

Research Support Fund Program – 2015-16

The Research Support Fund assists Canadian postsecondary institutions and their affiliated research hospitals and institutes with the expenses associated with managing the research funded by the three federal research granting agencies:

- the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR);
- the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) (NSERC); and
- the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC).

Every year, the federal government invests in research excellence in the areas of health sciences, engineering, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities through its three granting agencies. The Research Support Fund reinforces this research investment by helping institutions ensure that their federally funded research projects are conducted in world-class facilities with the best equipment and administrative support available.

[Eligible institutions](#) receive an annual grant through the fund to help pay for a portion of the central and departmental administrative costs related to federally funded research.

The program (formerly known as the Indirect Costs Program) was introduced in 2003 as part of the federal government's strategy to make Canada one of the world's top countries in research and development. It currently has a budget of \$342 million and serves 126 postsecondary institutions across the country.

More details about the Program can be found at http://www.rs-fsr.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx.

Definition of the Indirect Costs of Research

Indirect Costs (IDCs) are real costs attributable to SRC activities. IDCs are those costs incurred at the University that are necessary for maintaining an environment and infrastructure that support research. IDCs are incurred at faculty and departmental levels for purposes common to all research projects, programs, or activities of the University, but which cannot be identified and charged directly to individual projects, programs, or activities with a reasonable degree of accuracy, and/or without an inordinate amount of accounting.

IDCs include but are not limited to:

- Faculty salaries and benefits, where these are not charged directly to a research contract or grant.
- Building construction, maintenance, and depreciation costs (including costs of renovations required for specific laboratories, heating, cooling, and lights).

- Maintenance, upgrading, and depreciation of equipment that enable faculty to undertake SRC activities.
- University, Faculty, and departmental/school administration such as payroll, human resources, accounting, purchasing and accounts receivable, insurance/risk management, occupational health and safety, legal costs, etc.
- Library and other research resources, including maintenance of online search capabilities and databases.
- Central computing services.
- Financing (e.g., payment of salaries for students or research technicians, purchase of materials and supplies prior to the billing and receipt of revenue from a sponsor).
- Intellectual property assessment, advice, and protection.

Impacts of the Indirect Costs Grant

Below are some specific examples of how the funds were used. In general, the renovations have increased our capacity to undertake leading-edge scholarly, research, and creative (SRC) activities, as can be seen from the results associated with various labs. The projects are also linked to the themes that have been identified in the development for our strategic SRC plan. The renovations made possible by this grant also support our growing graduate training mission.

In the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, the aerospace propulsion/heat transfer lab, the thermodynamic/heat transfer and the fluid mechanics lab, chemistry and biology cell/tissue physiology research labs were upgraded to meet new research standards. These labs are used by researchers and students.

Ryerson has undergone tremendous growth in the size of its student body, both in graduate and undergraduate numbers, as well as substantial growth in its SRC enterprises. This, coupled with space constraints, resulted in the movement of Research and Innovation, Financial Services, the School of Graduate Studies, and Human Resources to off-campus locations. The ICP has been used to cover part of the lease payments for the Research and Innovation, Financial Services, School of Graduate Studies, and Human Resources offices. The Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation has also grown in response to the increase in Ryerson's SRC dollars. Since 2007/08, grant funding has more than doubled.

Affiliation

Ontario Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit (OSSU)

Institutional Performance Objectives

Eligible expenditure category	Institutional performance objective
Research Facilities	Establish a new biomedical engineering and science research facility in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael's Hospital Establish a new Coordinating Centre to coordinate and integrate activities of the 12 OSSU Research Centres
Research Resources	Development of an Archives and Special Collections Research Centre
Management and Administration	Increase the volume of grants applications and research revenue Increase administrative support to the OSSU Coordinating Centre
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	Increase the number of reviews of ethics protocols
Intellectual Property	Increase intellectual property activities