in scoring applications. For the 2022-23 competition, applicants received total scores out of 12.

VIDEOCONFERENCING PLATFORM

This year, the SSHRC Doctoral Awards program used MS Teams instead of Webex for committee members' meetings.

Competition Observations

95% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (86%) or good (9%).

89% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (53%) or good (36%).

n=70

"SSHRC program officers did an excellent job of intervening and providing clear guidance when questions about relevant and non-relevant criteria for reviewing applications arose during adjudication meetings."
Committee member survey respondent

"The process of merit review was careful, ethical and collaborative. I felt that participants were displaying thought and care of the highest order. All participants were invited to share views, and overall, I was impressed by the respect that the committees showed toward the projects they were evaluating."
Observer

WORKLOAD: Survey respondents reported a significant workload compared to previous years.

"The actual adjudication exercise (both the reading/reviewing of applications and the team meeting) was very fulfilling, but the work demands were verging on unmanageable."
Committee member survey respondent

SCORING SYSTEM: Some survey respondents expressed a need for additional guidance on scoring applications.

"Some better training so committee members understand how narrow the score bandwidth is for doctoral committees can make it easier for ranking and adjusting scores in committee."
Committee member survey respondent

"The evaluation matrix could also be more limiting, which would help avoid differences in interpretation from committee members."
Committee member survey respondent

SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE MERIT REVIEW OF INDIGENOUS RESEARCH: Again this year, committee members found SSHRC's Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research very useful. Some respondents suggested strategies to enhance the committee members' ability to apply these guidelines across all merit review committees.

"A conversation about Indigenous research would be useful; files that include Indigenous research could be discussed even if not anomalous in scores, to emphasize and clarify for non-Indigenous committee members the aspects of files to which they will want to pay attention."
Committee member survey respondent

NEW IT SOLUTION FOR COMPETITION MANAGEMENT REQUESTED: Survey respondents indicated again that the current IT platform used to disseminate applications and merit review tools is not user-friendly.

"One thing that could be improved is the extranet, as [it] is quite cumbersome and hard to navigate."
Committee member survey respondent

Anticipated Changes to the 2023-24 Competition

MORE HARMONIZED PROGRAM CHANGES

To continue with one competition for both doctoral awards, the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships funding opportunity will continue to align, where possible, with changes to the CGS D program.

UPDATE TO THE PROGRAM LITERATURE

The program literature was updated to clarify the eligibility period of applicants in joint programs of study.

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS—TRANSCRIPTS

Because some applicants had difficulty obtaining official transcripts for their applications during the COVID-19 pandemic, the granting agencies accepted unofficial transcripts when official transcripts could not be obtained. For the upcoming competition, applicants will have to conform to their institution's policy on official transcripts when applying through an eligible Canadian institution.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

SSHRC has added an additional subcommittee and increased the number of committee members to cope with the growing workload of recent years.

Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's Program

💰 Value:	$17,500
📅 Duration:	1 year
Application deadline:	December 1, 2021*
Application system:	Research Portal Online
Adjudication dates:	N/A
Adjudication method:	Merit review at Canadian institution(s)

*The following statistics are based on the December 1, 2021, competition deadline.

The number of awards offered depends on the number of eligible applications received. A few institutions do not receive enough eligible applications to be able to use their allocation. Unused allocations are redistributed at the end of the year.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success Rate Trend
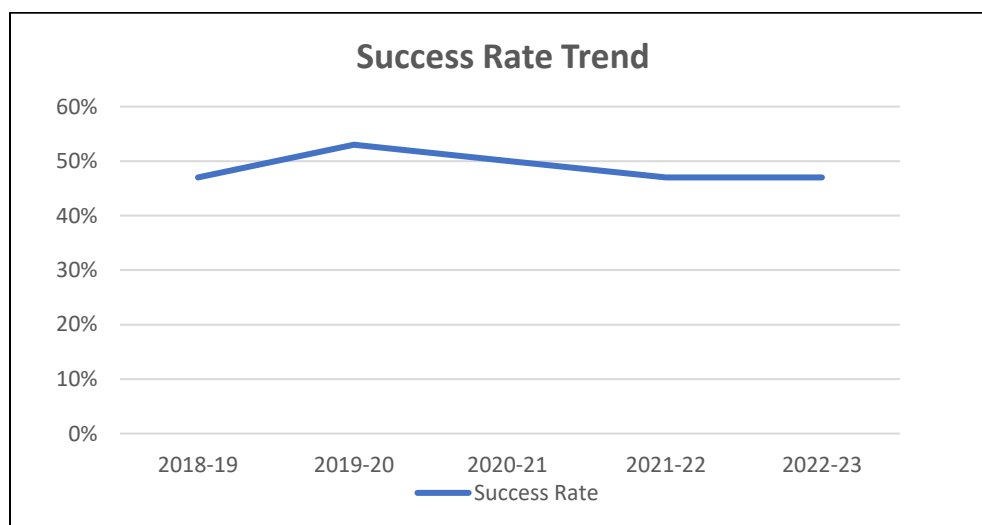
See the Joint Initiatives section for CGS Program Master's Scholarship for awards and supplements granted through partnered joint initiatives.

New in 2022-23

ONE-PAGE SPACE FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Addition of a one-page space to the CGS M application form was accepted for applicants to describe special circumstances that may have affected their research, professional career, record of academic or research achievement, or completion of degrees. This space gives flexibility for information to be provided in an open way and without constraints for dates.

ELIGIBILITY OPENED TO PROTECTED PERSONS

Eligibility for SSHRC CGS Program Master's Scholarships was expanded from Canadian citizens and permanent residents to include those with protected person status at the application deadline. This policy has been in effect since the 2022-23 competition.

UPDATED DISTRIBUTION OF CGS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

Updated allocations to the agencies based on graduate student enrolment data from Statistics Canada and the resulting updated allocations to the institutions were implemented starting with the 2022-23 competition. A 10% decrease of SSHRC's quota was noted. Allocations to the institutions were based on the current formula, which was implemented in 2016.

FIRST-CLASS AVERAGE REQUIREMENT REVISED

Institutions used the flexibility requirement on first-class average to accept CGS M applications from individuals who did not obtain a first-class average (FCA). This option helped increase access of applicants to Canadian institutions with a higher standard for FCA.

ACCEPTANCE OF LATE OFFERS

Institutions were instructed they must proactively ask applicants to promptly accept or decline the offer to ensure they can use declined awards to make additional offers to the next alternate candidates before January 31.

INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS' AWARDS AND SUPPLEMENTS PILOT INITIATIVE

SSHRC and NSERC launched a pilot initiative in September 2022 that will build on the CGS M by providing a $5,000 supplement to all self-identified Indigenous award holders, an award of the same value as the CGS M ($17,500) and a $5,000 supplement to a significant proportion of alternate candidates who self-identify as Indigenous for the purpose of this initiative.

Anticipated Change to the 2023-24 Competition

UPDATE TO THE PROGRAM LITERATURE

The program literature was updated to: instruct referees to contact the Helpdesk well in advance of the applicant's deadline for technical issues related to the Research Portal; clarify that the institution's Financial and award report (FAR) must be completed and updated before the agency can transfer the funds for payment of the award; and clarify that transcripts for the fall semester of the year of application must be submitted whether they contain grades or not.

Canada Graduate Scholarships—Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements

💰 Value:	Up to $6,000
📅 Duration:	2 to 6 months
Application deadline:	June 10, 2022 / October 10, 2022
Application system:	SSHRC Online System / Tri-Agency Awards Extranet
Adjudication dates:	N/A
Adjudication method:	Nomination at Canadian institution(s)

Eligible Canadian institutions submit a ranked list of applications to each agency. The agency conducts a review of eligibility and awards supplements to eligible applicants.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.
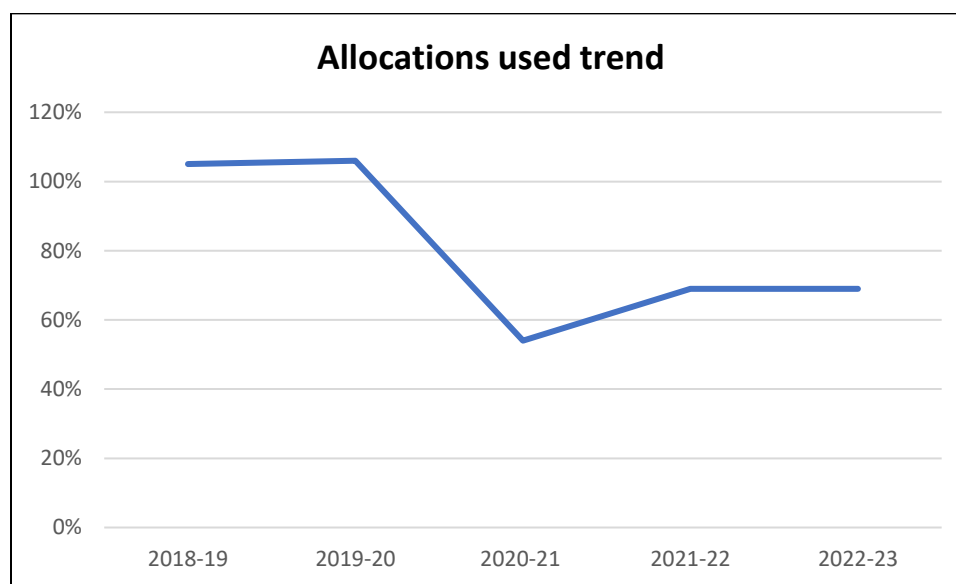
Note SSHRC's total allocation is 125 awards per year. Awards are allocation-based. Only eligible applicants are awarded.

APPLICATION TRENDS: Most applicants are CGS D holders (60%), followed by CGS M (30%) and Vanier CGS (10%) holders. In 2018, the federal funding research agencies eliminated allocations to institutions. Institutions have since been allowed to submit as many applications as possible based on the first come, first served principle. This resulted in an increase in the number of applications before the pandemic,

slightly above SSHRC's target (125). SSHRC managed to fund additional applications using its internal budget. Although the number of applications received in 2022 remained stable compared to 2021, it remains lower than before 2020 (prepandemic period).

New in 2022-23

UPDATE TO THE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AWARD HOLDER'S GUIDE

The program description was updated to clarify that a supplement must begin before the end of your CGS or Vanier CGS and cannot be taken up during an interruption of a CGS or Vanier CGS award.

ELIGIBILITY OPENED TO PROTECTED PERSONS

Eligibility related to protected person status was integrated into the program literature. This status is vetted for a CGS M, or CGS D or Vanier CGS award, which is one of the requirements for applying to the Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements funding opportunity.

Anticipated Change to the 2023-24 Competition

UPDATE TO THE AWARD HOLDER'S GUIDE ON TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO INSTITUTIONS

The Award Holder's Guide was updated to clarify that funds are transferred to the institution for payment upon acceptance of the supplement by the recipient.

Impact Awards

💰 Value:	$100,000 (Gold Medal) / $50,000 (all other prizes)
📅 Duration:	1 year
Application deadline:	April 1, 2022
Application system:	Secure Upload Site
Adjudication dates:	June 20-22, 2022
Adjudication method:	Videoconference
Number of committees:	1
Number of committee members:	12 (including 1 international)
Committee member statistics:	**46% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 26 experts 12 accepted 0 members withdrew from the process **42% returning members** 5 out of 12 committee members served in the previous round/cycle Committee members reviewed an average of **18 applications**

Unique among SSHRC programs, SSHRC Impact Awards are based on a nomination process rather than an application process.

Competition Statistics 2022-23

	Eligible nominations	Finalists	Awards	Success rate	Average success rate (over 5 years)	Total awarded
Gold Medal	10	N/A	1	10%	10%	$100,000
Talent Award	17	3	1	6%	6%	$50,000
Insight Award	15	3	1	7%	7%	$50,000
Connection Award	14	3	1	7%	7%	$50,000
Partnership Award	9	3	1	11%	11%	$50,000

New in 2022-23

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

This year, SSHRC distributed digital certificates of recognition to finalists and their team members.

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

In collaboration with The Conversation Canada, SSHRC's Communications Division organizes a series of public talks featuring SSHRC Impact Award winners. The series of "In Conversation With" talks invites each Impact Award winner to showcase their research. The talks are livestreamed and recordings of these sessions are made available on SSHRC's website.

Competition observations

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent.

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (33%) or good (67%).

n=6

POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON THE MERIT REVIEW PROCESS:

"The files were very well organized and easy for us to access."
Committee member survey respondent

"I think the process was fair. There weren't any accessibility issues."
Committee member survey respondent

A FEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTED ON THE NEED FOR FURTHER DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN AWARD CATEGORIES:

> *"It might be a good idea to get more detailed information about the specific evaluation criteria for each award category."*
> **Committee member survey respondent**

> *"In general, I think SSHRC might think about making the award categories more distinct from one another."*
> **Committee member survey respondent**

VIRTUAL MEETINGS: The adjudication meeting was held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

NOMINATIONS: This year, 65 nominations were submitted, which represents a 5.8% decrease from the previous year. However, this number is in the same range as the average number of nominations per year (64) over the last five competitions (2018 to 2022).

REACH ACROSS INSTITUTIONAL SIZE AND LANGUAGE: Small and medium-sized institutions represented 16.9% of nominations compared to 20.3% the year before. Approximately 25% of nominations were submitted by francophone or bilingual institutions. As noted in Appendix G, 16.9% of the nominations were submitted in French.

Anticipated Changes to the 2023-24 Competition

The following changes are planned for the 2023-24 competition:
- In-person or hybrid jury meeting in June.
- Nominee EDI data collection: To improve the lack of point-in-time collection of nominee self-ID information at the time of the institutional nomination, nominees will be invited to complete **the mandatory self-ID questionnaire** after their nomination to allow Impact Awards program to improve the accuracy of the self-ID data collected.

Insight Research

Summary of 2022-23 competition statistics

Competition	Eligible applications	Awards*	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
Insight Grants	1,145	510	45%	$233,136,322	$89,470,021
Insight Development Grants	1,055	589	56%	$66,713,985	$35,267,427

*Award data are drawn immediately following adjudication. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Insight Grants

💰 Value:	Stream A: $7,000 to $100,000 Stream B: $100,001 to $400,000
📅 Duration:	2 to 5 years
Application deadline:	October 1, 2022
Application system:	SSHRC Online System
Adjudication dates:	February 14-27, 2023*
Adjudication method:	Videoconference; Hybrid format (in-person and videoconference) for Indigenous Research Committee only.
Number of committees:	26
Number of committee members:	243 (including two international)
Number of assessors** (received):	2,306 (including 941 international)
Committee member statistics:	**45% acceptance rate** 646 experts invited 293 accepted*** 243 retained**** **44% returning members** 108 out of 243 committee members served in the previous round/cycle Committee members reviewed an average of **12 applications**

*Note that the pilot Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee (TAIPR) met on February 14-16, 2023 and is included in these statistics.

**An external assessor provides a written expert assessment of an application. SSHRC seeks, but cannot guarantee, a minimum of two external assessments for each application. The committee considers the external assessments but is not bound by them.

***Of the 293 experts who accepted, 25 dropped out after initially accepting the invitation and 25 were not retained. These 50 are counted in the final acceptance rate calculation.

****These data include recruitment efforts for the pilot TAIPR Committee, which was led by SSHRC. Members who agree to serve on the TAIPR Committee formed a pool from which the participating funding opportunities at SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR could draw. Members who agreed to serve on the TAIPR Committee, but who were not assigned to Insight Grants are counted as "not retained" in this report.

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.
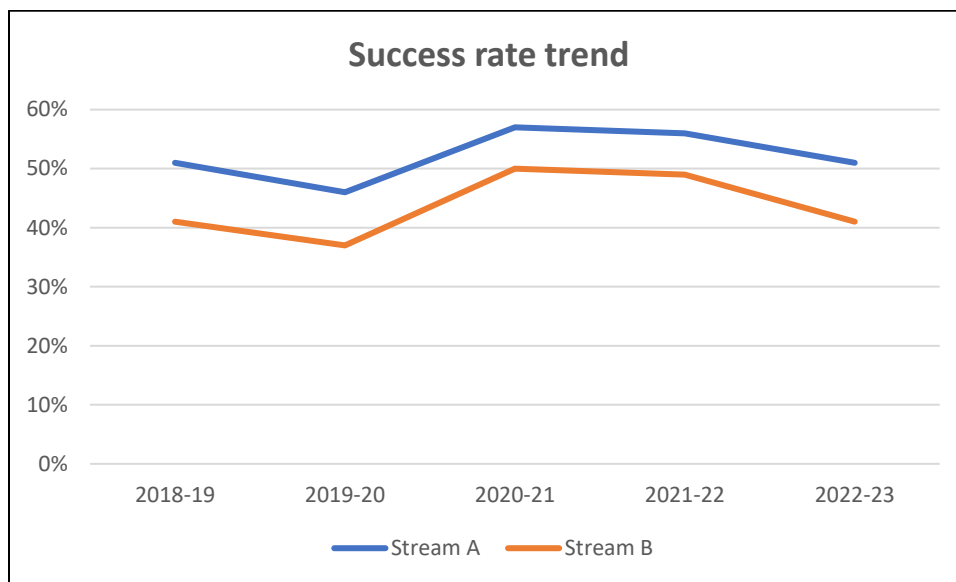
See the Joint Initiatives section for Insight Grants awarded under the Department of National Defence Research Initiative, Mitacs Accelerate and the Sport Participation Research Initiative.

