

## Research Support Fund Allocation 2023/24

The Research Support Fund (RSF) assists Canadian postsecondary institutions with the costs associated with managing their research enterprise, helping them to maintain a world-class research environment. AU acknowledges the essential support of the RSF to enhancing the university's priority and capacity on research.

### **RSF Amount and Allocation Areas**

The notional grant amount for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is \$587,115. Athabasca University expects to allocate the funds within the following categories:

*Research Resources:* Supports and infrastructure for digital research and networking.

*Management and Administration of the Institution's Research Enterprise:* Research administration supports for grant development and facilitation, grants management software, capacity building, and development of the redesigned Strategic Research Plan.

*Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation:* Coordination of AU's research ethics activities and processes.

*Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization:* Supports and initiatives for research development, commercialization, and digital knowledge mobilization.

The table below charts a pathway for success—from output to outcomes—in each of these categories of strategic utilization of the RSF.

## RSF Performance Objectives

RSF Eligible Expense Category	Output	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome
(2) Research Resources	<p>Projected: 2.6% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Develop and maintain AU's supports and infrastructure for digital research.</p>	Establish key resources for digital research activity and networks.	Usage of digital research resources and networks.	Enhanced capacity and engagement in digital research infrastructure.
(3) Management and Administration of the Institution's Research Enterprise	<p>Projected: 59.6% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Offer accessible and responsive supports and systems throughout the research life-cycle.</p>	Maintain or increase faculty engagement in research services processes.	Maintain or increase number grant submissions.	<p>Maintain or increase sponsored research revenue.</p> <p>Maintain or increase percentage of faculty holding (i.e., awarded) external funding.</p>
(4) Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	<p>Projected: 18.9% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Maintain regulatory requirements and ethics processes.</p>	Continued regulatory vigilance, coordination, and management.	Effective delivery of ethics reviews and process enhancements.	Maintain or increase the number and efficiency of research ethics applications processed.
(5) Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization	<p>Projected: 18.9% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Increase research output to academic and non-academic audiences to maximize input.</p>	Develop and refine research development supports and impact initiatives.	Engagement in research development supports and impact initiative.	<p>Enhanced contribution of research development to grant submissions.</p> <p>Diverse and broad reach of knowledge mobilization initiatives supported through the RSF.</p>

## Research Support Fund Outcomes and Impact 2023-2024

For the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

### Strategic Investments

In 2023-2024 Athabasca University (AU) invested its Research Support Fund award (\$587,115) in the following expenditure categories:

**Management and Administration of an Institution's Research Enterprise:**

Salaries and benefits for research administration support for grant development and facilitation, grants management software, and capacity building.

**Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation:** Coordination of AU's research ethics activities, processes, and related certification/memberships costs for animal care.

**Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization:** Supports and initiatives for research development, commercialization, and digital knowledge mobilization.

The table below charts the pathway from output to outcomes in each of these categories of strategic utilization of the RSF.

## RSF-2023-00107 Performance Objectives

RSF Eligible Expense Category	Output	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Reported Outcome
(2) Research Resources	<p>Projected: 2.6% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Develop and maintain AU's supports and infrastructure for digital research.</p>	Establish key resources for digital research activity and networks.	Usage of digital research resources and networks.	Enhanced capacity and engagement in digital research infrastructure.	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b> 1%</p> <p>Funds were used to: Support ORCID Institutional license through the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN).</p> <p>Purchase secure support for a web application for building and managing online surveys and databases.</p>
(3) Management and Administration of the Institution's Research Enterprise	<p>Projected: 59.6% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Offer accessible and responsive supports and systems throughout the research life-cycle.</p>	Maintain or increase faculty engagement in research services processes.	Maintain or increase number grant submissions.	<p>Maintain or increase sponsored research revenue.</p> <p>Maintain or increase percentage of faculty holding (i.e., awarded) external funding.</p>	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b> 58%</p> <p>Tri-Agency funding levels were maintained.</p> <p>Maintained percentage of faculty holding external funding.</p>
(4) Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	<p>Projected: 18.9% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Maintain regulatory requirements and ethics processes.</p>	Continued regulatory vigilance, coordination, and management.	Effective delivery of ethics reviews and process enhancements.	Maintain or increase the number and efficiency of research ethics applications processed.	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b> 20%</p> <p>Maintained a high level of rigour in the review and processing of ethics applications for all grant funded research projects requiring approval, while also seeking continual improvement.</p>
(5) Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization	<p>Projected: 18.9% of RSF investment.</p> <p>Increase research output to academic and non-academic audiences to maximize input.</p>	Develop and refine research development supports and impact initiatives.	Engagement in research development supports and impact initiative.	<p>Enhanced contribution of research development to grant submissions.</p> <p>Diverse and broad reach of knowledge mobilization initiatives supported through the RSF.</p>	<p><b>ACHIEVED</b> 21%</p> <p>Provided a suite of supports and service offerings for researchers and to build researcher capacity; this included partnership brokering supports, knowledge engagement planning, and enhancing online discoverability of research through AU programs and systems.</p>