SSHRC … the Mystery

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the Mystery

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Preparing Research Grant Proposals: CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC
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What does SSHRC fund?
General Guidelines for the Eligibility of Subject Matter at SSHRC

Applications to SSHRC as the primary source of research or research training support must meet the following two criteria:

The program of research must be primarily in the social sciences and humanities (i.e., aligned with SSHRC's legislated mandate).

The intended outcome of the research must primarily be to add to our understanding and knowledge of individuals, groups and societies—what we think, how we live, and how we interact with each other and the world around us.

(http://www. sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx)
Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications Related to Health

New guidelines regarding subject matter eligibility for health-related research came into effect in 2009. The following are considerations when preparing or assessing the eligibility of the subject matter of applications related to health:

Investigators whose proposed research is health-related should consult CIHR’s mandate first to explore eligibility. CIHR has policies and procedures in place to adjudicate the full range of social science and humanities research proposals related to health research. Research eligible under the mandate of CIHR will not be considered by SSHRC.

The use of social science or humanities theories, methodologies and hypotheses is, in and of itself, not sufficient to make a proposal eligible at SSHRC.

(http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx)
We support research and talent that are central to quality of life and innovation.

SSHRC-supported research in the social sciences and humanities enhances our understanding of modern social, cultural, technological, environmental, economic and *wellness* issues.

*(from their legislated mandate)*

Ineligible for SSHRC Support

Social science or humanities research that is primarily intended to improve and/or increase knowledge of health, health care and health-care systems in Canada or internationally is not eligible for support from SSHRC. Examples of ineligible research include:

• socio-economic and cultural determinants of health, including theoretical and empirical research on the social construction of health, sickness and health behaviour;

• health promotion (e.g., healthy eating, disease prevention and education) and health behaviour (e.g., addictions, physical fitness, movement and exercise studies, cultural and social variables that affect health behaviour);

• clinical research (e.g., treatment, prevention or diagnosis of a condition or disease; testing the impact of medication or medical aids);

• therapy (e.g., counselling, psychotherapy, rehabilitation and occupational therapy, validation/testing of diagnostic tools), including the use of performing/visual arts as an element of therapy;

• health policy, management and law (e.g., care practices and service provision, practical/clinical training of health professionals, access to and quality of care, cost management in health care, liability of practitioners, health insurance, health record systems, evaluation of health programs and/or services);

• humanities perspectives on health, including health ethics; or
• knowledge translation research related to health (e.g., research that informs health policy, treatment and/or services).

(http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx)
Eligible for SSHRC Support

Proposals may be eligible if there is no intent to directly or indirectly impact health, or if health is a subsidiary element in a study intended to increase our understanding of individuals, groups and/or societies. Eligible research may include, for example:

• comparative studies in which health is not the primary object of study (e.g., health care workers as a group in a comparative study on the use of the Internet for distance education);

• historical and/or archaeological research where there is no intent to influence health (e.g., biographies of health practitioners or health scientists; health and hygiene in ancient civilizations);

• economic or management analysis unrelated to improved health or health care (e.g., the impact of the health-care industry on national or local economies; the impact of epidemics on the profitability of insurance companies);

• cinematic or other artistic portrayals of illness in which health promotion is not a central aim; or

• religious and/or cultural research related to dietary or other practices (e.g., fasting, vegetarianism), in which health is not the central focus of research.

(http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx)
see the SSHRC web site:


for more details re: psychology and cross-agency research
SSHRC Program Architecture Changes

(the material in the following sequence of slides is derived from a number of documents which can be found by following the links at: http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/news_room-salle_de_presse/program_renewal-renouvellement_programme-eng.aspx)
CURRENT PROGRAMS

Research Development Initiatives
Strategic research development grants (several)

Standard Research Grants
Strategic research grants (several)

Aid to Scholarly Workshops & Conferences
International Opportunities Fund: Workshops & Conferences
Public Outreach Workshops & Conferences Grants

Public Outreach Dissemination Grants
Tools aspects of Standard Research Grants
Image, Text, Sound and Technology: Summer Institutes

Aid to Scholarly Journals

Community-University Research Alliance
Major Collaborative Research Initiatives
Strategic Knowledge Clusters
Knowledge Impact in Society

RENEWED PROGRAM ARCHITECTURE

Research Development Grants
Research Grants
Workshops and Conferences
Outreach and Tools
No changes at this time
Partnership Development Grants
Partnership Grants
No changes at this time

INSIGHT

CONNECTION

INSIGHT & TALENT
SSHRC Programs:

**Insight**
The goal of the Insight program is to build knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world by supporting research excellence in all subject areas eligible for funding from SSHRC.

**Connection**
The goal of the Connection program is to realize the potential of social sciences and humanities research for intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact on and beyond the campus by supporting specific activities and tools that facilitate the multidirectional flow of research knowledge.
Insight
(as of next year)

goal is to build knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world by supporting research activities

Funds to go to individuals and teams

Research Development Grants – from $7k to $100k over one to three years
Short term funding for the purpose of supporting research in its initial stages and developing new questions and approaches
• Assessment – no external reviewers
  Tight focus of committees (only 5)
• Evaluation: Challenge – aim and importance of the endeavor – 50%
  Feasibility – the plan to achieve excellence - 40%
  Capability – the expertise to succeed – 10%
goal is to build knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world by supporting research activities

Funds to go to individuals and teams

Research Grants – from $7k to $500k over three to five years
• Longer term support from the direct costs of research initiatives
• Intended to maintain and further develop vigorous disciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-sector research activities as well as expertise in a variety of thematic areas.

