Research Support Fund

Public Disclosure Statement for 2024-25

The Research Support Fund (RSF) helps Canadian postsecondary institutions with the costs associated with managing research funded by the three federal research granting agencies.

Indirect Costs of Research
The "hidden" costs associated with managing research are called indirect costs and include the cost many institutional activities and services that are required to support research but are not covered by research grants and contracts. Some of these are:

- Salaries for staff who provide administrative support for researchers and their projects (research office, finance, legal, IT, library);

- Costs related to the maintenance of laboratories and research facilities (power, security, building and equipment maintenance).

Research and scholarship are part of a teaching-intensive regional university and contribute significantly to excellence in undergraduate education. Research and scholarship enhance UFV's social, cultural, economic, and environmentally-responsible development and contribute to the strategic goals of UFV.

The Research Support Fund is essential to building and sustaining a culture of research and scholarship at UFV as well as pragmatically supporting everyday activities and operations. The fund enables UFV to employ staff (Director of Research; Ethics and Compliance Officer, Grants and Contracts Officers; Research Services Assistant; Financial Analyst and Liaison) who support faculty and student researchers. Many initiatives supported by the RSF showcase UFV faculty and student research and promote interdisciplinary networking within the institution and community.

The value of each grant is calculated as a percentage of the institution's total federal research funding from NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR with some exclusions. Detailed information about the Research Support Fund can be found here. The actual amount of the RSF grant that UFV receives does not cover the total amount of eligible costs, so the grant is attributed to the cost of maintaining the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

Allocation of UFV Research Support Funds 2024-25

99.2% of the 2024-2025 Research Support Funds were used to support the financial administration of the research enterprise at UFV. This primarily include salaries and benefits, plus professional development activities required for staff to remain current with research administration of all research funds. 0.8% of these funds were used to keep the Luminescence Dating Lab in compliance with the Canadian Nuclear Radiation Commission.

Research Management and Administration

Salaries and training costs for staff who work on grant applications, research proposals, and support the research enterprise; costs associated with publications and events that highlight UFV research; costs of grant-writing workshops and professional memberships.

The Research Support Fund plays a vital role in many of our successes as administrators support the research and knowledge dissemination activities of faculty and students. Some examples of our support for UFV faculty and student researchers in the 2024-25 academic year are listed below:

- Hosted a faculty MicroLecture event where 24 faculty presented two-minute lectures on the findings and implications of their current research.
- Offered annual workshops for faculty and students: Faculty Sabbatical Planning and Application workshop; Grant Mentorship Program; Research Option and Scholarly Activity workshop; Research Ethics Workshops, NSERC and SSHRC Scholarship workshops and ROMEO training workshops.
- Supported seven students who received NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards.
- Supported the administration of 560 undergraduate student research assistant contracts.
- Reviewed over 187 research ethics protocols to ensure UFV met TCPS.

- Providing Human Research Ethics Board members and Research Office staff opportunities to attend national conferences such as Canadian Association of Research Administrators and Canadian Council of Animal Care for training and networking.