2025 INDIGENOUS SRC DISTINCTION FUND COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Available Funding	One grant of a maximum of $25,000 for up to two years. This funding opportunity will be offered biennially.
Purpose	The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund provides internal funds in support of the advancement of Indigenous faculty members' SRC activities. Preference will be given to a project which has Indigenous community or research partnership(s) and/or addresses issues of significance to Indigenous peoples in an urban context and/or is working with Indigenous undergraduate and/or graduate student(s).
Submission Deadline	Monday, November 25, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
Eligible	Indigenous tenured or tenure-track professors across all faculties are eligible to apply. Applications can be submitted by an individual researcher or a team of researchers with a nominated PI. Emerging researchers/scholars and established researchers/scholars are encouraged to apply and will be reviewed against the weighted criteria as set out in the review procedures below.
Not Eligible	You are not eligible to apply to this competition if you have any internal* or external funding for any SRC activities proposed for funding in the Indigenous SRC Distinction proposal. This means that proposals must be independent of, but can be built upon or related to, existing or past funded work. There must, however, be no duplication of funding. *For the purposes of this funding opportunity, start-up funds and the Supplemental Indigenous SRC Fund are not included in the scope of internal funding.
Review Process	The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund Review Committee will assess the submitted applications and recommend a ranked list to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI) for final approval and dissemination of funds.
How to Apply	Download and complete the Application Package. Please see the Application Guidelines below for full details. Submit for funding online via the university's Research Information System (RIS). Applications will not be accepted via email.

Information Session	Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. EST. This session will review the application process and requirements. [Sign up for the information session](#) to receive the Zoom link.
OVPRI Contact	Laura Zeno, Programs Assistant, Internal SRC Funding and Awards Email: srcfunding@torontomu.ca	Phone: 416-979-5000 ext. 553553

2025 INDIGENOUS SRC DISTINCTION FUND COMPETITION APPLICATION GUIDELINES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Monday, November 25, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST.

Applications submitted to RIS after this deadline will be considered late and will not be accepted by the system.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

This funding opportunity will be offered once every two years. The maximum amount of funding that will be granted for this fund is one award of $25,000 for up to two years.

You will not be penalized if your budget request is less than the maximum amount.

DESCRIPTION

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) is committed to the university's collective advancement and support of Indigenous scholarship as outlined both in the Community Consultation Summary Report (2018) and more recently in the Next Chapter action plan. To that end, the OVPRI has established a funding opportunity to recognize and support Indigenous faculty members' leading SRC excellence at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU).

The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund provides internal funds in support of Indigenous faculty members' SRC activities. Preference will be given to a project which has Indigenous community or research partnership(s) and/or addresses issues of significance to Indigenous peoples in an urban context and/or is working with Indigenous undergraduate and/or graduate student(s).

Foundational to SRC activity at the university are the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and access. Together, these principles underscore our commitment to and expression of social justice and are essential to our integrated approach to SRC activity as they cross-cut the university's strategic SRC themes and objectives and contribute to inclusive excellence.

As outlined in the Tri-Agency statement on equity, diversity and inclusion, we are "acting on the evidence that achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding and respond to local, national and global challenges".

Learn more about equity, diversity, inclusion and access at TMU.

ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBLE

Indigenous tenured or tenure-track professors across all faculties are eligible to apply. Emerging researchers/scholars and established researchers/scholars are encouraged to apply and will be reviewed against the weighted criteria as set out in the review procedures below.

NOT ELIGIBLE

You are not eligible to apply for this competition if you have any internal* or external funding for any SRC activities proposed for funding in the Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund proposal. This means that proposals must be independent of, but can be built upon or related to, existing or past funded work. There must however be no duplication of funding.

*For the purposes of this funding opportunity, start-up funds and the Supplemental Indigenous SRC Fund are not included in the scope of internal funding.

ETHICS APPROVAL

TMU research is governed by policies and practices that ensure the protection of research participants, researchers (faculty, students and staff members), the university and the public. These policies and practices cover research involving humans, the use of animals, controlled goods and hazardous materials, among others.

All funded or unfunded research involving humans, animals or controlled goods undertaken at the university's facilities and conducted by university faculty, students and staff is subject to university review and approval prior to the disbursement of any funds.

For more information, please visit the TMU research ethics website.

SRC INTEGRITY

As set out in Policy #118 – Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity (SRC) Integrity Policy, TMU expects that all members of the university (including faculty, staff and students), as well as those who are not members of the university but who are conducting research on university premises or using university resources, will observe the highest standards of SRC integrity in the conduct of their SRC activities.

The Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation, is responsible for implementing the Senate policy on SRC integrity (Policy 118). Information about SRC Integrity values and principles can be found in the SRC Research Integrity Training Modules and/or the SRC Reference Guide for Research Integrity.

TERM OF AWARD

Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund grants will be awarded for a period of two years. Projects must commence within three months of the award of funding.

Extensions may be permitted under extraordinary circumstances up to a maximum of one year. Unused funds at the end of the grant period will be automatically returned to the OVPRI.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Recipients of an Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund grant are asked to acknowledge the university in the dissemination of research results. The following wording is suggested:

"This research [or activity] has been supported by Toronto Metropolitan University's Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund."

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipients of an Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund grant are required to submit a report within three months of completion of the project or two years after the release of funds, whichever comes first. Recipients will receive information about how to complete the online report.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Please download and complete the [Application Package](#) to complete your application. This package must be completed and uploaded in order to be deemed eligible for review.