New in 2022-23

TRI-AGENCY INTERDISCIPLINARY PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The TAIPR pilot was extended for a second year. Insight Grants applicants proposing interdisciplinary research projects, rooted in the social sciences and humanities but including elements from at least one of the (1) natural sciences and engineering and (2) health and wellness, could direct their applications to a shared merit review committee with broad disciplinary expertise for review.

ENHANCED FEEDBACK FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

In support of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee's commitment to support ECRs and provide them with enhanced feedback on unsuccessful applications within the three agencies' flagship funding opportunities, the triage system for applications that fell within the bottom 35% of the initial ranking was modified. Applications from first-time applicants to Insight Grants that fell within the bottom 35% of the initial ranked spreadsheet were flagged for discussion and received a committee evaluation form with their results package.

ADDITION OF AN OPTIONAL SEPARATE MODULE FOR CAREER INTERRUPTIONS AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN INSIGHT GRANT APPLICATION (PILOT PROJECT)

An optional separate module was piloted to allow applicants and co-applicants to insert information about their career interruptions and special circumstances (if applicable) without encroaching on the space provided to describe research contributions.

Competition Observations

97% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (85%) or good (12%).

94% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (58%) or good (36%).

n=111

"I appreciated the overall approach, the respect that members showed one another and how everyone handled negotiations over major differences in scoring. The whole process was structured well and we received a lot of support."
Committee member survey respondent

"I thought that the spreadsheets were invaluable. It was particularly nice to be able to see real-time updates of scores and funding cut-offs."
Committee member survey respondent

Anticipated Changes to the 2023-24 Competition

TRI-AGENCY INTERDISCIPLINARY PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE EXTENSION

The TAIPR Committee has been extended for a third pilot year. Insight Grants applicants who propose interdisciplinary research projects that include elements from at least one of the (1) natural sciences and engineering and (2) health and wellness will again be able to direct their applications to this shared merit review committee with broad interdisciplinary expertise.

MITACS PARALLEL APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants interested in the Mitacs Accelerate joint initiative will have the opportunity to submit a parallel application to Mitacs at the same time as their Insight Grants application. The two applications will be evaluated separately but simultaneously, resulting in faster delivery of the results to applicants. It is expected that this new parallel process will result in an increased uptake of Mitacs accelerate internships by SSHRC award holders.

Insight Development Grants

💰 Value:	$7,000 to $75,000
📅 Duration:	1 to 2 years
Application deadline:	February 2, 2022
Application system:	Research Portal Online
Adjudication dates:	May 2-13, 2022
Adjudication method:	Videoconference
Number of committees:	23
Number of committee members:	220 (including one international)
Committee member statistics:	**36% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 658 experts 239 accepted* 220 retained **50% returning members** 111 out of 220 committee members previously served** Committee members reviewed an average of **16 applications**

*Of the 239 experts who accepted, 10 dropped out after initially accepting the invitation and nine were not retained. These 19 are counted in the final acceptance rate calculation.

** At the time that the Insight Development Grants (IDG) recruitment data was collected, the IDG program was not using the new definition of a returning member (i.e., a member who served in the last cycle). The 111 include more broadly those who previously served on an Insight committee.

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success Rate Trend
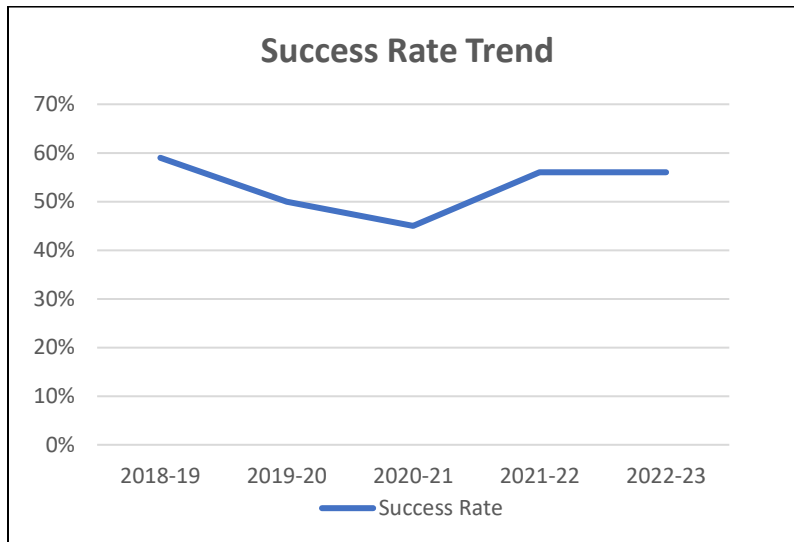
See the Joint Initiatives section for Insight Development Grants awarded under the Belmont Forum and Department of National Defence Research Initiative.

New in 2022-23

There is nothing new to report.

Competition Observations

97% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (83%) or good (14%).

92% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (40%) or good (52%).

n=128

"The staff is excellent and provide very supportive and helpful guidance and responded efficiently. The chair was very professional and respectful."
Committee member survey respondent

"The process was transparent and was kept to the announced schedule, thanks to the diligent work."
Committee member survey respondent
"I loved my committee's 'bilingualism in action,' with everyone speaking English or French as they preferred."
Committee member survey respondent

Anticipated Changes to the 2023-24 Competition

ENHANCED FEEDBACK FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

In support of the CRCC's commitment to support ECRs and provide them with enhanced feedback on unsuccessful applications within the federal funding agencies' flagship funding opportunities, the triage system for applications that fall in the bottom 30% of the initial ranking will be eliminated within the Emerging Scholar stream. All Emerging Scholar applications will be discussed and all unsuccessful Emerging Scholar applicants will receive a committee evaluation form in their results package.

TRI-AGENCY INTERDISCIPLINARY PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE

IDG will be added as a gateway funding opportunity to the TAIPR pilot. IDG applicants whose proposals reach across at least two of the three federal research agency mandates will now be able to direct their applications for review by the TAIPR committee. This SSHRC-led initiative, which responds to recommendations made in Canada's 2017 Fundamental Science Review, brings together researchers with expertise from across the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, engineering and health sciences to review interdisciplinary proposals using a harmonized peer review process, including evaluation criteria, that includes elements from all three agencies' flagship funding opportunities.

Research Partnerships

Summary of 2022-23 Competition Statistics

Competition	Eligible applications	Awards**	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
Partnership Grants	65*	19	29%	$61,692,665***	$45,703,883
Partnership Development Grants	159	76	48%	$30,874,764	$14,871,966
Partnership Engage Grants	299	262	88%	$7,285,806	$6,377,345
Partnership Engage Grants-Residential Schools Joint Initiative (RSJI)****	9	8	89%	$423,460	$373,460
Connection Grants	591	415	70%	$17,454,343	$11,798,816
Coordination Hub for the Reconciliation Network in response to Call to Action 65*****	1	1	100%	$770,000	$770,000

*Includes only eligible applications received at Stage 1. There were 25 eligible applications at Stage 2.
**Award data are drawn immediately following adjudication. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.
***Includes requested amounts at Stage 2 only.
****This one-time funding opportunity will be included in the Partnership Engage Grants section.
*****This is a one-time special initiative.

Partnership Grants

	Stage 1	Stage 2 (by invitation only)
Value:	Up to $20,000	Up to $2.5 million
Duration:	1 year	4 to 7 years
Application deadline:	February 10, 2022	October 29, 2022
Adjudication dates:	May 4–6, 2022	March 8–10, 2023
Application system:	SSHRC Online System	SSHRC Online System
Adjudication method:	Videoconference	Videoconference
Number of committees:	1	1
Number of committee members:	14	13 (including one international)
Number of expert panelists*:	N/A	89 (including 41 international)
Committee member statistics:	**31% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 59 experts 18 accepted 2 were not retained 2 members withdrew from the process **0% returning members*** Committee members reviewed an average of **15 applications**	N/A

*Expert panels consist of three to four external reviewers with disciplinary expertise for each application. The members of the expert panel co-author a narrative report outlining the strengths and weaknesses of each application based on SSHRC's evaluation criteria.

**Data are based on the Partnerships Grants—Stage 1 process.

***Returning members refer to members who served in the previous round/cycle. There are generally no members who serve consecutive Partnership Grants—Stage 1 cycles. There is, however, a high acceptance rate between Stages 1 and 2, and members may return to serve for future cycles. While none of the members from the Partnership Grants—Stage 1 committee in 2022 served on the Partnership Grants—Stage 1 committee the previous year, four members (29%) had served on a Partnership Grants committee in the past.

Each annual call involves a two-stage process. Proposals successful in Stage 1 are invited to apply to the Stage 2 competition.

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data; awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success rate trend
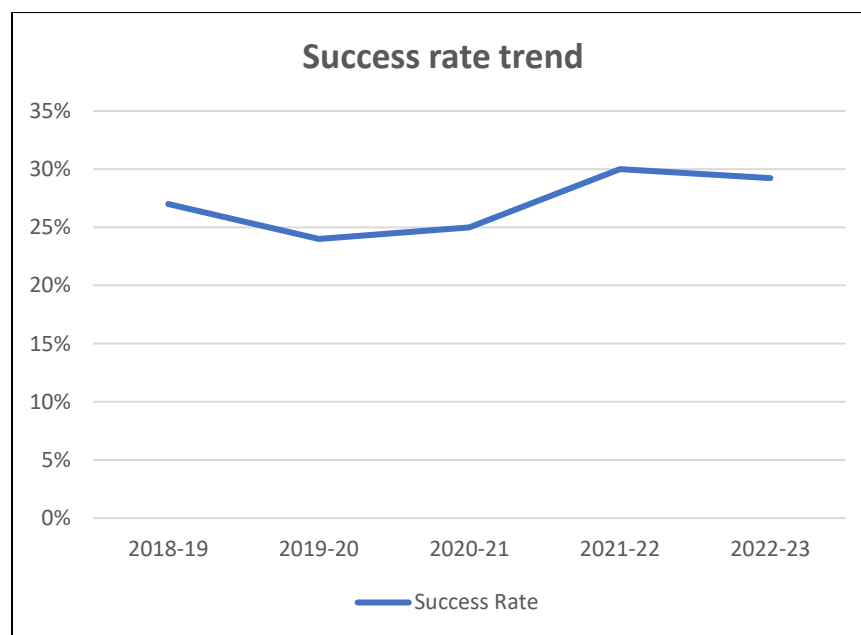
See the Joint Initiatives section for Partnership Grants awarded under the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund.

New in 2022-23

LAUNCH OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REQUIREMENTS IN STAGE 1

SSHRC continued to pilot EDI requirements in the Partnership Grants funding opportunity by implementing them in the 2022-23 Stage 1 competition after their introduction to the 2021-22 Stage 2 competition. The initiative included a Guide to Addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in Partnership Grant Applications and the addition of evaluation criteria for EDI in research practice and research design.

Competition Observations

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support overall for Stage 1 and 2 as excellent.

94% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process overall for Stage 1 and 2 as excellent (69%) or good (25%).

n= 12 (8 Stage 1 and 4 Stage 2)

"All [SSHRC staff] did an excellent job in helping the committee discuss accessibility and EDI issues very collegially, even though there were points of difference in the committee, everyone was extremely mindful and collegial."
Stage 1 Committee member survey respondent

"Several SSHRC members did an excellent job of supporting the evaluation process...the process flowed smoothly, the environment was highly supportive and welcoming to each member of the committee and all discussion, even when there was disagreement on an application, was moderated collegially and respectfully."
Stage 2 Committee member survey respondent

EDI REQUIREMENTS: Overall, the committee seemed to appreciate SSHRC's inclusion of EDI criteria and noted the importance of encouraging applicants to think about EDI in their proposals. The committee noted the increased quality of EDI considerations in the Stage 2 applications where more space was available to describe EDI plans. Some committee members expressed a need to not only support EDI in research proposals, but to ensure that grant recipients reflect diversity as well.

"Most applicants did a good job addressing EDI and it seemed that they had read the guidelines."
Stage 1 Committee member survey respondent

"I found a big improvement from Stage 1 to the Stage 2 levels in incorporating EDI more thoroughly and meaningfully."
Stage 2 Committee member survey respondent

"Useful to know what the guidelines were, but I think it is more important to ensure that awardees are representative of the diversity of Canada than to try to push all researchers to address EDI in their research questions.
Stage 1 Committee member survey respondent

EXPERT PANEL REPORTS AND WRITTEN RESPONSES: Committee members appreciated receiving external Expert Panel Reports that provided additional knowledge on each of the applications and helped them assess the relative merit of the applications. While the written response was introduced as a temporary measure to replace interviews with the teams during the pandemic, committee members

also appreciated that teams were able to respond in writing to the comments made by the expert panels.

"The expert panel reports and the written responses to the reports provided valuable insights that helped committee members understand and assess applicants' capacity to respond to concerns raised by expert panels."
Stage 2 Observer

Anticipated Changes to the 2023-24 Competition

IMPLEMENTATION OF DATA MANAGEMENT PLANS (DMP) IN STAGE 2

SSHRC will implement a pilot initiative where applicants will be required to include a Data Management Plan (DMP) in their Stage 2 application. This will involve a new module in the application form, new guidelines posted on the website, and a modified review process for the DMPs. The process will be reviewed at the end of the cycle to determine the next phases of the pilot initiative.

MITACS PARALLEL APPLICATION PROCESS IN STAGE 2

Applicants interested in the Mitacs Accelerate joint initiative will have the opportunity to submit a parallel application to Mitacs at the same time as their Partnership Grants—Stage 2 application. The two applications will be evaluated separately but simultaneously, resulting in faster delivery of results to applicants. It is expected that this new parallel process will result in an increase in uptake of Mitacs Accelerate internships by SSHRC award holders.

Partnership Development Grants

💰 Value:	$75,000 to $200,000
📅 Duration:	1 to 3 years
Application deadline:	November 15, 2022
Application system:	SSHRC Online System
Adjudication dates:	February 21–March 2, 2023
Adjudication method:	Videoconference
Number of committees:	2
Number of committee members:	31
Committee member statistics:	**31% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 115 experts 36 accepted 5 members withdrew from the process **26% returning members** 8 out of 31 committee members served in the previous round/cycle Committee members reviewed an average of **16 applications**

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.
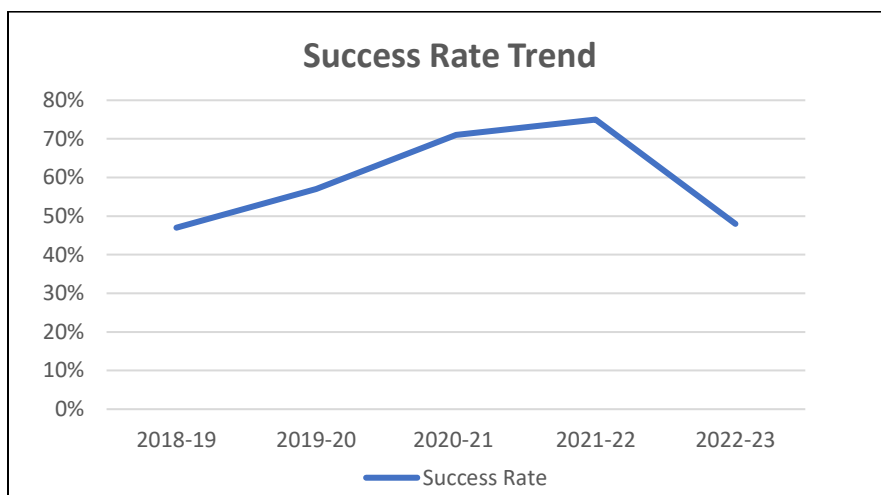
See the Joint Initiatives section for Partnership Development Grants awarded under the Belmont Forum and Mitacs Accelerate.

New in 2022-23

A RETURN TO PRE-COVID APPLICATION NUMBERS

The success rate of Partnership Development Grants decreased significantly in the last competition from 75% in 2021-22 to 48% in 2022-23, due to a 39% increase in applications compared to the previous competition, i.e., SSHRC received 159 eligible applications compared to 114 applications in 2021-22.

ADDITION OF A CO-DIRECTOR CATEGORY

The category of co-director was added to both the instructions and application. The addition of this category is a response to the partnership evaluation and part of SSHRC's commitment to reconciliation, as several Indigenous Research partnerships currently use such a co-director model informally. This addition aims to recognize this role as distinct from the large number of co-applicants who are often involved in these partnerships and to meet the needs of the research community we serve.

APPEALS POLICY UPDATE

Partnership Development Grants were added to the list of funding opportunities eligible for appeals.

Competition Observations

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (83%) or good (17%).

78% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (22%) or good (56%).

n=18

"The answers provided to committee members on technical aspects of the adjudication were excellent and well nuanced. The level of preparedness of the team is to be lauded."
Committee member survey respondent

"I generally love the way that scores are managed. I like that scores are calibrated so that they are more likely to be consistent with the evaluations of other committee members. At the same time, we can see our original scores and change either our scores or overall scores. I like how discrepancies are flagged so that we can see where there may be issues worth discussing. The score document used during the evaluation meetings is full of useful information. At the same time, it is a flexible, living document that is easily changed to reflect the evaluation committee's discussions."
Committee member survey respondent

Anticipated Change to the 2023-24 Competition

MITACS PARALLEL APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants interested in the Mitacs Accelerate joint initiative will have the opportunity to submit a parallel application to Mitacs at the same time as their Partnership Development Grants application. The two applications will be evaluated separately but simultaneously, resulting in faster delivery of results to applicants. It is expected that this new parallel process will result in an increase in uptake of Mitacs Accelerate internships by SSHRC award holders.

Partnership Engage Grants

	Partnership Engage Grants 1-4				PEG-RSJI
💰 Value:	$7,000 to $25,000				$7,000 to $50,000
🗓 Duration:	1 year				1 year
Application system:	SSHRC Online System				SSHRC Online System
Adjudication method:	Videoconference				Videoconference
Application deadline:	March 15, 2022	June 15, 2022	September 15, 2022	December 15, 2022	June 15, 2022
Adjudication dates:	May 5, 2022	August 4, 2022	November 2, 2022	February 1-2, 2023	August 18, 2022
Number of committees:	1	2	1	2	1
Number of committee members:	15	15	13	17	6
Total number of committee members:	60 (several members served more than once)				6
Committee member statistics:	**25% acceptance rate** 296 experts invited 75 accepted 12 were not retained 3 members withdrew from the process **30% returning members** 18 out of 60 committee members served in the previous round/cycle* Committee members reviewed an average of: **12 applications**				**35% acceptance rate** 17 experts invited 6 accepted 0 member withdrew from the process Committee members reviewed an average of **3 applications**

* For this purpose, the committee membership of the four annual competitions was tallied together. The previous round/cycle includes the four competitions in the previous year. Someone was counted as a returning member if they participated on any of the four competitions in the previous year. Two individuals were double counted here because they served twice.

** There are no returning members for PEG-RSJI because that was a one-time funding opportunity.

SSHRC administers four separate competitions each fiscal year. The Partnership Engage Grants were first implemented in the 2017-18 competition year.

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications. The 2022-23 PEG-RSJI success rate (89%) is not included in the graph below.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success Rate Trend
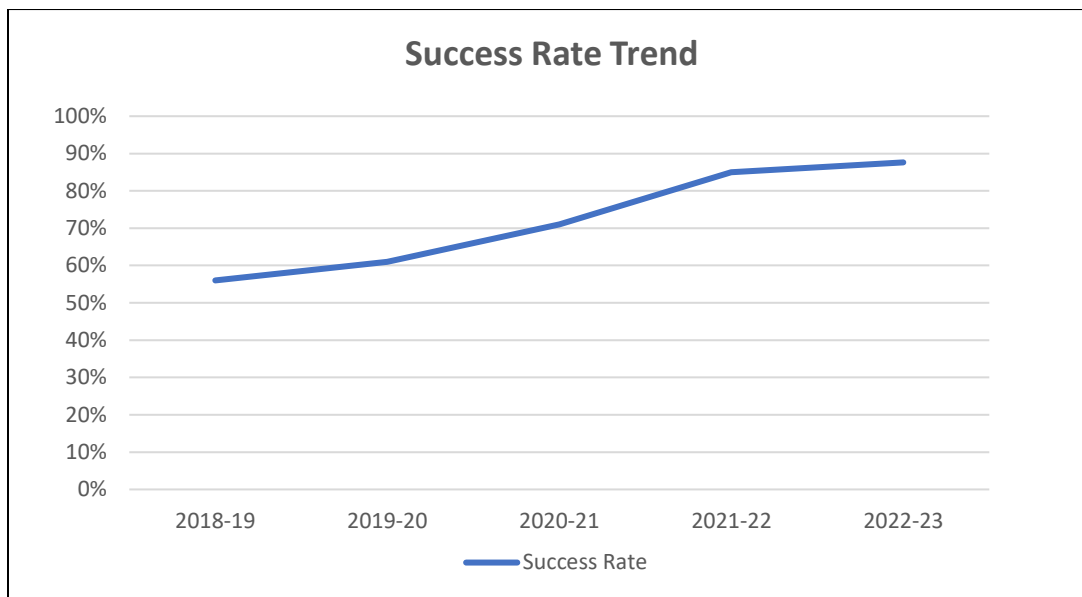
See the Joint Initiatives section for Partnership Engage Grants awarded under the Mitacs Accelerate initiative.

New in 2022-23

ADDITION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

SSHRC updated the Partnership Engage Grants funding opportunity description to indicate that partner organizations on the applications must be at arm's length from the applicant and the host institution. See the funding opportunity description for more information about this policy. This policy was implemented to support the spirit of the PEG funding opportunity by facilitating knowledge mobilization and ensuring applications represent true partnerships.

PARTNERSHIP ENGAGE GRANTS—RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS JOINT INITIATIVE

The Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (PEG-RSJI) was a one-time initiative to support Indigenous community-led research and related activities involving community decision-making processes, research and actions on residential school sites across Canada. This unique joint initiative with the NCTR responded to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 71-76.

Grants were valued at a maximum of $50,000 per project for one year, with a start date in September 2022.

APPEALS POLICY UPDATE

Partnership Engage Grants were added to the list of funding opportunities eligible for appeals.

Competition Observations

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (85%) or good (15%).

94% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (42%) or good (52%).

n=14 (June and December 2022 competitions surveyed)
Survey responses were completed only by regular Partnership Engage Grants committee members.

"The staff is super friendly and very professional!"
August 2022 Committee member survey respondent

"The applications were a pleasure to read, and I was happy to make time to contribute to colleagues' potential future successes."
February 2023 Committee member survey respondent

VIRTUAL ADJUDICATION MEETINGS: Committee members provided positive feedback regarding the delivery of the Partnership Engage Grants funding opportunity via virtual adjudication meetings.

"Wonderful support from staff."
February 2023 committee member survey respondent

"SSHRC staff were extremely well-prepared, professional and polite throughout, while providing helpful guidance, and keeping us on track."
February 2023 committee member survey respondent

Anticipated Change to the 2023-24 Competition

MITACS ACCELERATE AND PARTNERSHIP ENGAGE GRANTS PARALLEL APPLICATION PROCESS

Starting in 2023, applicants can now apply to the Mitacs Accelerate program in parallel with their PEG application. Therefore, applicants can include summary information about the proposed internship(s), such as the objectives of the internship(s), the planned activities and the anticipated benefits to the SSHRC project, to the organization(s) that will host the internship(s), and to the student(s) and/or postdoctoral researcher(s) involved in the Goal and Project Description section of their Partnership Engage Grant application.

Connection Grants

💰 Value:	$7,000 to $25,000 (events) / $7,000 to $50,000 (outreach activities)
📅 Duration:	1 year
Application system:	SSHRC Online System
Adjudication method:	Videoconference

Application deadline:	May 1, 2022	August 1, 2022	November 1, 2022	February 1, 2023
Adjudication dates:	June 6-10, 2022	September 12-14, 2022	December 8-13, 2022	March 13-17, 2023
Number of committees:	3	3	4	4
Number of committee members:	27	31	40	36

|	
Total committee members:	134 (several members served more than once)
Committee member statistics:	**27% acceptance rate*** SSHRC invited 728 experts 195 accepted 8 members withdrew from the process 53 members were not retained **12% returning members** 16 out of 134 committee members served in the previous round/cycle** Committee members reviewed an average of **9 applications**

*These statistics are approximate.
**For this purpose, the committee membership of the four annual competitions was tallied together. The previous round/cycle includes the four competitions held the previous year. Someone was counted as a returning member if they participated in any of the four competitions the previous year. Four individuals are counted more than once because they participated multiple times across competitions.

SSHRC administers four separate competitions each fiscal year. Applicants whose project is an outreach activity can request more than $50,000, with justification.

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success Rate Trend
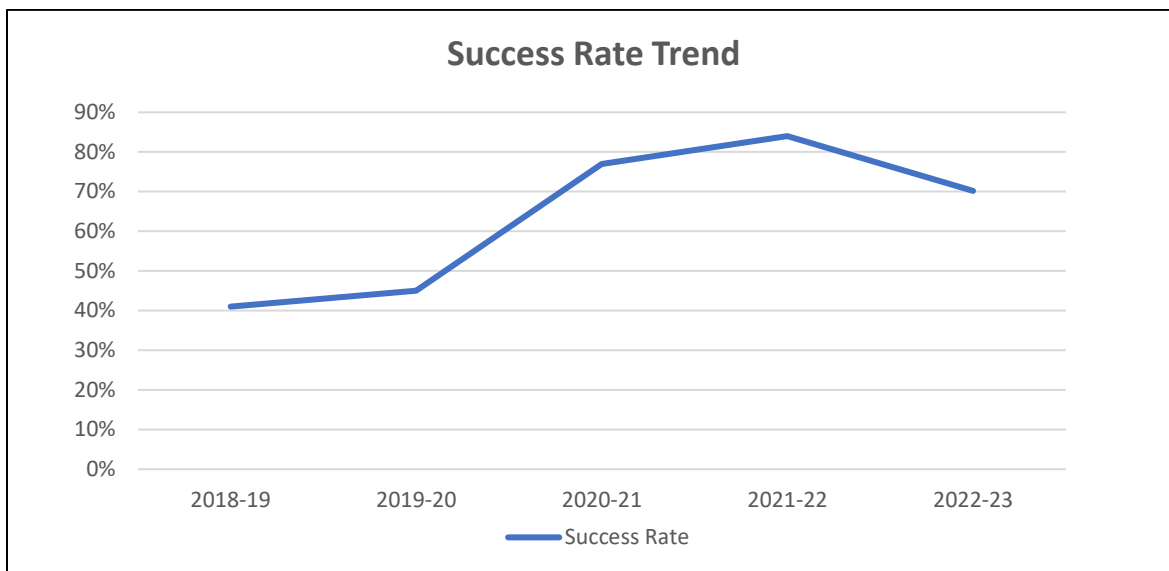
DATA MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE : The Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative is a special call delivered under the Connection Grants funding opportunity. The initiative promotes greater understanding of data management considerations and practices within the research community, in the context of the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy.

See the Joint Initiatives section for Connections Grants awarded under the Initiative for Digital Citizen Research.

New in 2022-23

A RETURN TO PRE-COVID APPLICATION NUMBERS

As anticipated in the previous Report on Competitions, SSHRC has begun to see a return to prepandemic application numbers. The success rate is now lower because the number of applications has increased.

Competition Observations

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (91%) or good (9%).

91% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as excellent (49%) or good (42%).

n=22 (August 2022 and February 2023 competitions surveyed)

"The process was very collaborative and collegial. I found that everyone involved listened carefully, was respectful, and accommodated scheduling conflicts."
September 2022 Committee member survey respondent

"SSHRC staff was very well prepared and guided committee when needed with great effectiveness."
March 2023 Committee member survey respondent

EDI AND INDIGENOUS CONSIDERATIONS: Committee members emphasized the importance of EDI and Indigenous considerations in research projects and strongly suggested that SSHRC could improve some of these considerations.

"I find the process already very thoughtful and well attuned to EDI issues."
September 2022 Committee member survey respondent

"There needs to be a way to make the criteria for Indigenous research matter."
September 2022 Committee member survey respondent

Anticipated Changes to the 2023-24 Competitions

There are no anticipated changes at this time.

Coordination Hub for the Reconciliation Network in response to Call to Action 65

Value:	$100,000 annually[12]
Duration:	7 years
Application deadline:	August 15, 2022
Application system:	This application was submitted by email
Adjudication dates:	September 21, 2022
Adjudication method:	Videoconference
Number of committees:	1
Number of committee members:	3
Committee member statistics:	**60% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 5 experts* 3 accepted 0 members withdrew from the process

*This funding opportunity was a one-time call and, therefore, did not have returning members. The average workload data is not included because committee members received only one application to review.

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action 65, the goal of the collaboration between SSHRC and the NCTR is to support the establishment of a national research program. This research program takes the form of a reconciliation network that requires the creation of a coordinating body, the Reconciliation Network Coordination Hub. The hub is a one-time special initiative that supports solid interactions between the network's participating researchers, their organizations and communities to develop efficient activities. The Reconciliation Network in Response to Call to Action 65 was launched on November 23, 2022 after completing the competition process for the Coordination Hub.

Members were not surveyed because of the small size of the committee.

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[12] The original annual grant for the hub was valued at $100,000 annually for seven years, for a total of $700,000. However, the applicant requested an additional $70,000 (i.e., $10,000 per year) over the duration of the grant, for a total of $770,000. This supplement was requested for translation and interpretation fees. Funds will be used to translate key knowledge mobilization documents/videos to ensure adequate support for reconciliation network teams working in both official languages.

Future Challenges

Summary of 2022-23 Competition Statistics

Competition	Eligible applications	Awards*	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
Knowledge Synthesis Grants— Gender-Based Violence	64	32	50%	$1,865,084	$933,571
Knowledge Synthesis Grants— Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization	47	25 (SSHRC) 5 (Genome Canada)	64%	$1,372,065	$743,525 (SSHRC) $149,823 (Genome Canada)

*Award data are drawn immediately following adjudication. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Success rates represent the number of awards divided by the number of eligible applications. Both KSG competitions held in 2022-23 are included in the graph below.

Competition statistics are provided in Appendix D and are based on point-in-time adjudication data. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.
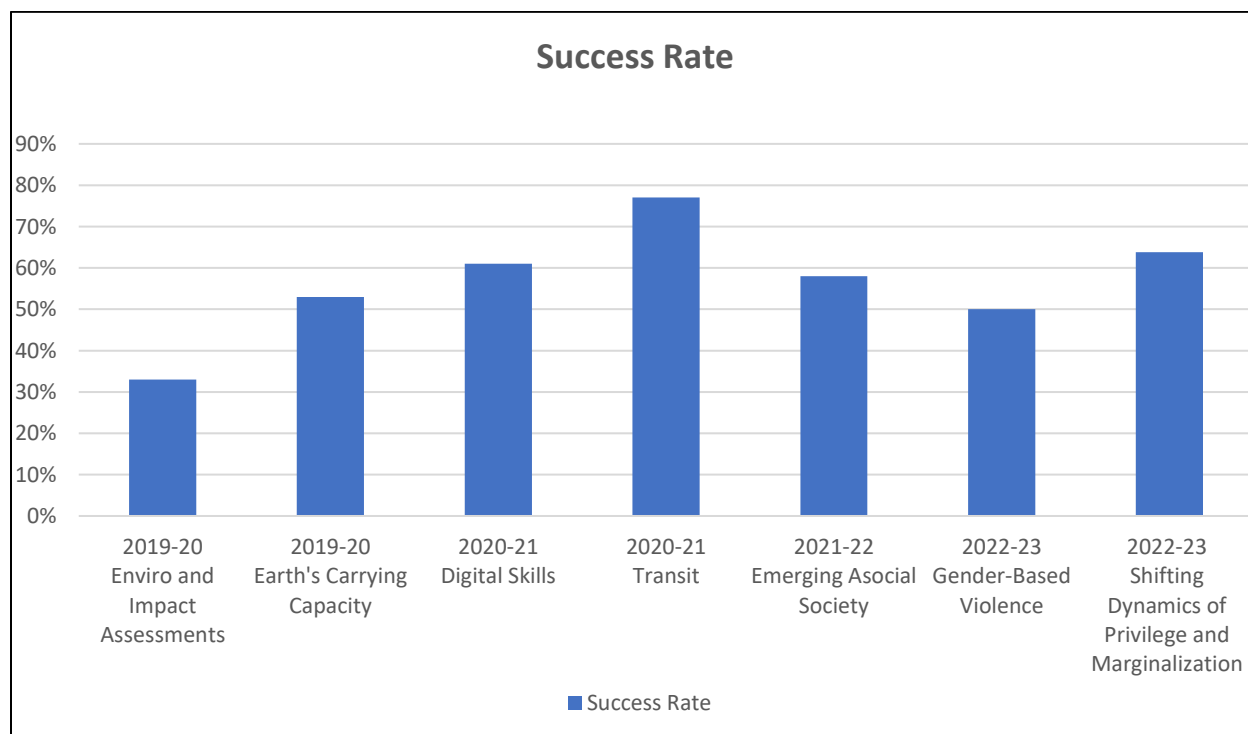
Knowledge Synthesis Grants

	Gender-Based Violence	Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization
💰 Value:	Up to $30,000	Up to $30,000
📅 Duration:	1 year	1 year
Application deadline:	September 1, 2022	December 15, 2022
Application system:	SSHRC Online System	SSHRC Online System
Adjudication dates:	November 21 and December 1, 2022	March 3, 2023
Adjudication method:	Videoconference	Videoconference
Number of committees:	1	1
Number of committee members:	10	7
Committee member statistics:	**60% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 17 experts* 10 accepted 0 members withdrew from the process Committee members reviewed an average of **14 applications**	**32% acceptance rate** SSHRC invited 25 experts* 8 accepted 1 member withdrew from the process Committee members reviewed an average of **12 applications**

*The Knowledge Synthesis Grants is a thematic competition and, therefore, does not have returning members.