Assessment
• $7k to $300k will have 2 external reviewers
• $300k to $500k will have 3 external reviewers
• Regular spread of committees (18)

Evaluation: Challenge – aim and importance of the endeavor – 40%
Feasibility – the plan to achieve excellence - 40%
Capability – the expertise to succeed – 20%
Insight
(in place now)

goal is to build knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world by supporting research activities

Funds to go to partnerships

Partnership Development Grants – from $25k to $500k over one to three years
  • To develop new partnership activities and/or design and test new partnership methodologies and approaches with the potential for replications
  • Focused on research including the co-creation of knowledge, knowledge mobilization or a combination thereof.

Assessment – no external reviewers
  Range of committee options

Evaluation: Challenge – aim and importance of the endeavor – 40%
  Feasibility – the plan to achieve excellence - 30%
  Capability – the expertise to succeed – 30%
goal is to build knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world by supporting research activities

Funds to go to partnerships

**Partnership Grants** – from $500k to the sky over four to seven years

- To support existing or new formal partnerships for initiatives focused on research including the co-creation of knowledge, knowledge mobilization or a combination thereof.
- Must be led by an institution
- Involve an LOI – if successful, $20k is awarded for prep of full application

Assessment – does involve external reviewers

Range of committee options

**Evaluation:**
- *Challenge* – aim and importance of the endeavor – 40%
- *Feasibility* – the plan to achieve excellence - 30%
- *Capability* – the expertise to succeed – 30%
the goal is to facilitate multidirectional flow of knowledge

• Funding for workshops, conferences, outreach etc.
• Aid to scholarly journals
• Workshops and Conferences Grants
• Outreach and Tools grants
• Also partnership grants
• $7k to $500k
SSHRC’s Priorities

SSHRC funding, in most cases, is awarded through open competitions accessible to all disciplines, areas and themes. In certain cases, priorities have been identified for additional support. The priorities for this funding cycle are as follows:

- Aboriginal research;

- the environment (with additional funding provided to SSHRC in federal budget 2008);

- the North (with additional funding provided to SSHRC in federal budget 2008);

- new media (previously known as Image, Text, Sound and Technology);

- innovation, leadership and prosperity, as a result of additional funds provided to SSHRC by the Government of Canada for work in the area of “management, business and finance;”

- research/creation in the fine arts.

(see http://www sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/FramingOurDirection_2010-12_final_e.pdf)
General Application Tips

• the summary:
  • explain the research question and overall objectives
  • why is the project innovative and important (so what)?
  • outline research plans – go light on the methodology
  • what are the anticipated findings?
  • who will this information be used? – and by whom?
General Application Tips

- the detailed proposal:
  - introduce your project – similar but not word for word like the summary
  - define all key terms and concepts
  - avoid excessive use of jargon
  - what are the theoretical underpinnings of the research?
  - place your research in a broader disciplinary context
  - demonstrate a command of the relevant literature
  - highlight any debates around the topic
  - any preliminary work?
  - demonstrate your expertise
General Application Tips

• CV – indicate which contributions are SSHRC funded
  • a narrative CV helps the referees and committee understand your contributions

• this is especially with the SSHRC CV text section 3

• 3. MOST SIGNIFICANT CAREER RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

• ideally choose contribution that were SSHRC funded (and indicate that with an asterisk)
• indicate your role if multiauthored
• clearly indicate how the contribution is significant
• consider that you are trying to reach both experts in the field and scholars from other areas
General Application Tips

• indicate clearly how the work described in the application is aligned with your previous research
  • do this in both the project description and in your CV
  • in other words... convince the referees and committee that you have the knowledge and skill to pull off the project
General Application Tips

• Student Training and Knowledge Translation

• HQP – “highly qualified personnel”
  • why would graduate students want to come to work with you?
  • what specific skills will they gain?
  • how are those skills transferrable to academia and beyond?

• KT – it is not sufficient to simply list potential journals
  • which conferences will you present to and why those?
  • outreach? – digital portals, interaction with primary/secondary schools?
  • policy implications?
how can you beef up your CV?
• apply for internal funding
  • or for other funding opportunities
• publish, publish, publish
• conference presentations
General Application Tips

• get lots of input from colleagues
  • but also be aware of the SSHRC architecture changes, as some “old hands” may not be “au courant”
• 4A funding requirement (if at first you don’t succeed…)
  • have a colleague read the application and attest to the fact. If you achieve the rating of “approved but not funded” you are still eligible for funding from Research Western – see http://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/internal/sshrc_4a.html

• do your homework

• watch deadlines! – there is a Dean’s office deadline in advance of the agency deadline
General Application Tips

**TALK TO YOUR FACULTY’S RESEARCH OFFICER**
(in FSS – Erin Huner - ehuner@uwo.ca)

• make sure to fill out a ROLA

• see [http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/research/](http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/research/) for general information
and good luck!!!!