   This fillable PDF form consists of the following sections:

   a. **Cover Page** (maximum 1 page)

   b. **Proposal**

      i. **Project Description** (maximum 3 pages)
         Applications should describe the research/project in enough detail to allow informed assessment by the Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund Review Committee members. Since not all Committee members will have an intimate knowledge of the subject matter of all proposals, the proposal must avoid jargon and highly technical content.

         The project description must include:

         • **Objectives** – The specific nature and objectives of the SRC project to be funded. As preference will be given to a project which has Indigenous community or research partnership(s) and/or addresses issues of significance to Indigenous peoples in an urban context and/or is working with Indigenous undergraduate and/or graduate

student(s), please ensure that the project description addresses these preferences, if applicable.

- **Context** – A brief literature review to situate the proposed project and, as appropriate, its theoretical approach. The context should also include the project's relevance, potential impacts and/or contributions to the respective field of study.
- **Methods** – The methods to be employed, as well as analysis strategies and data sovereignty considerations, as appropriate.
- **Timeline** – The time period within which the work will be undertaken.
- **Appendix** (Optional) – Up to a limit of 2 pages of visual assets such as timelines, graphs or imagery may be uploaded to your GAF separately as an Appendix.

    ii. **Knowledge Mobilization and Anticipated Outcomes** (maximum 1 page)
There should be a clear indication of the expected outcome(s) of the proposed SRC project (e.g., publications, presentations, preliminary stage of a large project, community engagement initiatives/outreach, etc.), including any relevant student/HQP training. As appropriate, proposals should indicate how the SRC project will prepare the applicant for future externally funded opportunities.

    iii. **List of References** (maximum 1 page)

  c. **Budget and Budget Justification** (maximum 1 page)
An itemized budget explaining the relationship of the funds requested to the proposed SRC project.

Note on eligible expenses: Funds can be used only for research-related costs, including costs related to Indigenous community or research partnership(s) and those that conform to the university's guidelines regarding pay and benefit rates and allowable expenses. Please refer to the [financial services website](#) for guidance.

2. **Updated Common CV (CCV)**
Please submit your updated CCV. If you cannot provide a CV in CCV format, please submit your updated OCGS CV. See "Curriculum Vitae (CV) in the OCGS Format" on the [Faculty Affairs website](#). Please highlight, in yellow, relevant key contributions related to the proposal.
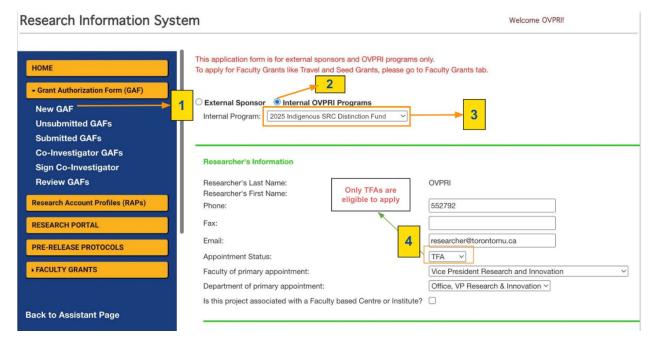
APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Log in to the university [Research Information System (RIS)](#):

1. Under "Grant Authorization Form (GAF)", select "New GAF."
2. Select "Internal OVPRI Programs."
3. From the Internal Program drop-down list, select "2025 Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund."
Note: If you select the wrong program, your application will not be considered.

4. Check your appointment status. Only TFA members are eligible to apply.
5. Upload the following application documents as two separate PDF documents:
   a. Completed Application Package (1 PDF document).
   b. Updated Common CV (or OCGS CV) (1 document).
6. When the application is ready to submit, click the "Submit for Approval" button before the deadline.

The completed application must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST on Monday, November 25, 2024. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Committee Structure

The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund Review Committee will consist of one TFA faculty member recommended by the Associate Deans, Research from each of the faculties, one Indigenous staff member and one Indigenous undergraduate/graduate student, and includes the Associate Vice-President, Research and Innovation (AVPRI) as an ex-officio non-voting member. At its discretion, the Committee will be chaired by either the AVPRI or one member selected by a majority of the Committee.

The Committee will be composed of Indigenous reviewers and, as needed, non-Indigenous reviewers who have experience and expertise in Indigenous-focused research and, preferably, Indigenous community research experience.

The recommended ranked list will be forwarded to the VPRI for final approval and dissemination of funds.

Preparation for Review

The Review Committee will be guided by:

- [SSHRC Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)
- [Chapter 9 of the TCPS2: Research Involving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed using the following weighted criteria:

Criterion	Emerging Scholar Scoring	Established Scholar Scoring
Feasibility and challenge	45	35
Contribution to HQP training and development	20	30
Knowledge mobilization	35	35
Total	**100**	**100**

For the purpose of this funding opportunity, the following definition of an emerging researcher/scholar will be used.

Emerging Researcher/Scholar

An emerging researcher/scholar is someone who has not yet had the opportunity to establish an extensive record of SRC achievements but is in the process of building one. To identify themselves as an emerging scholar, the applicant must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have completed their highest terminal degree no more than seven years before the competition deadline (TMU considers only the date of completion of the first terminal degree).
- Have held a tenured or tenure track academic appointment for less than seven years total at any institution.

The emerging researcher/scholar window can be adjusted for all eligible approved leaves. Professional leaves (e.g., training, sabbatical, administrative) are not credited.

Communication of Results

Applicants will be informed of the competition results via email in early February 2025. Reviewers' comments will be shared anonymously with applicants after the results have been announced.