The **Gender-Based Violence competition** was run in partnership with Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). All applications were co-funded by SSHRC and WAGE. The committee recommended funding 32 applications from this cohort. Due to the number of applications received and the availability of committee members, the adjudication meeting took place over two days.

The **Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization competition** addressed one of the 16 future challenges areas under the second phase of SSHRC's Imagining Canada's Future initiative. This competition was conducted in partnership with Genome Canada. Once the merit review was completed, Genome Canada selected five of the applications recommended for funding to fund directly.

RANGES IN CAREER STAGES

Knowledge Synthesis Grant funding opportunities continue to attract a wide variety of scholars at various stages of their career. Participation in knowledge mobilization events such as the Knowledge Synthesis forums ranges from doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to full professors, including Canada Research Chairs, as well as cross-sectoral policy-makers. The Future Challenges Division encourages grant holders to involve students throughout the knowledge mobilization activities dedicated to this grant (kickoff webinar and KSG forum).

New in 2022-23

There were no changes to the KSG competitions.

Competition Observations

Gender-Based Violence

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (60%) or good (40%).

40% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as good.

n=5

"The identification of a range of reviewers working in different sectors and roles in relation to GBV [Gender-Based Violence] was a strength of the adjudication committee. These diverse perspectives helped us to fairly adjudicate the applications."
Committee member survey respondent

"The program officer was very helpful when I had questions and supportive despite my not being my best self due to work and family demands."
Committee member survey respondent

Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of SSHRC staff support as excellent (50%) or good (50%).

100% of survey respondents rated the quality of the merit review process as good.

n=2

"The materials provided were a great support and the team was very responsive."
Committee member survey respondent

"Thank you for the opportunity. It was rewarding to me to learn about the research proposals and the evaluation process."
Committee member survey respondent

Anticipated Changes to the 2023-24 Competition

There are no anticipated changes at this time.

Joint Initiatives

SSHRC's program architecture facilitates the development of partnerships between members of the research community in Canada and abroad, as well as between the Canadian research community and the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Joint initiatives provide additional opportunities for research funding, collaboration, training and networking.

The following, developed under a set of joint initiatives, are managed either by SSHRC or by external departments, agencies or organizations. Not all initiatives involve funding. The initiatives and key results for 2022-23 are summarized below (in alphabetical order).

Belmont Forum

Partner: Belmont Forum

About: Canadian researchers interested in the themes put forward by the Belmont Forum on global environmental change research issues develop proposals that involve international research partnerships. SSHRC grant holders can use their existing research funds to participate as collaborators.

2022-23: 17 SSHRC grant applications indicated interest; five were successful.

Canada Foundation for Innovation—John R. Evans Leaders Fund

Partner: The CFI

About: The fund offers infrastructure funding to support research and/or research-related partnership activities. Universities can submit proposals requesting up to $800,000, with a maximum total eligible cost of $2 million. The CFI accepts proposals requesting less than or equal to $75,000 from the social sciences, humanities and arts, and from those universities that have access to the Small Institution Fund.

2022-23: Not available yet from the CFI

Canada Foundation for Innovation and Canadian Institutes of Health Research—Canadian Research Data Centres Network

Partner: The CFI and CIHR

About: The fund offers ongoing funding to the Canadian Research Data Centres Network to support its mandate of providing Statistics Canada microdata to researchers. The renewal's funding model has been aligned with the CFI's Major Science Initiatives funding opportunity. As a result, the CFI will support part of the funding through its Major Science Initiatives budget, and SSHRC and CIHR will provide up to $17.5 million in funding.

2022-23: Funding was awarded to the Canadian Research Data Centres Network through the CFI's Major Science Initiatives competition ($17.4 million) and the SSHRC and CIHR Directed grant ($17.5 million) for a total of $34.9 million over six years (2023-29).

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation—SSHRC Housing Research Training Awards Program

Partner: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

About: This initiative offers Postdoctoral Fellowships to individuals conducting social sciences and humanities research in areas related to housing, in support of the National Housing Strategy. Each fellowship is valued at $45,000 per year and is tenable for one or two years. Candidates apply through the SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships funding opportunity. Meritorious applications are forwarded to CMHC for consideration.

2022-23: Two Postdoctoral Fellowships were offered, one fully funded by CMHC and one partially funded by CMHC and partially funded by SSHRC. The partially funded award was accepted. In fiscal year 2022, CMHC paid a total of $112,500 for new and ongoing awards.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's National Housing Strategy Longitudinal Outcomes Research

Partner: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

About: This joint initiative between SSHRC and CMHC offers funding to conduct partnered research into longitudinal housing outcomes to guide evidence-based decision-making on the health, wellness and economic resilience of priority populations. The funding is valued at up to $4.8 million in total, over a duration of five years.

2022-23: Seven applications were received, and one grant was awarded, valued at $4.8 million over five years (2023-28).

College and Community Innovation Program

Partners: NSERC (lead) and CIHR

About: The program aims to increase innovation at the community and/or regional level by enabling Canadian colleges to increase their capacity to work with local companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. It supports applied research and collaborations that facilitate commercialization, as well as technology transfer and adaptation, and the adoption of new technologies[13].

The College and Community Innovation program includes seven types of grants. In 2022-23, SSHRC funded projects under two of the types of funds available.

2022-23: 14 College and Community Social Innovation Fund grants were funded by SSHRC, for a total of $4,987,564. Three Mobilize grants were funded by SSHRC, for a total of $4,250,000. SSHRC invested a total of $9,237,564.

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[13] Grants are funded by NSERC, with the exception of proposals exclusively in the social sciences, humanities and/or health sciences, which will be funded by SSHRC or CIHR, as appropriate.

Department of National Defence Research Initiative

Partner: Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), an agency of the Department of National Defence

About: The initiative supports social sciences and humanities research and activities related to DRDC's research priorities, including military personnel readiness, organizational and operational effectiveness, and human effectiveness in modern operations. Interested researchers submit their applications through SSHRC's Insight Research programs.

2022-23: 11 SSHRC grant applications indicated interest; seven were recommended for funding and sent to DRDC for relevance review. Five were funded, for a total investment of $190,0000.

Department of National Defence Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security Scholarship Initiative

Partner: Department of National Defence's Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security (MINDS) Program

About: The Department of National Defence (DND) offers research training awards and supplements at the master's, doctoral and postdoctoral levels to social sciences and humanities students and researchers. Research must be related to the MINDS Policy Challenges, as well as Canada's defence policy, Strong, Secure, Engaged.

The initiative includes awards for successful candidates in the Canada Graduate Scholarships Program Master's Scholarships who self-identify as Indigenous and whose research aligns with Canada's defence policy areas.

The initiative's funding streams are associated with three funding opportunities: CGS M, SSHRC Doctoral Awards and SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships. A stream for MINDS supplements for Indigenous students was integrated into the SSHRC Doctoral Awards application form.

Competition results of these funding opportunities are used to adjudicate the initiative's awards and supplements in the fiscal year following that of the associated SSHRC or tri-agency competition.

2022-23:
The following awards were offered:
- 1 Postdoctoral Fellowship valued at $45,000/year for up to two years (deferred to fiscal year 2023-24);
- 1 Doctoral Award, valued at $35,000/year for up to three years;
- 4 Doctoral Awards, valued at $35,000/year for one year;
- 20 supplements valued at $10,000 (7 CGS M and 13 doctoral); and
- 1 Master's Scholarship for Indigenous Students, valued at $17,500 and tenable for one year.

The total new investment from DND amounted to $382,500 for fiscal year 2022-23 with a total budget of $600,000 spent on new and ongoing awards.

Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative

Partner: Women and Gender Equality Canada

About: The Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative is a joint initiative between Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) and SSHRC. WAGE invested $2,515,228 and SSHRC invested $1,037,302 over four years to co-fund research projects that address gender-based violence (GBV); the awards were valued at up to $700,000 each. This initiative aims to support academic researchers, in partnership with other research-focused and community-based organizations, to advance knowledge on and analyze the causes and persistence of GBV in Canada. The initiative sought to fund a diverse portfolio of projects aligned with five themes specified by WAGE; four of the five themes were represented in the awarded projects based on recommendations made by the merit review committee.

2022-23: 23 applications were received and six successful grants were awarded in March 2023.

Initiative for Digital Citizen Research

Partner: Department of Canadian Heritage

About: The Initiative for Digital Citizen Research (IDCR) supports the goals of the Department of Canadian Heritage's approach to protecting democracy and the Digital Citizen Initiative by funding selected research on issues related to online disinformation in Canada. The initiative provides a maximum annual amount of $600,000. In 2022-23, IDCR funding was awarded under SSHRC's Connection Grants, Postdoctoral Fellowships and Doctoral Award funding opportunities.

2022-23:

Two Connection Grant applications indicated interest and both were awarded for a total amount of $43,033 from IDCR.

Five postdoctoral and 17 doctoral applications were forwarded to IDCR to be reviewed for relevance.
  - Four postdoctoral and 10 doctoral awards were funded at a value of $10,000 each, for a total amount of $140,000 from IDCR.

This opportunity received a $183,033 investment from IDCR.

International Development Research Centre and Canadian Institutes of Health Research—Women RISE

Partner: International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and CIHR

About: The funding supports action-oriented, gender-transformative research on how women's health and work (paid or unpaid) intersect and interact in the context of preparedness, recovery and response to COVID-19. The competition has two streams: health policy research organization funding and research team funding. One health policy research organization based in a low- or middle-income country will receive up to $1 million to support the facilitation of knowledge mobilization, capacity-building and networking among the funded research teams. Research team applicants based in low- and middle-income countries can submit proposals requesting up to $1 million, with the initiative's goal being to fund up to 20 projects.

2022-23: The health policy research organization stream was launched in collaboration with IDRC and CIHR in late 2021: three applications were submitted. Stream evaluations were conducted in March 2022: one grant was awarded in March 2022.

The two-stage research team stream launched in March 2022. Of the 141 applications submitted in the first stage, 61 were invited to submit full proposals to the second stage in May 2022: 23 grants in this stream were awarded and announced in October 2022. The awards are valued at up to $1 million over two years.

Total funding is $24 million. SSHRC's contribution is $1 million annually for two years, for a total of $2 million.

Mitacs Accelerate

Partner: Mitacs

About: Holders of Partnership Grants, Partnership Development Grants, Partnership Engage Grants and Insight Grants are eligible for a streamlined application process for Mitacs Accelerate internships. The program supports research internships for students and postdoctoral researchers with for-profit corporations, eligible not-for-profit corporations, municipalities and hospitals in Canada.

2022-23: A total of 37 students and postdoctoral internships were awarded: 21 universities were represented. There were 28 Canadian host organizations from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The program received a $1,301,667 investment from Mitacs and partners.

Mitacs Elevate

Partner: Mitacs

About: SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship candidates working with Canadian business and/or not-for-profit organizations can apply simultaneously for a Mitacs Elevate fellowship, valued at $55,000 per year and tenable for up to two years.

2022-23: SSHRC did not receive any applications for a Mitacs Elevate fellowship.

Mitacs Training

Partner: Mitacs

About: This initiative offers access to a two-year program that consists of online networking and training activities, focusing on developing skills in leadership and management, communication and relationship building, and personal and professional management.

2022-23: In 2022-23, 25 SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship holders from the 2021-22 cohort and 25 from the 2022-23 cohort were invited to participate in the initiative. In 2023, all successful doctoral and postdoctoral recipients were given information about this training program and invited to participate.

Open Research Area 7th (ORA 7) Call for Proposals

Partner: Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR), France; Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany; and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), United Kingdom.

About: The call supported joint international research projects to strengthen international co-operation and to fund high quality scientific research. The ORA 7 scheme provided funding for integrated projects by researchers coming from at least three of the four subscribing countries (Canada, France, Germany and UK).

2022-23: 67 eligible applications that included a Canadian team were received for ORA 7: SSHRC was able to fund six for a success rate of 9%. Altogether, SSHRC awarded $2,082,639 to successful projects.

Sport Participation Research Initiative

Partner: Sport Canada

About: The Sport Participation Research Initiative (SPRI) supports the goals of the Canadian Sport Policy by funding selected research on issues related to enhancing participation in sport in Canada. The policy aims to increase both the number and diversity of Canadians participating in sports. Interested researchers can choose to be considered for funding under SSHRC's Insight Grants, postdoctoral and doctoral competitions.

2022-23: 33 SSHRC applications were sent to Sport Canada for relevance review: 21 received funding for a total investment of $437,733.

Appendix A—Committee Member Questionnaire: Overall Results and Three-Year Trends

The graphs and tables below show overall results of the committee member questionnaire for 2022-23 and the three-year trends, where available.

There was only one common question added to the committee member questionnaire in 2022-23:

- SSHRC is developing an accessibility plan as part of its commitments to equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise, and as required by the *Accessible Canada Act*. To inform the design and implementation of that plan, SSHRC welcomes feedback from committee members regarding accessibility and accommodation in the merit review process.

  a) As a committee member, did you encounter any barriers to your participation?
  Yes or No
  b) How can SSHRC improve the accessibility of the adjudication process for committee members?
  Open-ended

Additional customized questions were also added for some funding opportunities, as requested by programs. These are not included in this report.

Percentages in rows may not add to 100% due to the rounding of data (decimals have been removed) and how the data is distributed across response categories.

Language of correspondence of survey respondents (2022-23)

- English 81%
- French 19%
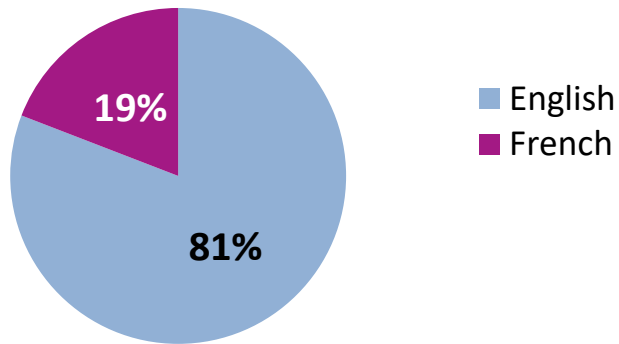
Language of correspondence of survey respondents (three-year trend)
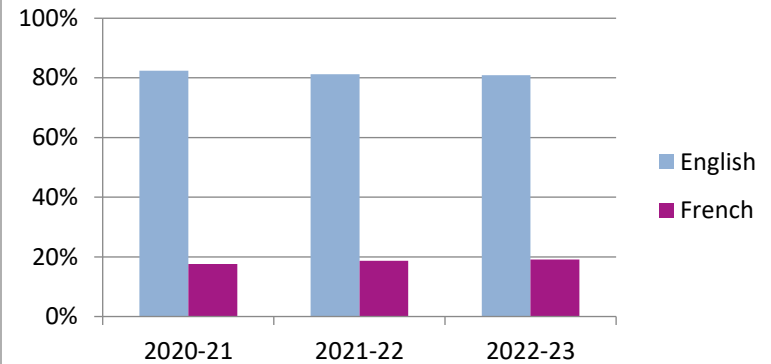
How many times have you served on this committee? (2022-23)

- 1 — 58%
- 2 — 24%
- 3 — 12%
- 4 — 5%
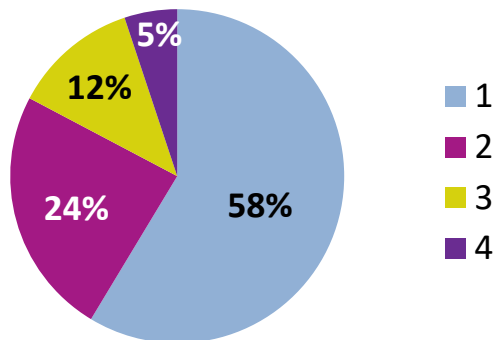
How many times have you served on this committee? (three-year trend)
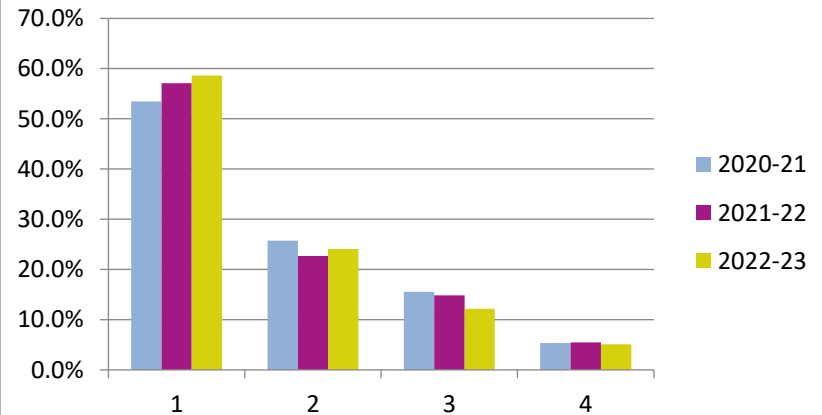
Overall, how would you rate the quality of SSHRC's merit review process? (2022-23)

