



Research
Manitoba
researchmanitoba.ca

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Program Guide

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1. Preface

Research Manitoba promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of research excellence in health, natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities in Manitoba. Our organization cultivates local talent development by investing in early career researchers and graduate students and fosters strategic partnerships to bolster innovation and commercialization in the province.

2. Purpose

The **Research Connections** grant provides funding for creating Manitoba research-related events.

These events may create skill development opportunities relevant to the research community, connect researchers across disciplines, promote research findings to the public, or connect researchers with potential industry partners.

Research Connections funding will only be provided to a Manitoba post-secondary academic institution or research institute associated with the event, who will administer and distribute the funds accordingly to the event organizer(s).

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the Research Connections grant are to:

- **Facilitate Knowledge Exchange:** Create funding opportunities to help develop the exchange of ideas, methodologies, and findings among researchers by funding events such as conferences, workshops, and seminars.
- **Promote Diverse Perspectives in Research:** To foster Indigenous reconciliation and promote equity and diversity within Manitoba's research community
- **Create Collaboration Opportunities:** Encourage collaboration and the dissemination of cutting-edge research across various fields.
- **Enhance Manitoba's Researcher Profiles:** Provide opportunities for Manitoba researchers to elevate their profiles to a global audience, including academics, industry partners, policymakers, and the general public.
- **Elevate Manitoba's research ecosystem:** Establish sustainable partnerships and collaboration between Manitoba-based researchers with public, private, and not-for-profit entities locally, nationally, and internationally to elevate Manitoba's research ecosystem.

4. Application Deadlines

Deadlines for applications to be submitted for events taking place within 12 months after the intake deadline are:

- **Intake 1: May 22, 2026**
- **Intake 2: November 20, 2026**

Applicants will be notified if their application has been approved within **30 days** of the application deadline.

5. Award Amounts

Award funds are to be used only towards the event that is approved by Research Manitoba, substantial changes to the event will require a [Change Request Form](#) and will not necessarily be approved.

Funding provided is a maximum of **\$7,500**, with an additional **\$2,500** available for events taking place in the Northern Manitoba region*. Research Manitoba funding must make up no more than **50%** of the total event budget.

A project may be approved for less than the requested amount of funding, even if eligible for the full amount, depending on the availability of funds in the intake.

All expenses must be for those specific to the event. Below is a list of commonly requested expenses and their eligibility.

Please contact [Research Manitoba](#) in advance of submitting your application if you have questions about any specific expenses in your application.

*Northern Manitoba region is defined for this application as indicated in [Manitoba's Look North Interactive Map](#)

Eligible Expenses	Ineligible Expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Invited guests'* honorariumsInvited guests'* travel and accommodation costs (no more than two days), when their permanent residence is more than 200 km outside of the event's location.Marketing materials (e.g. brochures, programs, signage)Accommodation resources (e.g. ASL interpreters, French translation, portable ramps)Event rental spaceFood and non-alcoholic beverage catering <p>*An invited guest must be an active participant in the event, e.g. an Elder performing a ceremony, a workshop leader, or a guest speaker.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consultant fees, staff salaries and staff bonusesResearch activitiesImprovements to event spaceAdvertisements (e.g. billboards, social media ads, commercials)Software subscriptions or purchases, except for those required for the eventHardware not intended specifically/only for use of the eventAlcohol

6. Eligibility Requirements

To apply, the **applicant** must be affiliated with a:

- Manitoba-based post-secondary academic institution (e.g. Red River College Polytechnic, Brandon University, University of Manitoba, Assiniboine Community College, University College of the North, University of Winnipeg);

- Manitoba-based research institute (e.g. Children’s Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, St Boniface Research Centre, Chronic Disease Innovation Centre); or
- Regional health authority (e.g. Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Prairie Mountain Health, Shared Health, etc).

The event may be a one-time or recurring event that creates opportunities for Manitobans to exhibit or share research-related knowledge.

Please see the table below for examples of eligible and ineligible events. If you are unsure of your eligibility, we recommend you contact [Research Manitoba](#) to determine your eligibility in advance of applying.

Commonly funded events include: symposiums, professional development events, workshops and poster presentations. For additional information, please see [Appendix B](#) which lists selected events previously funded through Research Connections.

Both physical and digital events are eligible for funding, as well as private and public events. Events can be specific to an area of humanities, health, social science, engineering, natural science, or they can be cross-disciplinary.

