

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

# Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

How to apply

June 2026

**INNOVATION**  
Canada Foundation  
for Innovation    Fondation canadienne  
pour l'innovation

**Canada  
Impact+**  
Research  
Infrastructure  
Fund

Fonds  
d'infrastructure  
de recherche  
**Impact+  
Canada**



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## About the Canada Foundation for Innovation

With a bold, future-looking mandate, the CFI equips researchers to be global leaders in their fields and to respond to emerging challenges. Our investments in state-of-the-art tools, instruments and facilities at universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions underpin both curiosity- and mission-driven research that cuts across disciplines and bridges all sectors. The research infrastructure we fund mobilizes knowledge, spurs innovation and commercialization, and empowers the talented minds of a new generation.

[The Canada Foundation for Innovation respectfully acknowledges that its head office is located on the traditional, unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin People.](#)

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## Purpose of this document

This document complements the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund (CIRIF) call for proposals which was published in March 2026. It explains in more detail how to apply to the program and what documents and information must be submitted to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

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## Tools to apply

Use the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) to prepare, share and submit your proposals. This document, the [call for proposals](#) and the [Getting started with CAMS documents](#) contain all the information you need to apply to this program. All submissions must conform to these guidelines.

## Use of generative artificial intelligence

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in preparation of proposals is an emerging and complex issue. We encourage you to review and follow the Government of Canada's [Guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals](#). Institutions remain accountable for the complete contents of their application.

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## Proposal requirements

Each proposal to CIRIF will consist of four parts:

- Project module
- Finance module
- Suggested reviewers module
- Security module.

## Project module

The project module consists of the following sections:

- Project information
- Project summaries
- Researchers
- Emerging Leader proposed research program (if applicable)
- Financial resources for operation and maintenance
- Project characteristics.

## Project information

The "project information" section captures basic information about the project such as the title, applicant institution and keywords.

## Project summaries

### Plain language summary

For the plain language summary, briefly describe the research activities, how they are conducted and why they are important. Focus on the expected impacts and benefits to Canada, beyond academic accomplishments. This summary may be used in the CFI's communications products and on its website if the project is funded.

## Project summary

For the project summary, provide the same document you provided under “[Proposed research program](#)” in your application for the Canada Impact+ Research Chair. Since the chairholder’s research program and qualifications will have been assessed through their application to the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), the CFI will not reassess these elements, but we ask institutions to include them in the proposal for context.

If there are several chairholders included in one proposal, combine the proposed research program documents into one PDF document and upload it to CAMS.

## Researchers

Institutions are allowed to submit one proposal for each Canada Impact+ Research Chair they accept.

Identify up to 10 Canada Impact+ Research Chairs or Emerging Leaders who will directly benefit from the research infrastructure and the costs to operate and maintain it, as described in the budget. Only Canada Impact+ Research Chairs and Emerging Leaders can be included in CIRIF proposals.

## Emerging Leader proposed research program (if applicable)

Provide a summary of the Emerging Leader’s proposed research program, applying the same guidelines detailed under “[Proposed research program](#)” for Canada Impact+ Research Chairs to the Emerging Leader.

If there are several Emerging Leaders included in one proposal, combine the proposed research program summaries into one PDF document and upload them together.

## Financial resources for operation and maintenance

Within the table provided in this section, outline the overall annual costs of effectively operating and maintaining the research infrastructure, and the sources of support committed to contributing to these costs. Only include costs that will be incurred during the first five years after the infrastructure becomes operational.

Within the Finance module, include the total operating and maintenance (O&M) costs under “Cost of individual items.” Many of those costs will be more than what is included in the operation and maintenance table as they will extend beyond the first five years. The values do not need to match. (See “[Cost of individual items.](#)”)

Do not include costs related to research and/or technology development. If funding sources include CIRIF or the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF), list these in the “institutional contribution” category. For research grant support, only include amounts dedicated to operation and maintenance.

## Project characteristics

In order to report on the use of funds for CIRIF, we will collect data about the chairholders who apply. Instructions are provided within CAMS for how to address this section.

**Information provided in this section will not be available to reviewers and will not be used to assess or approve proposals. The data will only be used in aggregate form for statistical and possibly reporting purposes.**

## Finance module

The finance module in CAMS consists of the following sections:

- Cost of individual items
- Budget justification

- Construction or renovation attachment (if applicable)
- Contributions from eligible partners (if applicable)
- Infrastructure utilization
- Overview of infrastructure project funding (generated automatically).

## Cost of individual items

We recommend bundling items into functional groupings when completing the “Cost of individual items” section. Provide details and justification for each item within a group when addressing the budget justification.

### Including operating and maintenance costs in the budget

Projects funded through this program will not generate funding from the IOF for O&M costs. However, institutions may include O&M costs as part of the total eligible costs in a project’s budget. These costs should be listed under the appropriate type of expenditure (as per the options found in the dropdown menu) as part of the total cost over the life of the project (up until March 31, 2035).

For CIRIF, we have expanded eligible costs to include scientific and technical personnel for the operation and management of facilities supporting the chairholder’s research program.

Eligible activities performed by specialized personnel include:

- Managing and coordinating the infrastructure
- Operating and maintaining specialized equipment
- Interfacing with researchers from a variety of disciplines
- Conducting outreach with the private sector
- Training highly qualified personnel.

There is no limit to the portion of the budget that can be used for O&M costs. Describe these costs and any roles for personnel in the budget justification attachment.

## Budget justification

For the purposes of this funding program, the core of the review process will be based on the justification of the need for the infrastructure and O&M budget. The intent of CIRIF is to support the infrastructure needs of all chairholders. As such, proposals will not compete against one another.