Rating	Percentage
Excellent	47%
Good	43%
Sufficient	8%
Poor	1%
Very Poor	0%
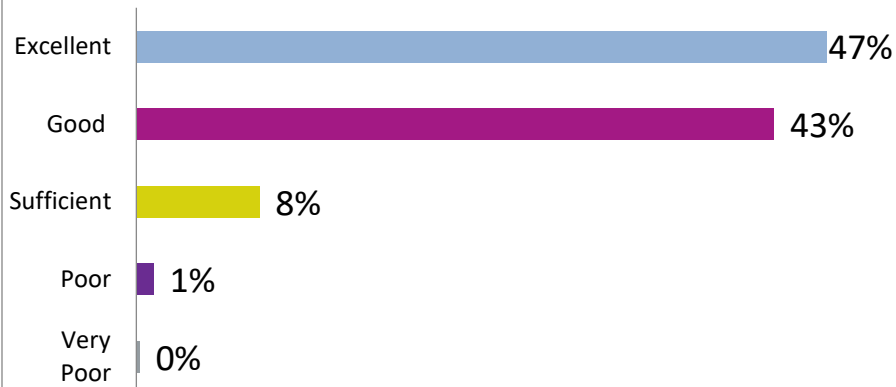
Overall, how would you rate the quality of SSHRC's merit review process? (three-year trend)
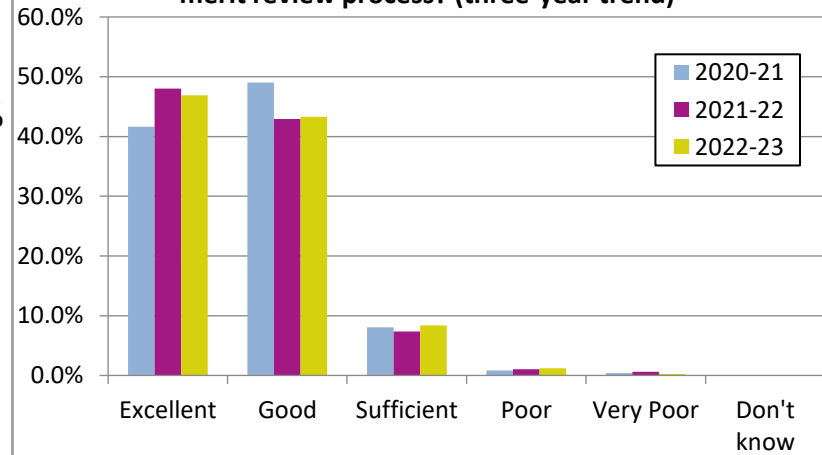
How would you rate the support from SSHRC staff? (2022-23)

Rating	Percentage
Excellent	85%
Good	12%
Sufficient	3%
Poor	0%
Very Poor	0%
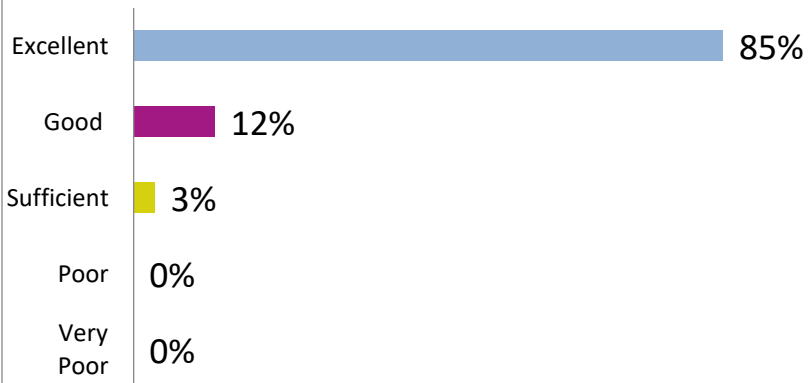
How would you rate the support from SSHRC staff? (three-year trend)
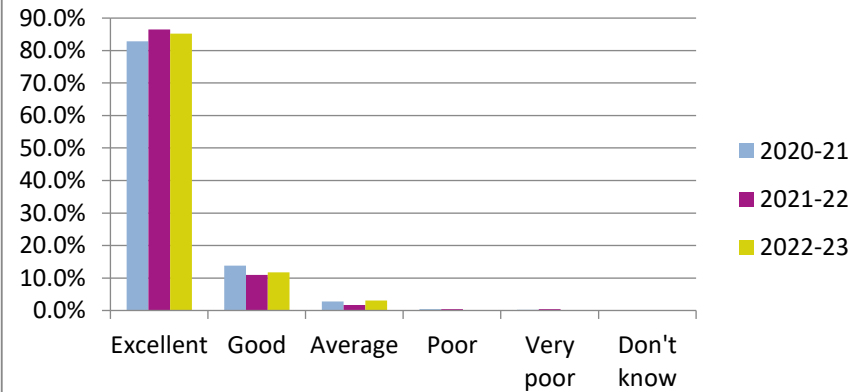
How would you rate the usefulness of the following evaluation tools SSHRC provides? (2022-23)

Evaluation tools	Extremely useful	Very useful	Neutral	Not very useful	Not at all useful	Don't know	Not applicable
Orientation / calibration teleconference	36%	47%	9%	3%	1%	1%	3%
Evaluation criteria and subcriteria	34%	51%	11%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Extranet	28%	44%	18%	6%	2%	1%	0%
Reader review forms	33%	46%	13%	4%	1%	1%	1%
Competition spreadsheets	47%	42%	6%	2%	0%	0%	2%
SSHRC Manual for Adjudication Committee Members	29%	48%	18%	2%	1%	1%	1%
The online unconscious bias training module, Bias in Peer Review	17%	39%	25%	5%	4%	4%	6%

How would you rate the usefulness of the following evaluation tools SSHRC provides? (three-year trend)

Evaluation Tools	Years	Extremely useful	Very useful	Neutral	Not very useful	Not at all useful	Don't know	Not Applicable
Orientation / calibration teleconference	2020-21	36%	46%	10%	1%	1%	2%	4%
	2021-22	37%	47%	9%	3%	1%	1%	2%
	2022-23	36%	48%	9%	3%	1%	1%	3%
Evaluation criteria and subcriteria	2020-21	34%	51%	10%	4%	0%	0%	0%
	2021-22	32%	51%	13%	3%	0%	0%	0%
	2022-23	34%	51%	11%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Extranet	2020-21	33%	45%	15%	4%	2%	1%	0%
	2021-22	31%	41%	20%	5%	2%	0%	1%
	2022-23	28%	44%	18%	6%	2%	1%	0%
Reader review forms	2020-21	32%	48%	12%	3%	1%	2%	2%
	2021-22	32%	49%	11%	4%	1%	0%	1%
	2022-23	33%	46%	13%	4%	1%	1%	1%
Competition spreadsheets	2020-21	49%	42%	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	2021-22	48%	42%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%
	2022-23	47%	42%	6%	2%	0%	0%	2%
SSHRC Manual for Adjudication Committee Members	2020-21	29%	50%	16%	2%	0%	2%	1%
	2021-22	26%	51%	16%	3%	1%	3%	1%
	2022-23	29%	48%	18%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Unconscious bias online training module	2020-21	17%	36%	21%	7%	2%	8%	8%
	2021-22	16%	36%	26%	7%	2%	6%	7%
	2022-23	17%	39%	25%	5%	4%	4%	6%

How would you rate the usefulness of the following SSHRC guidelines for evaluation? (2022-23)

SSHRC Guidelines	Extremely useful	Very useful	Neutral	Not very useful	Not at all useful	Don't know	Not Applicable
"Important information" document (Partnerships) / Guidelines for committee members (Insight) / Guidelines for committee members (evaluation and scoring guide) (Talent and Future Challenges)	30%	54%	12%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research	22%	38%	16%	4%	0%	6%	14%
Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization	20%	41%	21%	3%	1%	9%	5%
Guidelines for Effective Research Training	19%	41%	20%	3%	0%	9%	7%
Guidelines for Research-Creation Support Materials*	13%	29%	19%	4%	0%	13%	21%
Guide to Addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in Partnership Grant Applications*	11%	56%	26%	4%	0%	0%	4%

*Not asked in all surveys.

How would you rate the usefulness of the following SSHRC guidelines for evaluation? (three-year trend)

SSHRC Guidelines	Years	Extremely useful	Very useful	Neutral	Not very useful	Not at all useful	Don't know	Not applicable
"Important information" document / Guidelines for committee members / Guidelines for committee members (evaluation and scoring guide)	2020-21	33%	56%	7%	1%	0%	2%	0%
	2021-22	30%	55%	10%	1%	0%	3%	0%
	2022-23	30%	54%	12%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research	2020-21	20%	38%	14%	4%	0%	8%	15%
	2021-22	20%	37%	17%	3%	1%	7%	15%
	2022-23	22%	38%	16%	4%	0%	6%	14%
Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization	2020-21	16%	45%	20%	2%	1%	10%	6%
	2021-22	19%	43%	19%	3%	0%	8%	8%
	2022-23	20%	41%	21%	3%	1%	9%	5%
Guidelines for Effective Research Training	2020-21	17%	44%	18%	3%	1%	10%	8%
	2021-22	18%	43%	18%	2%	1%	9%	10%
	2022-23	19%	41%	20%	3%	0%	9%	7%
Guidelines for Research-Creation Support Materials*	2020-21	12%	31%	18%	3%	1%	14%	21%
	2021-22	14%	33%	16%	2%	1%	12%	22%
	2022-23	13%	29%	19%	4%	0%	14%	21%
Guide to Addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in Partnership Grant Applications*	2021-22	38%	50%	4%	0%	0%	8%	0%
	2022-23	11%	56%	26%	4%	0%	0%	4%

*Not asked in all surveys in 2021-22 and 2022-23.

How well were the following aspects of the evaluation process managed? (2022-23)

Aspects	Very Well	Well	Neutral	Poorly	Very poorly	Don't Know	Not applicable
Application assignment process	61%	26%	8%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Submitting of scores	69%	26%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Identification of the conflicts of interest (prior to adjudication)	74%	21%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Conflict of interests (during adjudication)	70%	22%	3%	1%	0%	0%	4%
Consideration of Indigenous research applications	37%	21%	13%	5%	2%	6%	17%
Consideration of applications with special circumstances and/or career disruptions	39%	34%	12%	4%	0%	4%	7%
Tie breaking	31%	25%	11%	1%	0%	4%	27%

How well were the following aspects of the evaluation process managed? (three-year trend)

Aspects	Years	Very Well	Well	Neutral	Poorly	Very poorly	Don't Know	Not Applicable
Application assignment process	2020-21	65%	27%	4%	1%	0%	1%	1%
	2021-22	66%	26%	4%	2%	1%	1%	0%
	2022-23	61%	26%	8%	2%	0%	1%	0%
Submitting of scores	2020-21	70%	26%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
	2021-22	71%	25%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
	2022-23	69%	26%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Identification of the conflicts of interest (prior to adjudication)	2020-21	74%	19%	4%	1%	0%	1%	0%
	2021-22	77%	18%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%
	2022-23	74%	21%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Conflict of interests (during adjudication)	2020-21	68%	22%	4%	0%	0%	0%	5%
	2021-22	74%	17%	4%	0%	0%	1%	4%
	2022-23	70%	22%	3%	1%	0%	0%	4%
Identification or Consideration of Indigenous research applications	2020-21	33%	23%	13%	3%	0%	5%	23%
	2021-22	36%	22%	13%	3%	0%	5%	20%
	2022-23	37%	21%	13%	5%	2%	6%	17%
Identification or Consideration of applications with special circumstances and/or career disruptions	2020-21	36%	32%	16%	2%	0%	2%	12%
	2021-22	39%	28%	15%	3%	1%	4%	10%
	2022-23	39%	34%	12%	4%	0%	4%	7%
Tie breaking	2020-21	40%	26%	7%	2%	1%	2%	22%
	2021-22	40%	24%	7%	2%	1%	2%	24%
	2022-23	31%	25%	11%	1%	0%	4%	27%

How likely are you to serve again on a SSHRC committee? (2022-23)

Response	Percentage
Very Likely	54%
Likely	29%
Neutral	9%
Not likely	3%
Not at all likely	2%
Don't Know	2%
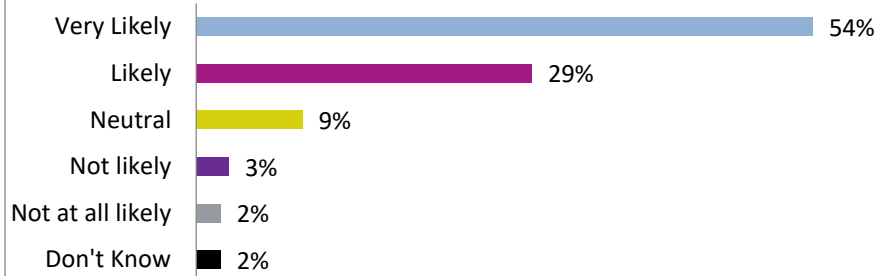
How likely are you to serve again on a SSHRC committee? (three-year trend)

Legend: 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23

Categories: Very Likely, Likely, Neutral, Not likely, Not at all likely, Don't Know
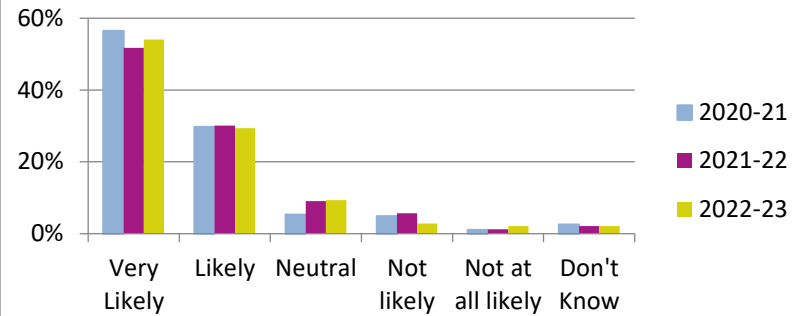
Which of the following reasons would deter you from serving again? (2022-23)

Please select as many as apply

Reason	Percentage
Workload	58%
Competition timing	24%
Level of support from SSHRC staff	2%
Technology used	5%
Other	11%
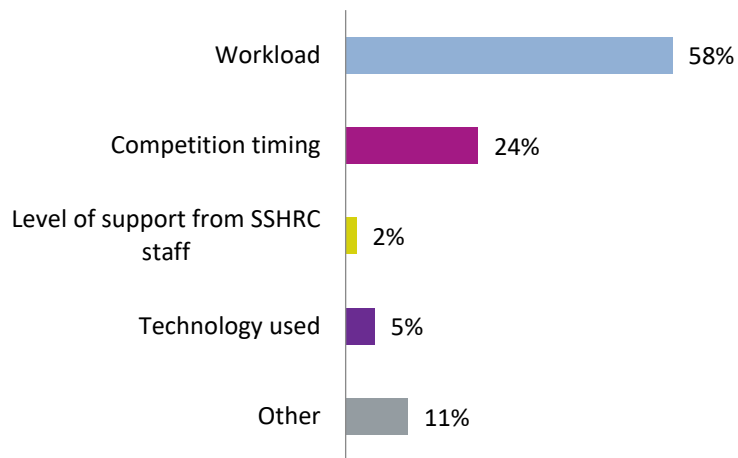
Which of these reasons would deter you from serving again? (three-year trend)

Please select as many as apply

Legend: 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23

Categories: Workload, Competition schedule/Timing, Level of support from SSHRC staff, Technology used, Other
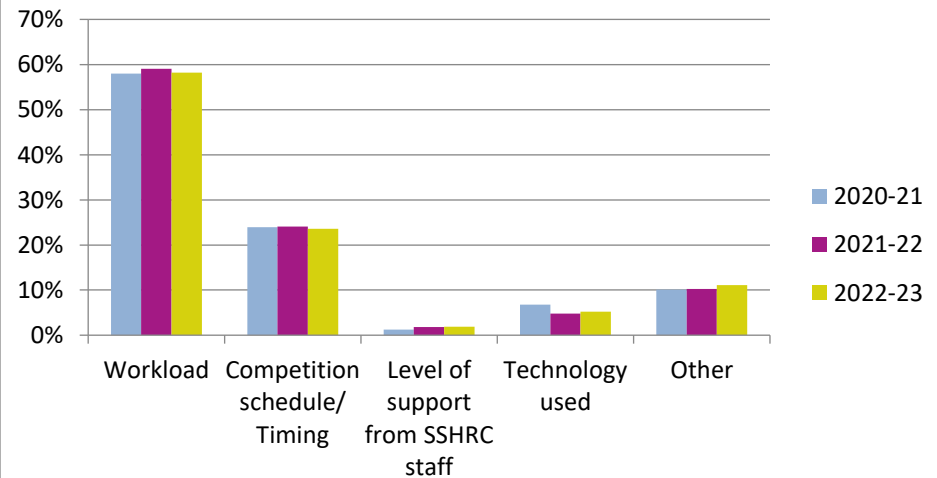
For the following tables and graphs, a three-year trend is not available because questions were added in 2021-22 or later. The response options for time spent also changed over the past three years.

