

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

Guidelines for reviewers

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INNOVATION
Canada Foundation
for Innovation Fondation canadienne
pour l'innovation

**Canada
Impact+**
Research
Infrastructure
Fund

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



Review at a glance

- The intent of the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund (CIRIF) is to support the infrastructure needs of all chairholders that have been awarded under the Canada Impact+ Global Talent Initiative. Proposals submitted to this program are not in competition with each other.
- CIRIF reviewers will not reassess the chairholder's research program and qualifications, since those are assessed in the application for a Chair. We asked institutions to include them in the proposal for context.
- CIRIF reviewers will assess the need for the infrastructure and operating and maintenance (O&M) budget based on the justification provided in the proposal.

Key reviewer activities

Before the meeting	• Activate your account and log in to the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS). • Access the review materials on the "Reviewer" dashboard. • Attend the member briefing session via videoconference. • Evaluate the proposals based on the budget justification. • For each assigned proposal, prepare a preliminary assessment in CAMS.
At the meeting	• Reviewers discuss the strengths and weaknesses for each proposal to determine the funding recommendation. This discussion informs the committee reports. • CFI staff and the Chair guide the committee in reviewing each proposal.
After the meeting	• CFI staff draft committee reports for approval by the Chair.

What to assess

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.

Applicants were instructed to provide the following information in 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 Emerging Leader's research program.
- Describe the operating and maintenance (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 as part of the CAMS finance module.

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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.

Part 1: What you need to know about this funding program

In December 2025, the Government of Canada announced the Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative, a suite of programs that will attract leading international researchers to Canada.

This initiative represents one of the largest recruitment programs of its kind globally, uniquely designed for speed and flexibility in securing top research talent to ensure Canada remains at the forefront of scientific innovation.

Through this initiative, the Government of Canada will invest up to \$1.7 billion over 12 years to attract and support more than 1,000 leading international and expatriate researchers, including Francophone researchers. Recruitment will target individuals who are advancing world-leading research in critical fields that will deliver direct economic, societal and health benefits for Canadians.

This initiative has four streams:

- The Canada Impact+ Research Chairs program (now known as the Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada program) offers \$1 billion over 12 years to support institutions in attracting world-leading researchers. New Chairs and their teams will advance transformational research projects that can be applied and/or commercialized by connecting with receptors in industry, government and society, while also developing the next generation of highly qualified personnel. Importantly, the program funds both researcher salaries and supporting infrastructure, ensuring comprehensive support for recruited researchers.
- \$120 million over 12 years is being provided for institutions to attract international early career researchers (ECRs) through the Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders program. This program will add more global talent to the Canadian research ecosystem, bringing in fresh ideas, diverse perspectives and significant potential.
- \$400 million for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund over six years to establish a complementary stream of research infrastructure support to ensure the recruited Research Chairs and Emerging Leaders have the world-class facilities they need to achieve their research goals.
- The Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards will invest \$133.6 million over three years to enable top international doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers to relocate to Canada.

The guidelines covered in this document are only for reviewers assessing proposals in the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund stream of this initiative.

Strategic priorities

Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs are awarded in strategic priority areas established by the Government of Canada to address pressing global and domestic challenges, strengthen Canada's contribution to international research and innovation, and generate lasting social and economic benefits.

Chairs are expected to build significant new partnerships and collaborations with both Canadian and international entities (industry, health systems, government and not-for-profit organizations), as well as by and with Indigenous Peoples and communities, where appropriate.

A core expectation is that Chairs, and their research teams, will actively translate and mobilize research outcomes into practice, policy, and commercialization pathways that deliver measurable social and economic benefits for Canada and the world.

The Chair's research will advance one or more of the following strategic priority areas:

- Advanced digital technologies (including artificial intelligence, quantum and cybersecurity)
- Health, including biotechnology
- Clean technology and resource value chains
- Environment, climate resilience and the Arctic
- Food and water security
- Democratic and community resilience
- Manufacturing and advanced materials, and/or
- Defence and dual-use technologies.

Purpose of the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

The Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund (CIRIF) is designed to support Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs and, where applicable, Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders (administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS)) with the tools, facilities and infrastructure they need to undertake world-class research and transform their groundbreaking discoveries into innovative products, policies and solutions that benefit Canadians. TIPS will run two intakes for its Chairs program and the CFI will run two subsequent intakes for CIRIF to provide research infrastructure to the chairholders.

You can find more information about CIRIF in the [call for proposals](#).

Objectives of this funding program

The objectives of the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund are to:

- Ensure the recruited Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs and, where applicable, the Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders have access to the world-class research equipment and facilities they need to achieve their research and innovation goals
- Expand Canada's research capacity in strategic priority areas to address pressing global and domestic challenges
- Facilitate the transformation of bold discoveries into innovative products, ideas, policies and solutions that benefit Canada and the world
- Incentivize strategic partnerships across sectors, such as industry, health systems, government and not-for-profit organizations, to accelerate the translation of research into practice and enhance long-term adoption and impact.

All CIRIF proposals are submitted exclusively to support Chairs that have already been approved.

