

# Strategic Research Clusters Interim Grants

## A SSHRC Transformation Program

### Regulations Governing Grant Applications Definitions

Application deadlines	Value	Duration	Results announced	Apply
October 7, 2005	Up to \$25,000	1 year	December	<a href="#">Web CV</a>

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## Context

To sustain the momentum of the Strategic Clusters Design Grants pilot program and, more importantly, to continue to support the ongoing shift in Canadian research towards greater connectivity, impact and international reach, SSHRC is now launching the Strategic Research Clusters Interim Grants program.

This program is open only to the 31 teams that received a Strategic Research Clusters Design Grant. SSHRC is running a separate program—Strategic Research Clusters Development Grants—to invite similar applications from teams that do not hold design grants. Current design grant holders are not eligible to apply to that program.

The primary aim of the original design grants pilot program was to solicit proposals for viable models of strategic research clusters, i.e., networks of researchers in the social sciences and humanities that foster collaboration or otherwise contribute to a particular issue, theme or content area.

The present program extends and complements the pilot program by inviting design grant holders to resubmit the concept papers they prepared for that program together with a brief description of how they plan to showcase the activities of their research cluster and disseminate or mobilize the new knowledge coordinated by the cluster.

In the not-too-distant future, Council hopes to secure the financial resources with which to fund a large-scale, ongoing research clusters

program.

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## Objectives

In broad terms, the Strategic Research Clusters Interim Grants program seeks to:

- sustain the momentum of the Strategic Research Clusters Design Grants pilot program;
- showcase the ability of research clusters to add value to research;
- encourage the ongoing shift in Canadian research towards greater connectivity in the interest of greater impact and international reach;
- engage Canada's social sciences and humanities research community to identify key areas of research that will benefit from support as strategic research clusters;
- foster, in these key areas, networking, interaction and synergies that will facilitate the creation and application of new knowledge.

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## Description

Teams are invited to revise and resubmit the concept paper they produced as the deliverable for the Strategic Research Clusters Design Grants program.

The following points outline the requirements for the concept papers:

- Describe the issue, theme or content area of the proposed strategic research cluster and provide a detailed rationale for its importance. Include comments on how the cluster will help SSHRC integrate its two new core values: interactive engagement (systematic support of diverse linkages among researchers, students, fields of activity, institutions, communities and nations) and maximum knowledge impact (working with diverse parties to maximize understanding and applicability of research findings in both the short and the long term).
- Explain Canada's particular strengths in the issue, theme or area of research with which your proposed cluster is concerned. Show how the research cluster model can develop the country's existing expertise.
- Identify the project or mission of your strategic research cluster. Outline the research opportunities it will create. Describe also the specific goals of your cluster and how these will be achieved. Include in your discussion research, research training, research interactions, knowledge mobilization and outreach.
- Specify what value the cluster will add, i.e., what the cluster will achieve that could not be achieved without it.
- Characterize the individuals and groups or organizations that will be participating in the proposed cluster. Include numbers of researchers, their distribution among institutions and geographic regions, key research leaders and groups, fields of specialization, type and availability of other funding sources, and international connections;
- Identify potential users and networks of users who will benefit from

the activities of your proposed strategic research cluster, and describe approaches, both formal and informal, for linking with them (i.e., strategies for knowledge mobilization);

- Identify partners and stakeholders and describe how they will be involved in the research cluster.
- Describe the cluster's governance and management structure, including mechanisms for ensuring the participation of international and non-academic partners.
- Identify specific resources that the cluster will require, including infrastructure for collective research activities and knowledge mobilization, and types and levels of support needed over and above research funding secured from existing programs.

Applicants must also submit a two-page document that outlines the team's plans for publicizing the research cluster and for disseminating the new knowledge that it is coordinating.

- Describe the strategies you will employ for dissemination/knowledge mobilization and explain how they are innovative. Include discussion of the roles of any partners.
- Identify the target audience(s).
- Outline the projected budget required for the cluster's activities.
- Justify the feasibility of the plans for publicizing the research cluster and its activities.

Applicants are reminded that the program funds networking and related activities only—it does **not** support research. Accordingly, grant funds are awarded to defray such costs as travel and subsistence costs of participants in team meetings; other meeting costs such as room rentals; secretarial, administrative and secretarial support; and costs associated with publication and other sharing of research outcomes.

At the end of the one-year funding period, grant holders submit a report that shows how they have continued to make progress toward realizing the original objectives set out in their design grant paper. In particular, grant holders should show how they have put into practice plans for showcasing (publicizing) their strategic research cluster and what dissemination strategies they used to target a broad public.

Successful applicants will receive full details about the requirements for the report.

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## **Value and Duration**

The program offers one-year grants worth up to \$25,000.

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## **Eligibility**

Eligibility is restricted to the 31 teams that received an award in SSHRC's 2004 Strategic Research Clusters Design Grants competition.

## **Evaluation and Adjudication**

A multi-disciplinary adjudication committee of researchers in the humanities and social sciences who have experience managing networks or large research teams will evaluate both the concept papers and the supplementary plans for dissemination/publicity.

The committee will evaluate the concept papers according to the following three criteria:

- quality, originality and importance of the central research topic, issue or question on which the cluster focuses;
- appropriateness and variety of the networking links and partnerships;
- soundness of the management structures proposed for the cluster.

The committee will evaluate the publicity/dissemination plans according to the following four criteria:

- quality of the proposed dissemination strategies;
- creativity of the proposed dissemination strategies;
- likely impact on the target audience(s) of the proposed dissemination strategies;
- feasibility of the plans for publicizing/showcasing the cluster and its activities.

## **Application Process**

1. Submit the revised concept paper and publicity/dissemination plan. Should you choose not to revise your concept paper, submit only the plan, and the adjudication committee will evaluate the version of the concept paper already in your SSHRC file.
2. Submit a full [SSHRC Web CV](#) for the applicant (principal investigator) and for each co-applicant (co-investigator), but not more than four CVs in total. For further information about, or assistance with, Web CVs, contact the SSHRC Helpdesk by telephone (613-995-4273) or e-mail ([webgrant@sshrc.ca](mailto:webgrant@sshrc.ca)).
3. Submit the application materials, by email, or in hard copy format, directly to the responsible SSHRC program officer, Mathieu Ravnagat, whose contact information appears at the end of this document. All applications materials must be received at SSHRC on or before October 7, 2005.

## **Administrative Regulations**

All applicants and grant holders must comply with the [Regulations Governing Grant Applications](#) and with the regulations set out in the [Grant Holder's Guide](#) for research and strategic grants. In particular, the financial administration section of the Guide gives detailed information on eligible and ineligible expenses.

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## **More Information**

For more information about the Strategic Research Clusters Interim Grants program, or for advice on how to prepare your application, please contact:

**Mathieu Ravnat**

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