Approximately how much time did you spend on the following (2022-23):

Aspects	Up to 30 minutes	45 minutes to one and a half hours	One to two hours	Two to three hours	Three to four hours	More than four hours	Unable to estimate
Reviewing background evaluation guidelines and tools, and completing any training modules provided by SSHRC	8%	28%	35%	15%	8%	5%	2%
Reviewing one application (average time)	18%	39%	23%	10%	3%	2%	3%
Scoring and other preparations for the adjudication meeting	12%	19%	30%	15%	8%	12%	4%
Participation in meetings (including travel time, if applicable)	2%	3%	2%	7%	13%	69%	3%
Written communications with SSHRC program officer	45%	33%	13%	5%	1%	0%	1%

What types of bias awareness training have you completed? (2022-23)

Please select as many as apply

The online unconscious bias training module, Bias in Peer Review (link shared by SSHRC)	81%
A different bias awareness training offered or recommended to me Define/describe (optional)	11%
I have not completed bias awareness training	9%
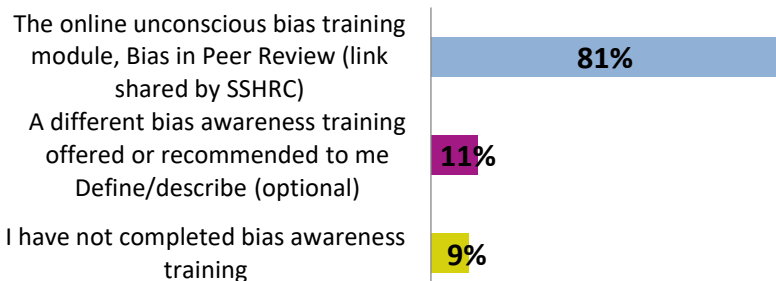
As a committee member, did you encounter any barriers to your participation? (2022-23)

6% Yes
94% No

■ Yes ■ No
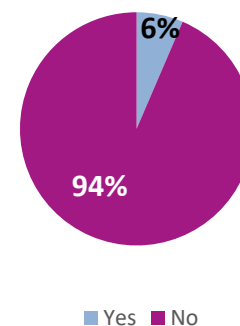
Appendix B—List of Observers and Feedback

Funding Opportunity	Observer	University
Research Training and Talent Development		
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships	Luis Radford	School of Education, Laurentian University
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships	Louise Spiteri	School of Information Management, Dalhousie University
SSHRC Doctoral Awards—National	Debra Pepler	Department of Psychology, York University
SSHRC Doctoral Awards—National	Katherine Zien	Department of English, McGill University
SSHRC Doctoral Awards—National	Erik Anonby	Department of French, Carleton University
Insight Research		
Insight Grants	Dragos Simandan	Department of Geography and Tourism Studies, Brock University
Insight Grants	Frances Pownall	Department of History, Classics and Religion, University of Alberta
Insight Grants	Jean-Baptiste Litrico	Smith School of Business, Queen's University
Research Partnerships		
Partnership Grants—Stage 1 and Stage 2	Catherine Middleton	Ted Rogers School of Information Technology Management, Toronto Metropolitan University
Partnership Development Grants	Bruno Dupeyron	Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina

Based on the nine observer reports submitted (including one combined report from the Insight Grants observers and a separate observer report for each stage of Partnership Grants), the following provides an overview of the quantitative data results and some quotes extracted from narrative comments. These are presented in the same order as questions appeared in the 2022-23 observer questionnaire.

1. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the merit review process during this competition?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Excellent	8
Good	0
Sufficient	1
Poor	0
Very poor	0
Don't know	0

"In both instances, the process of merit review was careful, ethical, and collaborative. I felt that participants were displaying thought and care of the highest order. All participants were invited to share views, and overall I was impressed by the respect that the committees showed toward the projects they were evaluating. The process of evaluation ensured that personal, punitive, or wayward appraisals were reined in. Moreover, the question of the 'funding line' was clearly explained."
Observer

2. How would you rate the level of support provided by SSHRC staff?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Excellent	7
Good	2
Sufficient	0
Poor	0
Very poor	0
Don't know	0

"On the whole, the level of support provided by SSHRC staff was good, though it did vary from committee to committee. In some of the committees we observed, the Program Officer seemed to assume a bit too much of a leading role in driving the discussion of the files, asking committee members for their views, while the Chair was taking a less prominent role and did little talking. In the majority of committees we observed, however, the Program Officers played a more discrete role, providing accurate information about SSHRC guidelines whenever needed."
Observer

3. How would you rate the overall functioning/dynamic of the committee(s), including the level of civility and respect among committee members and how well any conflicting ideas were managed?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Excellent	8
Good	1
Sufficient	0
Poor	0
Very poor	0
Don't know	0

"Many of us appreciated […] the level of civility. The review process is stimulating for most members thanks to the exchange of ideas, which comes down not only to the respect that researchers showed one another, but the efforts made by the chair and SSHRC staff to support respectful interactions. For a committee to function well and have a good dynamic, it absolutely requires a polite and experienced committee chair who knows how to handle a three-day meeting. This aspect is essential and has a major impact on whether reviewers return in the future, as the workload can be a bit discouraging."
Observer

4. How effectively were conflicts of interest handled?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Very effectively	6
Effectively	1
Neutral	0
Not effectively	0
Not at all effectively	0
Don't know	1
Not applicable	1

"The Webex meeting format makes it very easy to ensure that those who are in conflict with a file do not participate in the discussion. Staff moved anyone who had a conflict to the Webex lobby, a process that worked very smoothly. When the Chair was in conflict on a file, a committee member not in conflict with the file and not assigned as a reader on the file served as the Chair. In doing the final review of the files, when the entire committee was in the (virtual) room, the Chair ensured that the discussion did not reveal details of the deliberations on any individual file."
Observer

5. How would you rate the ability of the committee members to manage their time, allowing for appropriate attention to each application?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Excellent	4
Good	5
Sufficient	0
Poor	0
Very poor	0
Don't know	0

"The agenda was not overloaded, and committee members contributed and listened appropriately. However, a lot of time was spent on a "tie-breaker" for two applications that were both clearly within the threshold for funding. So, a lot of time and effort for due process toward a decision that has little "real" effect."
Observer

6. How effectively did the committee members refer to the application materials during their discussions?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Very effectively	5
Effectively	3
Neutral	1
Not effectively	0
Not at all effectively	0
Don't know	0

"Committee members generally made specific references to aspects of individual files, as relevant to the discussion at hand. There wasn't much discussion of individual application files, with the exception of three, but the readers in question did appear to make proper references to the files."
Observer

7. How would you rate the consistency of committee members applying the evaluation criteria (including the use of SSHRC's Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research, if applicable)?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Excellent	6
Good	2
Sufficient	0
Poor	1
Very poor	0
Don't know	0

"Of course, there were differences in how people applied the evaluation criteria. But everyone kept an open mind and behaved professionally in identifying and discussing these differences."
Observer

8. How would you rate the equitable treatment of applications in both official languages?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Excellent	7
Good	1
Sufficient	0
Poor	0
Very poor	0
Don't know	1
Not applicable	0

"Applications were processed fairly in both official languages. I don't see any major issues, since everyone at the meeting was bilingual. But reviews are still a heavy burden for bilingual researchers."
Observer

9. How well were committee members equipped to provide equitable merit review of research excellence of applications, in support of the Tri-Agency Policy Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion? If applicable, how well did committee members factor in special circumstances during the evaluation process?

Answer Choices	Number of Responses
Very well	5
Well	3
Neutral	1
Poorly	0
Very poorly	0
Don't know	0
Not applicable	0

"It seemed to me as if all the reviewers were thoughtful about Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. I noted that there was a very respectful discussion of students."
Observer

10. Please provide any additional comments, concerns or ideas. For privacy reasons, please refrain from identifying individuals.

"The Committee Chair and SSHRC staff worked together exceptionally well to run a highly effective and efficient review process. There was sufficient time to carefully assess all files and deliberate on their merits. The Committee Chair was extremely well prepared and did an excellent job in keeping the committee on track and maintaining a consistent level of professionalism throughout the deliberations. The Chair and SSHRC staff led by example to model the use of French and English throughout the discussions. This is the sixth time that I have attended a … committee meeting. Each time the process runs more smoothly, demonstrating SSHRC's commitment to continuous improvement. One issue that continues to be raised by committees however is that some applicants do not adequately discuss progress indicators (a component of the Challenge score). Although this was less evident …, there were still some files that did not provide satisfactory information on progress indicators. Perhaps a review of the instructions to applicants could aid in reiterating this important component of the application."
Observer

Appendix C—Committee Member Workload

SSHRC continues to monitor the workload of committee members, recognizing the significant time commitment involved in the merit review process.

Two years ago, a new question was integrated into the merit review survey regarding the number of hours spent on different elements of the review process. Overall, results across all 2022-23 funding opportunities show that the greatest demand on time continues to be participation in merit review meetings.

Approximately how much time did you spend on the following (2022-23):

Aspects	Up to 30 minutes	45 minutes to one and a half hours	One to two hours	Two to three hours	Three to four hours	More than four hours	Unable to estimate
Reviewing background evaluation guidelines and tools, and completing any training modules provided by SSHRC	8%	28%	35%	15%	8%	5%	2%
Reviewing one application (average time)	18%	39%	23%	10%	3%	2%	3%
Scoring and other preparations for the adjudication meeting	12%	19%	30%	15%	8%	12%	4%
Participation in meetings (including travel time, if applicable)	2%	3%	2%	7%	13%	69%	3%
Written communications with SSHRC program officer	45%	33%	13%	5%	1%	0%	1%

The number of applications assigned to committee members varies based on the length of the application for the funding opportunity. As indicated below, 58% of survey respondents in 2022-23 cited "workload" as a reason that would deter them from serving again (n=418). In the previous year, 59% of survey respondents cited workload as a response to the same question (n=475). SSHRC will continue to monitor workload and explore ways to maintain appropriate workload demands.

Years	Workload	Competition schedule/ Timing	Level of support from SSHRC staff	Technology used	Other
2020-21	58%	24%	1%	7%	10%
2021-22	59%	24%	2%	5%	10%
2022-23	58%	24%	2%	5%	11%

Workload trends from 2018-19 to 2022-23

The following tables and graphs present the **average number of applications assigned to committee members for review**. In general, this was stable or slightly declined in 2022-23 except for Partnership Engage Grants that saw a slight increase.

Research Training and Talent Development	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships	31.5	29.5	30.0	23.7	19.7
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships	52.6	45.4	42.0	40.6	37.8
Impact Awards	13.8	16.8	19.8	18.8	17.7
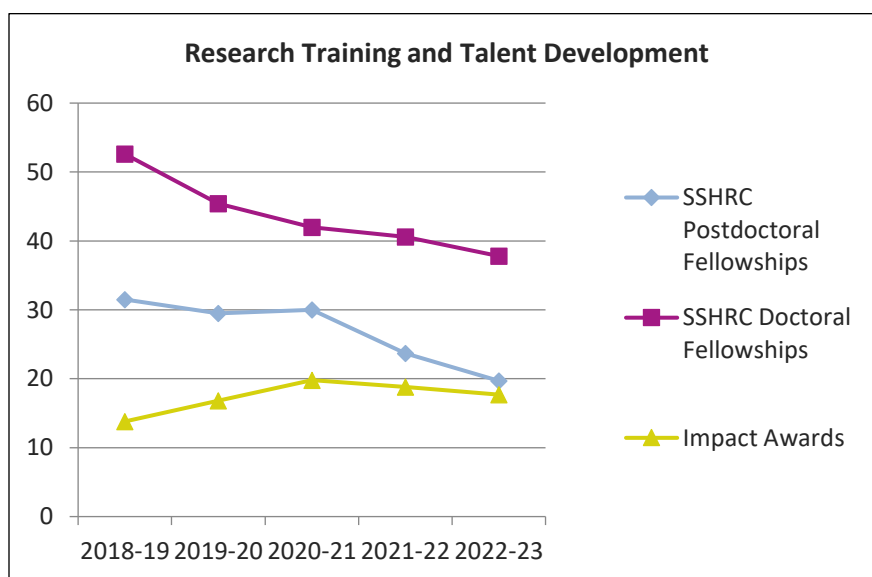
Insight Research	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Insight Grants	16.3	17.1	12.7	11.6	11.5
Insight Development Grants	20.0	18.5	13.6	17.1	15.8
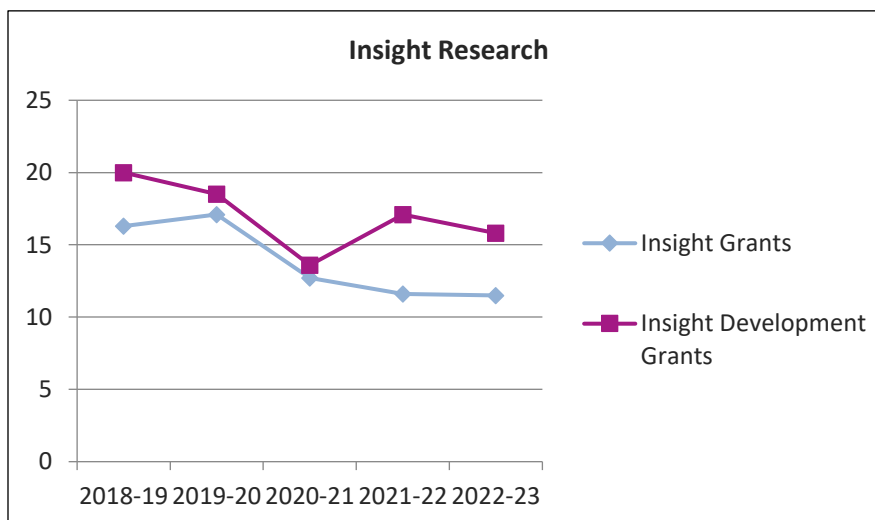
Research Partnerships	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Partnership Grants[14]	16.0	16.8	18.8	14.8	15.0
Partnership Development Grants	22.2	20.0	20.3	17.1	16.2
Partnership Engage Grants	10.3	9.5	8.4[15]	8.9	11.7[16]
Connection Grants	15.5	14.5	8.4	10.6	9.4

Research Partnerships
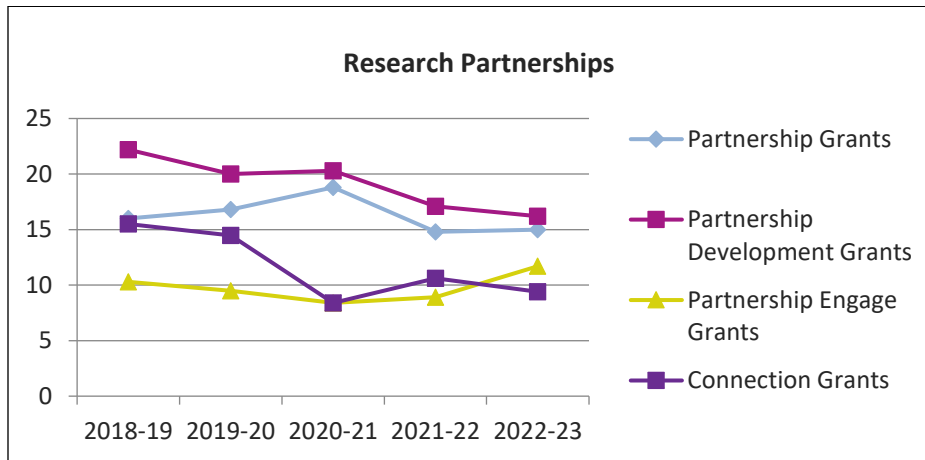
Future Challenges Directorate	2019-20 Enviro. and Impact Assessments	2019-20 Earth's Carrying Capacity	2020-21 Digital Skills	2020-21 Mobility and Public Transit	2021-22 Emerging Asocial Society	2022-23 Gender-Based Violence	2022-23 Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization
Knowledge Synthesis Grants[17]	15.0	17.4	16.1	11.3	15.1	14.2	11.7

Future Challenges Directorate
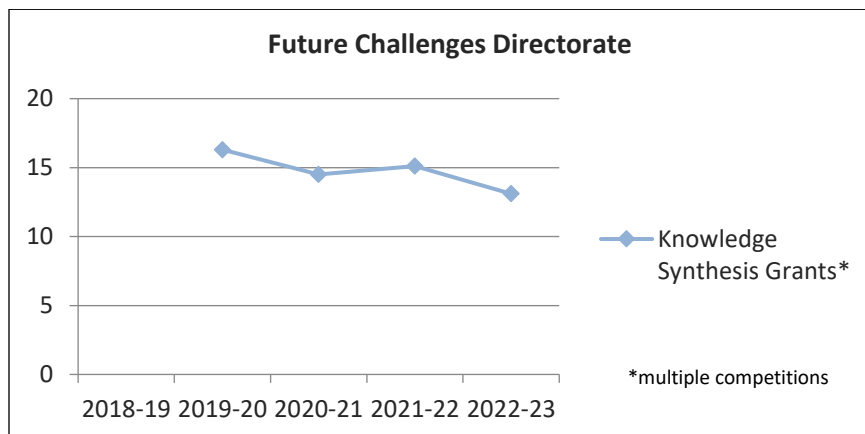
[14] Based on stage 1 applications only.
[15] Based on Partnership Engage Grants and COVID-19 competitions.
[16] Based on regular Partnership Engage Grants competitions only.
[17] The 2018-19 KSG competition (Canada-United Kingdom trade relationships) data have been removed from the table because they were not representative. It was considered a pilot program and the average workload was very low (5.3).