Eligible Events	Ineligible Events
Takes place within twelve months after the intake’s deadline.	Takes place before the application's deadline or more than 12 months after.
Primary purpose is to promote Manitoba-based organizations/researchers.	Primary purpose is an out-of-province organization’s hosted event.
Not affiliated with a political party or religious organization.	Politically or religiously affiliated.
Event location is within Manitoba.	Event location is outside of Manitoba (note: this does not apply to online events).
Purpose is to promote knowledge translation and distribution.	Purpose is primarily fundraising.
Event takes place over five days or less.	Event is more than five days long.

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Research Manitoba recognizes that research growth is only achievable by equitable and collaborative practices with diverse communities. Representation of researchers who are members of racialized, sexual and gender diverse, and disability communities is important to ensure the growth of research in Manitoba remains strong. We recognize the historic inequalities of research conducted on these communities, particularly Indigenous communities

in Manitoba, and will prioritize applications that showcase equitable practices.

These practices may include:

- Having organizers from equity-deserving communities (self-identification fields are included in the application).
- Commissioning accommodation services such as ASL interpreters, translators and virtual access to seminars.
- Including Indigenous knowledge keepers in events that include activity with Indigenous communities.

8. Application Requirements

The link for applications can be found on the [Research Connections](#) webpage, all required fields must be completed and the file sent as a PDF to info@researchmb.ca. Scanned and mailed forms will not be accepted in order to ensure timely processing. Please do not include additional attachments with your application.

Required fields:

- General Event Information
- Applicant Information
- Post-secondary Institution/Research Institute Information
- Budget
- Risks
- Applicant & Institute Signatures

Optional fields:

- Equity and Diversity Information
- Social Media Information
- Additional Notes

If you require accommodation to complete the application, please contact [Research Manitoba](#).

Once an approval letter is circulated, it must be confirmed by the applicant within **two weeks** following the sent date of the letter. All communication will be sent electronically to the email address specified in the application.

9. Assessment Criteria

Applications are evaluated by Research Manitoba staff within one month following the application deadline.

In order to be approved for funding, the applicant's event must meet all of the criteria outlined in this program guide, and all fields must be completed on the application form.

Applicants may resubmit a declined request for the same event in a future intake, as long as the event takes place within 12 months following the deadline.

10. Payment Policy

Payment will be distributed only to an accredited Manitoba post-secondary institution or research institute which will administer the funds. Payment will be distributed within one month of receiving the applicant's signed approval form.

11. Reporting Policies and Other Information

Research Manitoba reserves the right to determine the eligibility of applications, based on the information therein. Research Manitoba also reserves the right to interpret the regulations and policies governing its funding opportunities.

All applicants and grant holders must comply with the regulations set out in the Research Manitoba [Finance and Administration Guide](#).

Research funds are to be spent according to budgets approved during the review and decision process.

Grant holders need Research Manitoba approval for reallocation only if the change involved is 25% or more of the grant's total, or if the event's end date is rescheduled more than six months after.

Grant recipients are to report the outputs and outcomes of their funded research project within two months of the completion of their event. A completion report template will be sent to the recipient after the recipient confirms their acceptance of the grant.

An applicant may not reapply for a Research Connections grant if their previous final report has not been submitted.

12. Contact Information

For questions regarding this program, please contact info@researchmb.ca.

Appendix A – Projects Previously Funded Through Research Connections

Below are instances of events funded by Research Connections in the past, showcasing the diversity and scale of research-related events that could qualify for funding:

- Applied Research and Innovation Day
- Cardiovascular Forum for Promoting Centres of Excellence and Young Investigators
- Creative Writing Research Workshops
- Discovery Days in Health Sciences
- Encounters with Imaginaries and Transcultural Imaginaries in Canada and the Americas
- Health, Leisure & Human Performance Research Institute Research Day
- Heart and Stroke Primary Prevention Research Workshop, Winnipeg
- Manitoba Neuroscience Network Scientific Meeting
- Manitoba Undergraduate Healthcare Symposium
- Manitoba Violence and Injury Prevention Initiative - Research and Networking Day
- Med in the City Gala
- Museum Queeries and Curatorial Dreams: A Workshop on LGBTTTQ+2S Issues and Museums
- Newman Stephens International Symposium on Smooth Muscle and Asthma
- Placing Justice: Critical Perspectives on Space, Justice, Law and Order
- Prairie Infectious Immunology Network
- Prairie Organics: Think Whole Farm
- Spinal Cord Research Symposium
- Student Symposium on Functional Foods and Natural Products
- The Social Brain: Fostering Connections to Understand the Neural Basis of Sociality
- Therapeutic Applications of Functional Foods and Bioactives
- Two-Spirit and Queer People of Colour: A Call to Conversation with LGBT and Allies
- Workshop on Small Animal MR and Hybrid PET/MR imaging