**The proposal must demonstrate that the requested infrastructure and/or O&M support complements existing institutional capacity and creates an environment that fully supports the chairholder’s research program (and that of the Emerging Leader, if applicable) in Canada.**

Within the proposal:

- Describe how the research infrastructure supports the chairholder’s research program and strategic priority area. List each item, or functional grouping of items. Provide a cost breakdown for any grouping of items.
- Explain how the requested infrastructure complements the existing capacity at the institution in this area.
- If applicable, describe how the infrastructure supports the Canada Impact+ Emerging Leader’s research program.
- Describe the O&M costs and how they will be used to support the requested or existing research infrastructure in support of the chairholder and/or the Emerging Leader, including the role of any personnel for whom funding is requested. List each item, or functional grouping of items. Provide a cost breakdown for any grouping of items.

- For construction or renovation, provide a description of the space including its location, size and nature. Use the item number, quantity, cost and location found in the “Cost of individual items” table in CAMS. Note that for construction or renovation, a detailed cost breakdown, timeline and floor plans must be provided in a separate document.

## Attachment structure (PDFs)

Address the budget justification and proposed research program in PDF documents and upload them to CAMS.

CAMS will automatically paginate proposals when they are submitted. Do not paginate your document before uploading it to CAMS.

Since reviewers will assess proposals electronically, use a standard, single column on an 8.5” x 11” page layout. Avoid using a two column or landscape format since it is harder to read on screen.

Legibility is paramount and should take precedence in the selection of an appropriate font. Use a 12-point, black font and single line spacing (six lines per inch) with no condensed type or spacing.

We also expect documents to conform to the following guidelines:

- **Header:** Indicate the applicant institution on the top left and the project number on the top right of each page.
- **Footer:** Do not include any information in the footer as this area will be used for automatic page numbering.
- **Page margin:** Insert a margin of no less than one inch around the page. The header may be within the margin.
- **File format and size:** Only upload PDF files. Documents in other formats should be converted to PDF before being uploaded and should not be encrypted or password protected. The file size must not exceed 20 megabytes.

Adherence to these page formatting guidelines is necessary to ensure that reviewers receive legible proposals. If you do not adhere to these guidelines, we may return your proposal to be revised.

## Page limits

The page limit for your PDF document (budget justification) depends on whether you write your proposal in French or English. We allow more pages for proposals written in French. This provision is in support of evidence demonstrating that documents written in French require approximately 20 percent more space than similar documents in English, and will ensure an equitable amount of space for proposals written in either official language.

**Table 1: Page limits**

Proposals written in English	Proposals written in French
5 pages	6 pages

You have flexibility in how you address the budget justification. You could, for example, add figures and diagrams.

## Construction or renovation attachment

Provide the following information:

- A timeline of key dates for the various stages of the proposed construction or renovation
- Floor plans of the proposed new area(s), showing the location of the infrastructure and the scale of the plans (when construction or renovation involves multiple rooms; floor plans must be legible when printed in black and white on standard 8.5" x 11" letter-size paper)
- The overall cost of the construction or renovation project, categorized by cost component (i.e., direct costs, soft costs and contingency costs), when these costs are expected to be in excess of \$500,000.

Note: The timeline, floor plans and cost breakdown should be uploaded as a separate PDF document. These pages do not count toward the page limit for the "Budget justification" section of the proposal.

## Contributions from eligible partners

If applicable, list all contributions made by partners to the purchase of the infrastructure.

- Do not include the amount requested from the CFI.
- Provide the partner name and type, as well as a breakdown of contributions (cash and in-kind) for each eligible partner.
- Bundle all expected in-kind contributions from vendors into a single line.
- If partner contributions are expected but have not yet been confirmed, outline the plans for securing these funds.

The CFI may fund up to 100 percent of a project's eligible research infrastructure and O&M costs, to a maximum of \$6 million per project. Institutions are encouraged to seek additional partner funding where feasible, provided this does not delay project implementation.

## Infrastructure utilization

Explain the use of the requested infrastructure for CFI-eligible and non-eligible purposes and any applicable prorating of costs.

## Suggested reviewers module

Identify a minimum of six reviewers who are well qualified to review the proposal and who are not in conflict of interest. A conflict of interest may be deemed to exist or perceived as such when reviewers:

- Are a relative or close friend, or have a personal relationship with the project leader or other researchers included in the proposal
- Are in a position to gain or lose financially/materially from the funding of the proposal
- Have had long-standing scientific or personal differences with the project leader or other researchers included in the proposal
- Are currently affiliated with the project leader's or other researchers' institutions, organizations or companies, including research hospitals and research institutes
- Are closely professionally affiliated with the project leader or other researchers, as a result of having in the last six years:
  - Frequent and regular interactions with the project leader or other researchers in the course of their duties at their department, institution, organization or company
  - Been a supervisor or a trainee of the project leader or other researchers

- Collaborated, published or shared funding with the project leader or other researchers, or have plans to do so in the immediate future
- Been employed by the applicant institution
- Feel for any reason unable to provide an impartial review of the proposal.

Note: The decision whether to use suggested reviewers remains with the CFI.

## Research security module

Institutions applying for CFI funding have research security obligations at the time of application under both the Government of Canada's National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships and the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC). Visit our website to find out what your institution needs to provide with proposals to the Canada Impact + Research Infrastructure Fund to meet those requirements.

If you answer "yes" to the research security questions in the project module in CAMS, you will have access to the necessary documents in the research security module including STRAC attestation forms, Risk assessment forms and Private-sector partner identification forms.

Note that the CFI will work diligently with the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) for the assessment of national security risk when applicable.