Appendix D—Competition Statistics

Awards data are drawn immediately following adjudication. Awards resulting from the allocation of additional funding later in the funding cycle are not included.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Year	Eligible applications	Awards	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	533	150	28%	N/A	$13,230,000
2021-22	650	182	28%	N/A	$16,245,000
2020-21	795	160	20%	N/A	$14,015,250
2019-20	751	160	21%	N/A	$14,220,000
2018-19	824	160	19%	N/A	$14,265,000

Doctoral Awards (SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and CGS Doctoral Program)

Year	Eligible applications*	Allocation	Awards	Success rate**	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	3,727	2,185	630 (SSHRC) 423 (CGS)	48%	N/A	$36,900,000 (SSHRC) $44,415,000 (CGS)
2021-22	4,158	2,294	657 (SSHRC) 420 (CGS)	47%	N/A	$38,860,000 (SSHRC) $44,100,000 (CGS)
2020-21	4,365	2,390	528 (SSHRC) 500 (CGS)	43%	N/A	$30,140,000 (SSHRC) $52,500,000 (CGS)
2019-20	4,087	2,586	540 (SSHRC) 514 (CGS)	41%	N/A	$29,160,006 (SSHRC) $54,180,000 (CGS)
2018-19	3,626	2,205	508 (SSHRC) 430 (CGS)	43%	N/A	$27,780,000 (SSHRC) $45,150,000 (CGS)

*Approximate as SSHRC does not verify the eligibility of applications that are not recommended for the national competition by Canadian institutions with a quota. The 2021-22 figure was incorrectly reported in the 2021-22 Report on Competitions (2,294) and has been corrected in this report (4,158). The 2,294 number should have referred to the number of allocations.

**The success rate is calculated using the combined total of SSHRC and CGS awards relative to the number of applications eligible at the national stage (Allocation column).

Canada Graduate Scholarships Program—Master's Scholarships

Year	Eligible applications	Allocation	Awards*	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	2,932	1,366	1,365	47%	N/A	$23,887,500
2021-22	3,225	1,510	1,509	47%	N/A	$26,407,500
2020-21	3,022	1,510	1,513	50%	N/A	$26,477,500
2019-20	2,827	1,510	1,492	53%	N/A	$26,255,832
2018-19	2,734	1,300	1,295	47%	N/A	$22,662,500

*Number of awards offered in light of eligible applications received. Some institutions do not receive enough eligible applications to be able to use their allocation.

Canada Graduate Scholarships—Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements

Year	Allocations*	Awards**	Percentage of allocations used	Total requested	Total awarded
2022-23	125	86	69%	$727,045	$508,080
2021-22	125	86	69%	$741,758	$499,661
2020-21	125	67	54%	$557,888	$397,738
2019-20	125	132	106%	$1,043,742	$778,946
2018-19	125	131	105%	$1,154,536	$764,361

*SSHRC's total allocation is 125 awards per year.
**Awards are allocation-based. Only eligible applicants are awarded.

Impact Awards (2022-23)

	Eligible nominations	Finalists	Awards	Success rate	Average success rate over 5 years	Total awarded
Gold Medal	10	N/A	1	10%	10%	$100,000
Talent Award	17	3	1	6%	6%	$50,000
Insight Award	15	3	1	7%	7%	$50,000
Connection Award	14	3	1	7%	7%	$50,000
Partnership Award	9	3	1	11%	11%	$50,000

Insight Grants

Year	Eligible applications	Awards	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23 (Stream A)	413	209	51%	$35,855,352	$17,243,859
2022-23 (Stream B)	732	301	41%	$197,280,970	$72,226,162
2021-22 (Stream A)	427	241	56%	$36,349,321	$19,404,543
2021-22 (Stream B)	657	319	49%	$174,565,729	$77,038,472
2020-21 (Stream A)	496	281	57%	$41,705,518	$23,184,285
2020-21 (Stream B)	717	356	50%	$183,039,458	$80,816,747
2019-20 (Stream A)	602	274	46%	$50,788,162	$22,703,076
2019-20 (Stream B)	823	306	37%	$212,906,940	$68,980,028
2018-19 (Stream A)	615	312	51%	$52,048,696	$24,650,325
2018-19 (Stream B)	750	307	41%	$188,427,889	$65,027,232

Insight Development Grants

Year	Eligible applications	Awards	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	1,055	589	56%	$66,713,985	$35,267,427
2021-22	1,175	662	56%	$73,989,471	$39,452,804
2020-21	1,256	563	45%	$77,596,998	$32,302,006
2019-20	1,128	565	50%	$68,800,784	$31,685,401
2018-19	1,139	677	59%	$69,544,174	$38,048,922

Partnership Grants

Year	Eligible applications Stage 1	Eligible applications Stage 2	Awards	Success rate	Total requested* (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	65	25	19	29%	$61,692,665	$45,703,883
2021-22	69	25	21	30%	$62,143,029	$52,147,443
2020-21	75	25	19	25%	$62,150,620	$47,468,400
2019-20	67	23	16	24%	$55,895,685	$38,493,991
2019-20 CMHC	19**	8	6	75%	$10,426,277	$7,938,424
2018-19	64	26	17	27%	$64,116,532	$41,855,594

*Includes requested amounts at Stage 2 only.

**In 2019-20, SSHRC administered a special Partnership Grants competition in partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), in support of Canada's National Housing Strategy. This represented the second stage of the joint initiative's two-stage process. Applicants who were successful in the CMHC Partnership Development Grants competition in 2018-19 were invited to apply for the Partnership Grants competition.

Partnership Development Grants

Year	Eligible applications	Awards	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	159	76	48%	$30,874,764	$14,871,966
2021-22	114	85	75%	$21,529,261	$16,087,715
2020-21	135	96	71%	$25,493,209	$18,210,789
2019-20	134	77	57%	$25,406,914	$14,990,960
2018-19	148	70	47%	$28,154,116	$13,173,431
2018-19 CMHC*	19	8	42%	$1,508,643	$632,035

*2018-19 CMHC Partnership Development Grants call.

Partnership Engage Grants

Year	Eligible applications	Awards	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	299	262	88%	$7,285,806	$6,377,345
2022-23 Residential Schools Joint Initiative	9	8	89%	$423,460	$373,460
2021-22	317	271	85%	$7,617,049	$6,507,111
2020-21	305	216	71%	$7,350,137	$5,218,919
2020-21 COVID-19	396	251*	63%	$9,583,096	$6,092,299
2019-20	335	205	61%	$8,086,357	$6,198,339
2018-19	372	207	56%	$8,936,777	$5,038,113

*As a result of reallocation, SSHRC strategically allocated an additional 43 awards for the 2020-21 COVID-19 call, for a total of 294 awards, the number more widely publicized in 2020-21 by the federal government.

Connection Grants

Year	Eligible applications	Awards	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23	591	415	71%	$17,454,343	$11,798,816
2021-22	396	332	84%	$11,184,291	$9,017,812
2020-21	309	237	77%	$8,968,236	$6,552,586
2019-20	699	312	45%	$18,695,919	$7,776,618
2018-19	691	284	41%	$17,688,685	$7,090,492
2018-19 Indigenous*	231	116	50%	$10,756,557	$5,554,089

*Special call on Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation, administered in collaboration with NSERC and CIHR.

Knowledge Synthesis Grants

Year*	Eligible applications	Awards	Success rate	Total requested (eligible)	Total awarded
2022-23 Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization	47	25 (SSHRC) / 5 (Genome Canada)	64%	$1,372,065	$743,525 (SSHRC) / $149,823 (Genome Canada)
2022-23 Gender-Based Violence	64	32	50%	$1,865,084	$933,571
2021-22 Emerging Asocial Society	52	30	58%	$1,507,151	$868,740
2020-21 Mobility and Public Transit	30	23	77%	$858,425	$669,238
2020-21 Digital Skills	59	36	61%	$1,694,824	$762,217
2019-20 Earth's Carrying Capacity	58	31	53%	$2,766,528	$1,487,312
2019-20 Environmental and Impact Assessments	40	13	33%	$1,148,595	$380,367

* The 2018-19 KSG competition (Canada-United Kingdom trade relationships) data have been removed from the table because they were not representative. It was considered a pilot program.

Appendix E—Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Competition Data

A harmonized tri-agency questionnaire[18] has been used since mid-2018 to collect self-identification data in support of EDI performance measurement and objectives. The questionnaire responds to the Canada Research Coordinating Committee priority area on strengthening EDI in research and aligns with the Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan (2018-2025).

In response to feedback from the research community, the questionnaire was revised this year with additional data points added to collect information on sexual orientation and language. This revision was made to the questionnaire for most funding opportunities.

All respondents are asked their date of birth and whether they identify with any of the four designated groups: women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and visible minorities.[19] The completion of the questionnaire is mandatory; however, all questions provide an option to select "I prefer not to answer."

SSHRC's EDI dashboard, launched in January 2020, continues to be an important tool to publicly share aggregate summaries of the self-identification data collected from applicants, award holders and merit review committee members. When available, comparable statistics on the Canadian workforce or academic context for each designated group are included in the dashboard.

Self-identification data on applicants, award or grant holders and committee members for all funding opportunities adjudicated in 2022-23 are highlighted below. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the data, particularly for competitions with low numbers of applicants where the number (n) is small. Self-identification data is considered Protected B, so we do not disclose aggregated data of fewer than 10 individuals (< 10). In previous versions of the Report on Competitions, graphics would display aggregated data in terms of percentages. This year, graphics have been replaced by tables, which offer more flexibility and solve the problem of graphics displaying a bar for cells with < 10 individuals. The tables also intentionally do not include the "I prefer not to answer" column because if all columns add up to 100% it would be easy to deduce the number for redacted cells (< 10). Additionally, this helps avoid the crowding of labels in the graph or a label without a percentage in the display. A dash (-) is used to indicate cells with < 10 individuals.

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[18] The harmonized questionnaire has been revised since 2018 in light of legal requirements, new legislation and feedback from the research community.

[19] The four designated equity groups are defined under the Government of Canada's *Employment Equity Act*.

Application and award rates[20] for 10[21] 2022-23 competitions are outlined and analyzed below as they relate to the four underrepresented groups listed in the self-identification questionnaire.

The data provided in this report capture only one competition cycle.

The use of "award rate" instead of "success rate" for each group aligns with the three federal research funding agencies' updated approach to reporting on access to funding opportunities for underrepresented groups. For a given competition, success rates are partly determined by the number of applications and funds available. Award rate, especially when considered together with application rate, gives a better sense of the equity of the research funding process and can be compared to the representation of those groups in the academic and/or general Canadian population. As more data are collected in coming years, trends can be tracked and analyzed for a clearer picture of participation in SSHRC's programs, particularly in terms of award rates.

GENDER

In 2022-23, award rates for women continue to be slightly higher than application rates.

Aggregate data:

Gender	Woman	Man	*See footnote	I prefer not to answer
Application Rate	61.5%	30.3%	4.2%	3.9%
Award Rate	62.9%	28.8%	4.5%	3.8%

*This column groups the following responses: Gender-fluid, Nonbinary, Two-Spirit, Trans man, Trans woman, I don't identify with any option provided.

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[20] Application rate is the percentage of applications from a given designated group in the total number of applications in a competition. Award rate is the percentage of awards that a given designated group receives of the total awards in a competition. Award numbers differ slightly from those presented in the funding opportunity summaries for the doctoral and master's competitions as a result of the timing of acceptance of award offers.

[21] Application rates are reported for 10 competitions and award rates for 11 competitions because SSHRC Doctoral and CGS Program Doctoral Scholarship award rates are reported separately, but the application pool is the same.

Data by funding opportunity:

Application Rates—Gender

Funding Opportunity	Woman	Man	*See footnote
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	56.8%	38.5%	2.3%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 2,185)	64.6%	27.1%	5.2%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	70.9%	20.6%	6.1%
Insight Grants (n = 1,145)	46.8%	44.6%	1.8%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	52.9%	37.8%	2.4%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	55.4%	33.8%	-
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	56.6%	36.5%	-
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	61.5%	31.1%	-
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 9)	-	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 591)	53.5%	39.3%	2.2%
Total (n = 8,978)	**61.5%**	**30.3%**	**4.2%**

*This includes the following responses: Gender-fluid, Nonbinary, Two-Spirit, Trans man, Trans woman, I don't identify with any option provided.

Award Rates—Gender

Funding Opportunity	Woman	Man	*See footnote
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 150)	58.7%	35.3%	-
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 630)	66.2%	25.6%	5.2%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 423)	69.3%	24.1%	4.7%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 1,365)	70.2%	20.1%	7.1%
Insight Grants (n = 510)	47.5%	44.5%	2.2%
Insight Development Grants (n = 589)	56.0%	35.3%	2.4%
Partnership Grants (n = 19)	68.4%	-	-
Partnership Development Grants (n = 76)	64.5%	32.9%	-
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 262)	65.6%	27.5%	-
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 8)	-	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 415)	55.9%	36.6%	-
Total (n = 4,447)	**62.9%**	**28.8%**	**4.5%**

*This includes the following responses: Gender-fluid, Nonbinary, Two-Spirit, Trans man, Trans woman, I don't identify with any option provided.

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

In 2022-23, award rates for Indigenous applicants continued to be slightly higher than application rates across funding opportunities. The highest award rates were in the CGS D program, Connection Grants, CGS M and SSHRC Doctoral Awards (between 3.3% and 8.7%).

Aggregate data:

Indigenous Identity	Yes	No	I prefer not to answer
Application Rate	3.0%	93.3%	3.7%
Award Rate	3.5%	93.1%	3.4%

Data by funding opportunity:

Application Rates—Indigenous Identity

Funding Opportunity	Yes	No
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	-	95.1%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 2,185)	4.8%	93.0%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	2.9%	94.4%
Insight Grants (n = 1,145)	1.6%	92.2%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	1.8%	91.9%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	-	89.2%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	-	89.9%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	-	93.3%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 9)	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 591)	3.0%	93.9%
Total (n = 8,978)	**3.0%**	**93.3%**

Award Rates—Indigenous Identity

Funding Opportunity	Yes	No
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 150)	-	94.7%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 630)	3.3%	94.1%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 423)	8.7%	90.3%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 1,365)	3.4%	93.8%
Insight Grants (n = 510)	-	92.7%
Insight Development Grants (n = 589)	1.7%	93.0%
Partnership Grants (n = 19)	-	73.7%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 76)	-	90.8%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 262)	-	93.9%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 8)	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 415)	3.6%	93.7%
Total (n = 4,447)	**3.5%**	**93.1%**

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In 2022-23, award rates for applicants who self-identify as having disabilities were generally lower than application rates across the funding opportunities, except for the CGS D program and Insight Development Grants.

Aggregate data:

Persons with Disabilities	Yes	No	I prefer not to answer
Application Rate	12.9%	79.6%	7.5%
Award Rate	11.8%	81.1%	7.0%

Data by funding opportunity:

Application Rates—Persons with Disabilities

Funding Opportunity	Yes	No
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	12.9%	79.2%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 2,185)	18.5%	75.7%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	15.3%	78.9%
Insight Grants (n = 1,145)	8.0%	81.0%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	4.8%	85.4%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	-	67.7%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	8.8%	79.9%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	8.4%	85.6%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 9)	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 591)	8.1%	82.4%
Total (n = 8,978)	**12.9%**	**79.6%**

Award Rates—Persons with Disabilities

Funding Opportunity	Yes	No
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 150)	-	86.0%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 630)	17.8%	76.2%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 423)	18.9%	75.7%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 1,365)	14.7%	80.2%
Insight Grants (n = 510)	7.5%	82.2%
Insight Development Grants (n = 589)	5.3%	85.2%
Partnership Grants (n = 19)	-	84.2%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 76)	-	63.2%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 262)	6.9%	87.0%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 8)	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 415)	7.5%	84.1%
Total (n = 4,447)	**11.8%**	**81.1%**

VISIBLE MINORITIES

In 2022-23, award rates for applicants who self-identify as visible minorities were generally slightly lower than application rates across the funding opportunities, except for SSHRC Doctoral Awards and Partnership Development Grants.