Program budget

The CFI will invest up to \$400 million in research infrastructure and operating and maintenance (O&M) funding and will fund up to 100 percent of those eligible costs for each project. Eligible projects can request up to \$6 million each from the CFI.

Review process

Proposals will be evaluated in a one-stage review process. The intent of CIRIF is to support the infrastructure needs of all chairholders. As such, proposals will not compete against one another. 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. Since the chairholder's research program and qualifications will have been assessed through their application submitted to TIPS, the review committees will not reassess these elements, but we ask institutions to include them in the proposal for context.

Composition of review committees

Review committees are composed of a diverse group of world-leading national and international academics, scientists and leaders from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, as appropriate for the proposals received. Reviewers will play a crucial role in upholding the integrity and quality of the review process. They will ensure that the review process is conducted consistently and in alignment with CIRIF's objectives, focusing on whether the requested infrastructure and operating and maintenance (O&M) support are appropriate and justified to effectively enable the chairholder(s) to undertake their research program.

Review committee roles and responsibilities

Chair

The Chair is responsible for leading the committee meeting, ensuring that it runs effectively and that the committee:

- Considers the views of all members
- Reviews all proposals fairly, consistently and according to the guidelines in this document
- Discusses each proposal in sufficient detail
- Achieves a consensus funding recommendation for each proposal
- Sufficiently substantiates the committee's conclusions so CFI staff can prepare draft committee reports.

The Chair is also responsible for ensuring that the committee report for each proposal accurately reflects the discussion at the meeting.

Members

Members will review each proposal, with subsets of proposals assigned to specific committee members for in-depth review. Members will be asked to submit preliminary comments from their in-depth reviews before the committee meets.

CFI staff

CFI staff members will host the meeting and draft reports. Sometimes, additional CFI staff observe meetings for training purposes.

Observers

To coordinate the review processes and avoid duplication of efforts, we may invite some members of senior management and/or other partners of the Canada Impact+ Global Talent Initiative to observe the review committee meetings.

Funding decisions

The CFI Board of Directors will make funding decisions for this program at its next scheduled meeting. Board meetings are typically held in March, June and November each year. Following the meeting, applicants will receive funding decisions and the committee reports including committee membership.



The CFI's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

The CFI is committed to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. In all our activities, we recognize that a breadth of perspectives, skills and experiences contributes to excellence in research.

Equity: We aim to ensure all CFI-eligible institutions have the opportunity to access and benefit from our programs and CFI-funded infrastructure through our well-established, fair and impartial practices.

Diversity: We value attributes that allow institutions and their researchers — from any background and from anywhere — to succeed. This includes individual attributes such as gender, language, culture and career stage; institutional attributes

such as size, type and location; and attributes that encompass the full spectrum of research, from basic to applied and across all disciplines.

Inclusion: We encourage a culture of collaboration, partnership, contributions and engagement among diverse groups of people, institutions and areas of research to maximize the potential of Canada's research ecosystem.

We believe that nurturing an equitable, diverse and inclusive culture is the responsibility of every member of the research ecosystem, including funders, institutions, researchers, experts and reviewers.

Principles of review

Our review process is governed by the underlying principles of integrity and confidentiality. This is to ensure that we continue to have the trust and confidence of the research community, the government and the public. All reviewers must follow our [conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement](#).

Integrity

We expect reviewers to maintain the highest standards of ethics and integrity. This means that personal interests must never influence, or be seen to influence, the outcome. You are appointed as an individual, not as an advocate or representative of your discipline(s) or organization. If you have a conflict of interest, you should declare it to the CFI. We will determine if the conflict of interest is manageable or if we must withdraw your invitation to be a reviewer.

Confidentiality

When you agree to review for the CFI, you are bound by our confidentiality agreement. This means that everything we send you is confidential and must be treated as such at all times. You must not discuss or share proposals with anyone. If you do not think you have the expertise to provide a useful review without discussing it with a colleague, you should decline the invitation.

Use of generative artificial intelligence

Do not use generative AI tools in the review of proposals. Inputting proposal information into generative AI tools such as ChatGPT or DeepL, which may store and reuse the data for future enhancement of the tool, could result in breaches of privacy and the loss of custody of intellectual property and would place you in breach of our conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement. For more information, 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](#).

Avoiding bias

Review is subjective by nature. Bias can be unconscious and show up in several ways. It could be based on:

- A school of thought or ideas about fundamental versus applied or translational research, areas of research, sub-disciplines or approaches (including emerging ones)
- The size or reputation of a participating institution
- The age, language, identity factors or gender of the applicant.

We strongly encourage you to complete the [Learning Modules: Addressing Bias in Peer Review](#) developed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. These short online modules promote understanding of bias, how it can affect review and ways to mitigate bias. (See "[The CFI's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion](#).")

Official languages

The CFI offers its services in both of Canada's official languages — French and English. We must ensure that all proposals in either official language receive a full and detailed review. If you have been assigned a proposal in a language that you cannot understand, contact us immediately and we will reassign the proposal to another reviewer.

