Killam Research Fund

Information Session

May 26, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Land Acknowledgement

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs and research stations are primarily located on the territory of Néhiyaw, Niitsitapi, Métis, Nakoda, Dene, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe, lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

What is the Killam Research Fund?

The Izaak Walton Killam and Dorothy Killam bequest to the University of Alberta supports the Killam Research Fund (KRF) by providing $1M in funding each year to support research in the Humanities and Social Sciences - including Business, Education, Fine Arts, Indigenous Studies, or Law.

This funding supports research that aligns with the University of Alberta's and with the Killam Trusts' priorities to:

- promote and achieve **Research Excellence** by increasing external funding
- attract and retain **Research Talent** by funding research at all career stages
- advance **Institutional Research Goals** (i.e., *Forward with Purpose*) by building capacity for large-scale, interdisciplinary research

What are the programs?

There are three funding programs that researchers can apply to:

- **Catalyst Grants** - fosters interdisciplinary and/or cross-sectoral partnerships with existing and/or new organizational partners to co-create and share knowledge.
- **Cornerstone Seed Grants** - supports investigator-driven research projects that focus on advancing scholarly knowledge.
- **Knowledge Mobilization Grants** - supports targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives.

Catalyst Grants

- Catalyst Grants are designed to assist in **fostering interdisciplinary and/or cross-sectoral partnerships** with existing and/or new organizational partners to co-create and share knowledge.
- This program prepares researchers in applying for **external partnership-focused funding** such as the SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants (PEG), Partnership Development Grant (PDG), Partnership Grants (PG), or equivalent.
- Applicants are expected to **apply for external funding** within the timeframes noted in the terms of reference.

Catalyst Grants - Streams

Catalyst Small Seed Grant ($5,000 - $15,000)

- Supports the initial stages of fostering new research partnerships or address the emerging needs of existing partners that are distinct from any previous/ongoing partnership activities.

Catalyst Large Seed Grant (up to $50,000)

- Supports resource-intensive activities, such as formulizing national or international partnerships, establishing networks for research activities, or conducting large-scale partnered knowledge mobilization.

Catalyst Grants - Streams

Catalyst Bridge Grant (up to $25,000)

- Provides funding to strengthen and resubmit unsuccessful applications for partnership projects that have a clearly demonstrated need for research funds to address reviewer feedback in order to enhance external funding success.
- Funds should be used to prepare for a re-submission to the same external peer-reviewed program.

Cornerstone Research Seed Grants

- Support investigator-driven research projects, led by **individual researchers or collaborative teams**, that are focused on advancing scholarly knowledge.
- Prepares researchers to apply for external funding, such as the SSHRC Insight Development Grant (IDG), the Insight Grant (IG), or equivalent external competitions that would benefit from **project-focused seed funding**.
- Applicants are expected to **apply for external funding** within two years.

Cornerstone Research Seed Grants - Streams

Cornerstone Small Seed Grant ($5,000 - $10,000)

- Supports pilot studies, archival work, proof-of-concept development or other smaller-scale projects.

Cornerstone Large Seed Grant (up to $30,000)

- Supports both new projects and distinct phases of an existing research program that require a larger investment to be competitive for external funding.
- Supports resource-intensive activities such as establishing national or international collaborations, conducting multi-site pilot studies, or broadening participant and/or community engagement.

Knowledge Mobilization Grants

- Support events and outreach activities geared toward **short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives**.
- These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and **engage with participants** on research issues they value.
- These events and outreach activities can often serve as a first step toward **more comprehensive and longer-term externally funded projects**.

Knowledge Mobilization Grants

Knowledge Mobilization Grants ($1,500 - $10,000) support activities such as:

- Hosting workshops/conferences
- Attending a conference to present works that have not been previously published or presented externally
- Creating podcasts or films
- Publication costs
- Developing other tools to exchange knowledge, engage collaborators, or connect with new audiences

Adjudication Criteria

Adjudication criteria for all programs are based on three main criteria:

- **Challenge:** The quality and significance of the research
- **Feasibility:** The plan to achieve excellence
- **Capacity:** The expertise to succeed

Catalyst and Cornerstone Grants have an additional criteria:

- **External Funding Plan:** The plan to seek external funding within the required timeframes

Priority Groups

Demand for funds typically exceeds the available funding, so not all meritorious projects can be supported. Priority will be given to the following applicants:

- New and junior faculty
- Indigenous faculty and faculty in Equity-denied groups
- Applicants who have not received previous grants from the Killam Research Fund.
- Additional priority groups specific to each program (see terms of references for list).

Contact & Resources

Email: **killamresearchfund@ualberta.ca**
Website: **OVPR Internal Research Funding**

Frequently Asked Questions

Terms of Reference:
Killam Catalyst
Killam Cornerstone
Killam Knowledge Mobilization

2026 deadlines: July 3 and November 6

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