

## What is a SIG?

Through its SSHRC Institutional Grants (SIG) funding opportunity, SSHRC provides annual block grants to help eligible Canadian postsecondary institutions fund small-scale research and research-related activities by their faculty in the social sciences and humanities. SIGs are intended to help Canadian postsecondary institutions develop, maintain or strengthen research capacity and excellence in the social sciences and humanities. SIG funds may be used to:

- assist social sciences and humanities researchers with modest research funding requirements;
- support national and international knowledge mobilization within and/or beyond the research community; and
- support the training of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP).

SSHRC expects that all SIG-funded research training will incorporate appropriate dimensions of the [Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#).

The amount of the grant awarded to Nipissing University is determined partly by the number of faculty members in the humanities and social sciences but primarily by the total value of research grants awarded to the University by SSHRC over the three previous competition years. Grants are calculated once per three-year funding cycle.

Nipissing University uses the SIG primarily to support small research projects and research dissemination through Explore and Exchange grants. **The priority of the SIG grant for Nipissing University is to increase application numbers and success rate when applying to external SSHRC opportunities** (e.g., Insight Grants, Connection Grants, Partnership Grants).

## Eligibility

All regular faculty, including tenured, tenure-track and limited-term faculty of two or more years are eligible. Postdoctoral fellows may also apply. Principal applicants must maintain their affiliation with the university for the duration of the grant (typically one year).

SIG applications may be used to support research and research-related activities in one to several of the disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding. Please see [Subject Matter Eligibility](#) for more information.

## Competitions & Deadlines

One SIG competition will be held in 2024-25:

Application Deadline	Anticipated Notification of Award	Funds available to recipients
February 3	March	April 1

## Types of Awards

The total number of awards for each competition will depend on the amount of funds available. The call for proposals will include the total funds for the competition. There are 3 types of SIGs:

<b>Explore Grants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allow for small-scale innovation and experimentation by providing funding to develop a research project or conduct pilot work</li> <li>▪ Enable researchers to hire students at any level to participate in their research projects, thereby contributing to their professional development</li> <li>▪ The maximum funding per grant is \$7,000</li> <li>▪ Reviewed by SIG Review Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Exchange Grants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the organization of small-scale <a href="#">knowledge mobilization</a> activities, such as workshops and seminars, to encourage collaboration and the dissemination of research results both within and beyond the academic community</li> <li>▪ Allow researchers to attend or present their research at scholarly conferences and other dissemination venues that align with SSHRC's mandate to advance their careers and encourage the exchange of ideas and research results at the national and international level</li> <li>▪ The maximum funding per grant is \$7,000</li> <li>▪ Reviewed by SIG Review Committee</li> </ul>

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| <b>Capacity-building grants</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Support for capacity-building activities</li><li>▪ Must be for a SSHRC-eligible project</li><li>▪ Adjudication criteria: quality of proposal, institutional need, and alignment with NU's Strategic Research Plan</li><li>▪ Grants are not limited to the \$7,000 maximum of Explore and Exchange grants</li><li>▪ Those that impact infrastructure will be reviewed by AVP RIGS, PVPA, and VPFA</li></ul> |
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## Application Process

Apply through [Romeo](#) by submitting the *SIG - SSHRC Institutional Grant* application form (under Office of Research Services) by the deadlines listed above. Late applications will not be considered. New to Romeo? See our Quick Guide [here](#).

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## Selection Process

Explore and Exchange applications are reviewed and adjudicated by the SIG Review Committee, chaired by the AVP RIGS, or designate.

Committee members will be selected using the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Recent or current SSHRC Insight Grant Review Committee members;
2. Recent or current SSHRC Insight Development Grant Review Committee members;
3. Current SSHRC Insight Grant grantees;
4. Current SSHRC Insight Development Grant grantees; and
5. Active researchers in the social sciences and humanities.

### **SIG applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:**

- Each Explore or Exchange application will be evaluated using the same criteria as those used by SSHRC for its [Insight Development Grants](#) (Challenge – 50%; Feasibility – 20%; and Capability – 30%);
  - Applications must identify how SIG funds will be used to develop an application for submission in an external SSHRC competition within three (3) years, and the linkage between the research made available by the SIG and the future SSHRC application, i.e. the impact of the SIG on the application development; and
  - Applicants must demonstrate evidence of previous output. (Include a CV, CCV.)
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## Grant Regulations

- Funds awarded will normally be expected to be spent within one (1) year of the date of award and all funds not spent within two (2) years of the date of award will be recalled. Only in exceptional circumstances will requests for extension of the time period of the grant be considered. The request for extension must be completed on Romeo two (2) months prior to the termination date of the award.
  - A final report must be completed and submitted within two months after the end date of the award. This report must be completed on Romeo.
  - Current guidelines on the use of grant funds, outlined in the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#) apply to all grants provided through Nipissing University's SIG.
  - Research undertaken must comply with the University's policies on the conduct of research, in particular Research Ethics Board approval for the use of human participants. Funds will not be released until the required human participant protocols are approved. For information on the use of humans in research, please see the [Policy of Research Involving Human Participants](#).
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## Resources

NU's [Strategic Research Plan](#) and [Quick Guide: Grant Budgeting](#)  
SSHRC's [Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#)  
SSHRC's [Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization](#)  
SSHRC's evaluation criteria for [Insight Development Grants](#)  
Eligible Expenses: [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#)

For more information, contact Research Services at [research@nipissingu.ca](mailto:research@nipissingu.ca). For assistance accessing the funds after May, contact the Research Accountant at [researchfinance@nipissingu.ca](mailto:researchfinance@nipissingu.ca).

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