Aggregate data:

Visible Minorities	Yes	No	I prefer not to answer
Application Rate	23.0%	72.1%	4.9%
Award Rate	21.0%	74.3%	4.7%

Data by funding opportunity:

Application Rates—Visible Minorities

Funding Opportunity	Yes	No
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	21.6%	75.2%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 2,185)	24.2%	71.9%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	22.8%	74.0%
Insight Grants (n = 1,145)	19.9%	71.4%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	31.5%	61.7%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	-	78.5%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	20.8%	71.1%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	19.4%	75.6%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 9)	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 591)	15.4%	77.8%
Total (n = 8,978)	**23.0%**	**72.1%**

Award Rates—Visible Minorities

Funding Opportunity	Yes	No
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 150)	19.3%	78.0%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 630)	25.1%	71.1%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 423)	20.3%	76.8%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 1,365)	21.9%	74.9%
Insight Grants (n = 510)	15.3%	76.1%
Insight Development Grants (n = 589)	28.5%	65.5%
Partnership Grants (n = 19)	-	84.2%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 76)	21.1%	73.7%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 262)	17.6%	77.9%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 8)	-	-
Connection Grants (n = 415)	13.3%	80.0%
Total (n = 4,447)	**21.0%**	**74.3%**

COMMITTEE MEMBER SELF-IDENTIFICATION DATA

Self-identification data findings of committee members for 2022-23 funding opportunities are provided below. The response rate shows that less than half of committee members responded to the EDI questionnaire.

Confirmed committee members: **938**
Completed self-identification questionnaires: **427**
Response rate: **45.5%**

To help ensure the quality assessment of project proposals from a diverse group of applicants and mitigate possible negative bias, it is important to diversify committee membership.

The tables below aggregate funding opportunity data at the program level[22] to protect the confidentiality of merit reviewers. Respondents could indicate that they preferred not to answer any of the self-identification questions, an option that, on average, 4.4% of the respondents chose for all funding opportunities.

As SSHRC is still building its knowledge on committee member self-identification, more results over time (and possibly additional reference data for comparison) will be required to draw conclusions on the EDI and designated groups' representation on its committees.

Committee member composition by program area—Gender

Program	Woman	Man	*See footnote
Research Training and Talent Development (n = 103)	49.5%	44.7%	-
Insight Research (n = 171)	52.6%	42.1%	-
Research Partnerships (n = 153)	49.7%	40.5%	-
Total (n = 427)	**50.8%**	**42.2%**	-

*This includes the following responses: Gender-fluid, Nonbinary, Two-Spirit, Trans man, Trans woman, I don't identify with any option provided.

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[22] Program areas: Research Training and Talent Development includes data on the Postdoctoral Fellowships, SSHRC Doctoral Awards, CGS Program Doctoral Scholarships and Impact Awards; Insight Research includes Insight Grants and Insight Development Grants; Research Partnerships includes Partnership Grants, Partnership Development Grants, Partnership Engage Grants, Partnership Engage Grants – Residential Schools Joint Initiative, Connection Grants, Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative, CMHC-SSHRC National Housing Strategy Longitudinal Outcomes Research, Reconciliation Network Coordination Hub and both Knowledge Synthesis Grants (Gender-Based Violence and Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization).

Committee member composition by program area—Indigenous Identity

Program	Yes	No
Research Training and Talent Development (n = 103)	-	93.2%
Insight Research (n = 171)	-	93.0%
Research Partnerships (n = 153)	-	88.2%
Total (n = 427)	**4.4%**	**91.3%**

Committee member composition by program area—Persons with Disabilities

Program	Yes	No
Research Training and Talent Development (n = 103)	-	88.3%
Insight Research (n = 171)	8.2%	87.1%
Research Partnerships (n = 153)	10.5%	83.0%
Total (n = 427)	**9.1%**	**85.9%**

Committee member composition by program area—Visible Minorities

Program	Yes	No
Research Training and Talent Development (n = 103)	-	87.4%
Insight Research (n = 171)	21.1%	74.9%
Research Partnerships (n = 153)	18.3%	79.1%
Total (n = 427)	**17.1%**	**79.4%**

Appendix F—Institutional Representation by Funding Opportunity

With a view toward harmonization, the Report on Competitions uses the institution size classification from the Canada Research Chairs program to define the institution size.

This classification defines the size of institutions according to the following criteria:

Large institutions are defined as those **receiving 40 chair allocations or more.**

Medium institutions are defined as those **receiving between 11 to 39 chair allocations.**

Small institutions **receive 10 chair allocations or less.**

Other institutions **do not meet the financial threshold of at least $100,000 of tri-agency funding.**

Colleges are based on an internal list of colleges. International institutions are based on the information in our database, which includes international colleges.

Application success rates in 2022-23 show a balanced proportion among institutions of different size. As a reminder, the success rates are based on awards divided by eligible applications. Compared to the success rate for large institutions, the success rate for medium institutions stands out across SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and CGS D, Partnership Grants, Partnership Engage Grants—Residential School Joint Initiative and Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence competitions.

Application success rates by institution size (%)

Funding Opportunity	Large	Medium	Small	College	International	Other
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	29.4%	27.1%	10.8%	0%	33.0%	25.0%
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 2,185)	48.3%	52.2%	36.6%	N/A	42.2%	23.1%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	51.0%	38.9%	46.9%	N/A	N/A	33.3%
Impact Awards (n = 65)	8.9%	6.3%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Insight Grants—Stream A (n = 413)	54.7%	52.6%	33.3%	66.7%	N/A	22.2%
Insight Grants—Stream B (n = 732)	44.7%	38.8%	30.1%	16.7%	N/A	16.7%
Insight Grants—Stream A and B (n = 1,145)	48.3%	43.1%	31.5%	33.3%	N/A	20.0%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	62.5%	53.5%	43.9%	33.3%	N/A	35.7%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	22.6%	39.3%	16.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	51.3%	49.0%	34.8%	N/A	N/A	42.9%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	90.4%	88.3%	88.9%	33.3%	N/A	83.3%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential School Joint Initiative (n = 9)	80.0%	100%	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A
Connection Grants (n = 591)	74.5%	70.0%	64.5%	53.8%	N/A	45.0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence (n = 64)	52.9%	56.3%	50.0%	100%	N/A	0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (n = 47)	90.0%	35.7%	60.0%	50.0%	N/A	0%
Total (n = 9,154)	**52.1%**	**47.5%**	**44.7%**	**42.2%**	**39.1%**	**33.9%**

Note: Columns should be considered independently from each other. It is normal that percentages in rows do not add to 100%. The International category includes university and colleges of unknown size located outside Canada. The Other category includes Indigenous organizations, associations, charitable organizations, federal/provincial/territorial governments, government agencies, hospitals, learning associations, not-for-profit organizations, publishers, private business, relief or aid agencies, research organizations and universities of unknown size.

The table below provides national statistics on the representation of social sciences and humanities faculty by institution size category. The statistics show that SSHRC's committee members in 2022-23 competitions are generally representative of the institutional distribution of social sciences and humanities faculty members in Canada.

Representation of Canadian social sciences and humanities faculty by institution size category

Institution size and type*	Number of institutions**	Faculty members	% of faculty members***	% representation of SSHRC committee members in 2022-23 competitions****
Large	16	10,704	43.4%	44.3%
Medium	18	7,815	31.7%	28.5%
Small	43	5,004	20.3%	18.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Full-Time: University and College Academic Staff System (FT-UCASS) 2019-20

*Based on the CRC categorization.

**UCASS data from 100 institutions, including 16 large, 18 medium and 36 small institutions under the CRC categorization.

***Percentages are based off the total faculty members reported across the 100 institutions by UCASS, hence the total does not sum to 100%.

****Percentages are based on the total number of committee members, hence the total does not add up to 100%.

Representation of committee members by institution size (%)

Funding Opportunity	Large	Medium	Small	College	International	Other
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 54)	53.7%	18.5%	11.1%	0%	14.8%	1.9%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 117)	41.0%	28.2%	12.0%	0%	15.4%	3.4%
Impact Awards (n = 12)	50.0%	8.3%	8.3%	0%	8.3%	25.0%
Insight Grants (n = 243)	49.4%	28.4%	16.9%	0.4%	1.2%	3.7%
Insight Development Grants (n = 220)	48.2%	32.7%	16.8%	0%	0.5%	1.8%
Partnership Grants (n = 27)	37.0%	29.6%	11.1%	0%	3.7%	18.5%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 31)	41.9%	19.4%	22.6%	3.2%	0%	12.9%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 60)	33.3%	25.0%	31.7%	5.0%	0%	5.0%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 6)	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	0%	0%	16.7%
Connection Grants (n = 134)	38.1%	31.3%	25.4%	2.2%	0%	3.0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence (n = 8)	20.0%	30.0%	30.0%	0%	0%	20.0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (n = 7)	42.9%	28.6%	0%	0%	0%	28.6%
Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative (n = 8)	25.0%	12.5%	25.0%	0%	12.5%	25.0%
CMHC-SSHRC National Housing Strategy Longitudinal Outcomes Research (n = 6)	33.3%	33.3%	16.7%	0%	16.7%	0%
Reconciliation Network Coordination Hub (n = 3)	66.7%	33.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total (n = 938)	**44.3%**	**28.5%**	**18.0%**	**0.9%**	**3.6%**	**4.7%**

Note: The International category includes university and colleges of unknown size located outside of Canada. The Other category includes Indigenous organizations, associations, charitable organizations, federal/provincial/territorial governments, government agencies, hospitals, learning associations, not-for-profit organizations, publishers, private business, relief or aid agencies, research organizations and universities of unknown size.

In terms of SSHRC's 2022-23 committee membership, as expected there was a higher representation from larger institutions (44.3% overall) compared to the other institution-size categories. There was larger participation by universities than colleges. There were no significant changes since last year.

Representation of committee members by sector (%)

Funding Opportunity	Postsecondary	Industry	Not-for-Profit	Public
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 54)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 117)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Impact Awards (n = 12)	83.3%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%
Insight Grants (n = 243)	98.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Insight Development Grant (n = 220)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Partnership Grants (n = 27)	85.2%	0.0%	7.4%	7.4%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 31)	90.3%	0.0%	0.0%	9.7%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 60)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 6)	83.3%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%
Connection Grants (n = 134)	98.5%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence (n = 10)	80.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (n = 7)	71.4%	0.0%	14.3%	14.3%
Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative (n = 8)	75.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%
CMHC-SSHRC National Housing Strategy Longitudinal Outcomes Research (n = 6)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Reconciliation Network Coordination Hub (n = 3)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total (n = 938)	**97.8%**	**0.1%**	**0.9%**	**1.3%**

The table above shows that the representation of committee members is mainly concentrated in the postsecondary sector, but there are differences across funding opportunities. For example, there is more representation of the not-for-profit and public sectors on funding opportunities like Partnership Grants and Knowledge Synthesis Grants. The industry sector has very low to no representation across funding opportunities.

Appendix G—Language Profiles in SSHRC Competitions

SSHRC collects and monitors program performance based on the official language of the application and correspondence language of committee members. The revised tri-agency EDI self-identification questionnaire was launched in 2021-22. It includes new questions related to the language of the individual, in alignment with Statistics Canada's approach to collecting data on official languages.

The application and award rates[23] of French and English applications across SSHRC funding opportunities have generally been constant for a number of years. Application rates remain stable compared to 2021-22.

Application rates by application language
English: **82.8%**
French: **17.2%**

Award rates by application language
English: **80.5%**
French: **19.5%**

French application rates have increased slightly compared to 2021-22 (previously 16.5%), as did award rates for French applications, which increased to 19.5% compared to 18.8% in 2021-22.

The following tables and graphs show the application and award rates of applications across SSHRC funding opportunities in 2022-23. Generally, French applications showed strong success rates this past year.

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[23] Application rate is the percentage of applications, in the total number of applications, in a competition, based on language of application. Award rate is the percentage of the total awards in a competition based on language of application. Award numbers differ slightly from those presented in the funding opportunity summaries for the doctoral and master's competitions as a result of the timing of acceptance of award offers.

Aggregate data:

	English	French	Overall
Applicant success rate by language of application	47.9%	56.1%	49.3%
Application rate by language of application	82.8%	17.2%	N/A
Award rate by language of application	80.5%	19.5%	N/A
Correspondence language of committee members	74.7%	25.3%	N/A

Data by funding opportunity:

Applicant success rates by language of application

Funding Opportunity	English	French	Overall
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	27.0%	32.4%	28.1%
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 2,185)	47.4%	52.4%	48.2%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	44.7%	54.5%	46.5%
Impact Awards (n = 65)	7.4%	9.1%	7.7%
Insight Grants—Stream A (n = 413)	49.9%	56.0%	50.6%
Insight Grants—Stream B (n = 732)	41.4%	39.2%	41.1%
Insight Grants—Stream A and B (n = 1,145)	44.5%	44.9%	44.5%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	54.9%	60.0%	55.8%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	28.8%	33.3%	29.2%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	49.3%	39.1%	47.8%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	84.8%	93.7%	87.6%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential School Joint Initiative (n = 9)	85.7%	100%	88.9%
Connection Grants (n = 591)	68.2%	77.5%	70.2%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence (n = 64)	46.4%	75.0%	50.0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (n = 47)	62.8%	75.0%	63.8%
Total (n = 9,154)	**47.9%**	**56.1%**	**49.3%**

Application rates by language of application

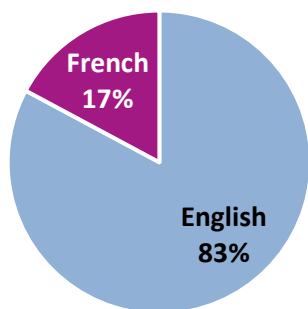| Funding Opportunity	English	French
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	79.2%	20.8%
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 2,185)	84.8%	15.2%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	82.3%	17.7%
Impact Awards (n = 65)	83.1%	16.9%
Insight Grants—Stream A (n = 413)	87.9%	12.1%
Insight Grants—Stream B (n = 732)	86.7%	13.3%
Insight Grants—Stream A and B (n = 1,145)	87.2%	12.8%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	82.5%	17.5%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	90.8%	9.2%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	85.5%	14.5%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	68.2%	31.8%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential School Joint Initiative (n = 9)	77.8%	22.2%
Connection Grants (n = 591)	78.2%	21.8%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence (n = 64)	87.5%	12.5%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (n = 47)	91.5%	8.5%
Total (n = 9,154)	**82.8%**	**17.2%**

Award rates by language of application

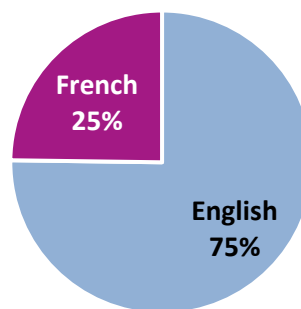| Funding Opportunity	English	French
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 533)	76.0%	24.0%
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (n = 2,185)	83.5%	16.5%
Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's (n = 2,937)	79.3%	20.7%
Impact Awards (n = 65)	80.0%	20.0%
Insight Grants—Stream A (n = 413)	86.6%	13.4%
Insight Grants—Stream B (n = 732)	87.4%	12.6%
Insight Grants—Stream A and B (n = 1,145)	87.1%	12.9%
Insight Development Grants (n = 1,055)	81.2%	18.8%
Partnership Grants (n = 65)	89.5%	10.5%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 159)	88.2%	11.8%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 299)	66.0%	34.0%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential School Joint Initiative (n = 9)	75.0%	25.0%
Connection Grants (n = 591)	75.9%	24.1%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence (n = 64)	81.3%	18.8%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (n = 47)	90.0%	10.0%
Total (n = 9,154)	**80.5%**	**19.5%**

Except for a small number of unilingual committees formed for larger funding opportunities, the majority of SSHRC merit review members and committees are required to be functionally bilingual.

Overall, and consistent with recent-year data, the proportion of committee members whose correspondence language is French is higher than the proportion of applicants.

Application language of applicants, overall

French 17%
English 83%

Correspondence language of committee members, overall

French 25%
English 75%

Correspondence language of committee members by funding opportunity

Funding Opportunity	English	French
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships (n = 54)	61.1%	38.9%
SSHRC Doctoral Awards (n = 117)	73.5%	26.5%
Impact Awards (n = 12)	58.3%	41.7%
Insight Grants (n = 243)	79.8%	20.2%
Insight Development Grants (n = 220)	81.8%	18.2%
Partnership Grants (n = 27)	77.8%	22.2%
Partnership Development Grants (n = 31)	64.5%	35.5%
Partnership Engage Grants (n = 60)	60.0%	40.0%
Partnership Engage Grants—Residential Schools Joint Initiative (n = 6)	83.3%	16.7%
Connection Grants (n = 134)	70.9%	29.1%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Gender-Based Violence (n = 10)	80.0%	20.0%
Knowledge Synthesis Grants—Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization (n = 7)	71.4%	28.6%
Gender-Based Violence Research Initiative (n = 8)	100%	0%
CMHC-SSHRC National Housing Strategy Longitudinal Outcomes Research (n = 6)	83.3%	16.7%
Reconciliation Network Coordination Hub (n = 3)	100%	0%
Total (n = 938)	**75.3%**	**24.7%**

The Research Training and Talent Development funding opportunities historically have higher numbers of francophone committee members, with a range of 39% to 42% representation in 2022-23, except for SSHRC Doctoral Awards. The Partnership Development Grants and Partnership Engage Grants competitions also had high representation of francophone committee members this year (36% to 40%).