What is the Resource Allocation Competition (RAC)?

The Resource Allocation Competition (RAC) is the process used by the Compute Canada Federation to award storage and computing resources on an annual basis. Competition is high for the limited pool of resources available.

How do I apply for the Resource Allocation Competition (RAC)?

Here are a few steps to complete a successful application.

1. Create a Compute Canada Database account
   Visit https://ccdb.computecanada.ca/ to register a new account, or login to your account to access the application.

2. Discover which category you wish to apply to:
   - RPP: Applicants looking to create or support a research platform or portal to share data across a collective.
   - RRG: Individual or small research groups in need of compute or storage resources.
   - Fast Track: For applicants who already have an allocation. Those eligible will have received a letter.

3. Book a consultation with IST’s Research Computing Group
   We can help uncover your technical needs and assist in building your application.
   To book a consult, email Kamil Marcinkowski with IST’s Research Computing Group at kamil@ualberta.ca

4. Prepare your application
   Applications address your scientific and scholarly pursuits, the technical feasibility of your request for Compute Canada Federation resources, and your CCV (if required).

5. Submit your application
   Visit https://ccdb.computecanada.ca/ to fill out and submit your application.
   Awarded resources will be available for use in April 2021.

6. Competition winners are announced

Need more information? Flip to see more FAQs.
FAQs

What RAC dates do I need to be aware of?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Finish Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast Track Submission</td>
<td>September 23, 2020</td>
<td>October 28, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPP &amp; RRG Submissions</td>
<td>September 23, 2020</td>
<td>November 5, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winners announced</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Late March 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awarded resources released</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>April 2021</td>
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Why should I consult with IST’s Research Support Group before applying?

IST’s Research Computing Group works hand-in-hand with the Compute Canada Federation and the RAC Committee to validate that resource requests will be successful. With their help in understanding and crafting the technical section of your application, you can rest assured that what you have submitted will meet the technical requirements of the application.

How will my application be evaluated?

All applications will be evaluated for both technical feasibility and scientific excellence. A technical evaluation reviews requests for resources to ensure that what is requested is feasible. Additionally, one of our eight peer-review committees will evaluate the scholarly pursuits that will be undertaken with the resources that have been requested.

Want to learn more about RAC and the evaluation process? Please visit:
https://www.computecanada.ca/research-portal/accessing-resources/resource-allocation-competitions/faq/

Can I use the Compute Canada Federation’s computing resources if I do not apply for RAC?

Yes, anyone with a Compute Canada Federation account has access to a shared pool of resources that are available for opportunistic use.

Learn more about the RAC competition at:
https://www.computecanada.ca/research-portal/accessing-resources/resource-allocation-competitions/