Part 2 – How to conduct your review

Use the CFI tools to conduct your review

Use CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) to access the documents and information you need to conduct your review. We will create a CAMS account for you once you have accepted to participate in the review process. If you already have a CAMS account, you can use it to access the review materials for this program.

CAMS is divided into dashboards for different types of users. The “Reviewer” dashboard is where you will access the review materials and conduct your assessment.

Consult [Getting started with CAMS: An overview document for reviewers](#) for more information on using CAMS.

Meeting logistics

The committee will meet by videoconference. We will provide instructions for connecting to the videoconferencing platform in advance of the meeting.

Table 1: Summary of key activities for the review committee

Before the meeting	• Activate your account and log in to the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS). • Access the review materials on the “Reviewer” dashboard. • Attend the member briefing session via videoconference. • Evaluate the proposals based on the budget justification. • For each assigned proposal, prepare a preliminary assessment in CAMS.
At the meeting	• Reviewers discuss the strengths and weaknesses for each proposal to determine the funding recommendation. This discussion informs the committee reports. • CFI staff and the Chair guide the committee in reviewing each proposal.
After the meeting	• CFI staff draft committee reports for approval by the Chair.

Step 1 – Before the meeting

Access the review materials

Soon after the proposal deadline, you will receive an email to activate your account on CAMS. If you already have an account, you will receive an email to notify you when the review materials are available in CAMS. Consult [Getting started with CAMS: An overview for reviewers](#) for more information.

To access the review materials and assessment form, simply click on “CIRIF Committee” to bring you to the review and documentation page. On this page, you will find the relevant reference materials (e.g., guidelines for CIRIF reviewers, preliminary report template, meeting details).

There are also two tabs on this page:

- The “Project material” tab, where you will find the proposals
- “Your review” tab.

The list of projects assigned to you will be listed in a table. Clicking on a given project number will bring you to the assessment form for this project. For each project, you will need to assess the budget justification and provide a funding recommendation. Please add any comments you feel are necessary as part of your review. Once you are done your assessment of the projects assigned to you, you must then submit them to the CFI by clicking the “Submit” button. For convenience, you will also be able to download all of your preliminary ratings into a single Excel file for use at the meeting.

Pre-meeting briefing

CFI staff will maintain regular contact with committee members by email or telephone before the meeting to ensure all members have the necessary information to conduct their review.

Once all members have activated and accessed their CAMS account, CFI staff will schedule a briefing session with all committee members to introduce the review materials in the CAMS reviewer dashboard and to explain the process.

Conduct your preliminary assessment

The committee will review each proposal in the context of the budget justification.



Assessing proposals

For the purposes of this funding program, the core of the assessment 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. Since the chairholder's research program and qualifications will have been assessed through their application submitted to TIPS, the Review Committees will not reassess these elements, but we ask institutions to include them in the proposal for context.

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, applicants were asked to:

- 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 operating and maintenance (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.

Each reviewer will be assigned a number of proposals for an in-depth review. Some of these proposals will be outside of your general area of expertise. You are also expected to read all of the proposals in order to be familiar enough to engage fully in the committee's discussions.

A lead reviewer and two other reviewers will be assigned to each proposal. The lead reviewer should be prepared to briefly (one minute) introduce the proposal. All three assigned reviewers will be expected to discuss their assessment with the committee.

Preliminary assessments of the proposals assigned to you must be completed in CAMS (see "Access the review materials" section) and submitted to the CFI at least one week prior to the meeting.

Preliminary assessments will not be provided to applicants. They will only be used to help us identify areas for discussion at the meeting and to inform the committee reports.

Step 2 – At the meeting

At the meeting, CFI staff will make introductory remarks and explain the review process. Thereafter, each proposal will be discussed in turn, allowing approximately 20 minutes per proposal. Each reviewer assigned to the proposal being discussed will in turn share their preliminary assessment of the proposal before the rest of the committee shares theirs. This step will be followed by a general discussion among the entire committee.

For each proposal, the discussion will focus on the budget justification. Following the discussion, the committee must reach a consensus on the funding recommendation.

Contributions from the CFI, when combined with partner funding, should cover the total eligible costs of infrastructure projects. Therefore, funding will be for the full amount unless there are ineligible (or unreasonable) costs.

Given the goal of the program is to support the needs of all the Chairs, if the committee feels that there is not a sufficient justification for the budget, they can make a conditional funding recommendation and ask for further information from the institution. This may become an iterative process where the reviewers revisit the supplementary justification from the institution following the meeting to lift the condition.

The review committee may also recommend reduced or conditional funding in cases where some budget items are not deemed to be essential or clearly justified to achieve the proposed research objectives. When the full amount is not recommended, the committee will need to justify the level of funding or outline questions that the applicant must address to justify the full request.

Step 3 – After the meeting

CFI staff draft committee reports and send them to the Chair for final approval.

If conditional funding is recommended, we may ask reviewers assigned to the proposal to assess whether the response from the institution satisfies the condition, which will determine if the funding can be confirmed.

Reviewers should securely destroy any review materials they download or print.

We will share a survey with reviewers to collect feedback and suggestions on the review process and funding program.