

**Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
General Research Fund (GRF)****1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To outline the StFX University policy on the use and administration of the SSHRC GRF.
- 1.2 The SSHRC General Research Fund (GRF) is a special account held in trust by the institution President, into which unspent award funds from previous years are deposited. These funds are to be reinvested in research in the fields of social sciences and humanities research.
- 1.3 At StFX, the President has designated the Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies (AVPRGS) to be responsible for the administration of the NSERC GRF account. The AVPRGS holds the spending authority for this account within StFX.
- 1.4 The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) have established [Guidelines for the General Research Fund](#). These guidelines provide information on the management and use of the funds, including the eligibility of funds for transfer and the eligibility of expenditures that can be charged to them.
- 1.5 The guidelines introduce the notion of eligibility of residual funds for transfer to the GRF. Beginning April 1 2016, SSHRC expects each institution to spend at least 50 percent of the year's opening balance on eligible expenses and to report on those expenses through the Statement of Account (Form 300) by June 30 of each year. If an institution fails to meet these requirements, it will not be able to transfer any funds to the GRF, irrespective of the funds being otherwise eligible. Account balances will continue to be assessed every year.
- 1.6 To better employ these funds in support of research and training of students, SSHRC has encouraged all institutions to make every effort to publicize the availability of these funds to researchers and students, and to encourage applications for their use. SSHRC encourages the use of GRF funds for the development of research

capacity in the social sciences and humanities. This may include funding for support for early career researchers and those who require bridge funding between grants.

2.0 Applicability

2.1 University-wide

3.0 Implementation

3.1 SSHRC-funded researchers who have residual grants in SSHRC accounts at the end of the grant period will have the opportunity before the end of the grant period to present a plan for their use to the Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies (AVPRGS). The proposal must be communicated to the AVPRGS in writing and outline the proposed use of grant funds, amount required, and timeline for expenditures. Discretion to award GRF funding rests with the AVPRGS.

3.2 Each year, STFX will establish a budget that represents 50% of the residual balance of the SSHRC GRF accounts, which will be dispersed through the following priority mechanisms:

- I. Supplemental projects adjudicated through the annual SSHRC SIG (Small Institution Grants) competition that are deemed worthy of funding. Early career faculty or faculty with a track record of success in SSHRC competitions will be given priority.
- II. Supplemental student research awards for undergraduate students as recommended through annual internal adjudication processes (i.e. for Irving Research Mentorship competition).
- III. Bridge funding or seed grants to productive researchers in the social sciences and humanities disciplines. Early career faculty or faculty with a track record of success in SSHRC competitions will be given priority.
- IV. Awards to support research conferences organized by StFX faculty that are in the social sciences and humanities disciplines.

3.3 The ability to provide these awards will be subject to the availability of funding in the SSHRC GRF accounts on an annual basis.

3.4 A review process will be carried out approximately 3 months before the end of the fiscal year to remind awardees about GRF spending requirements. All funds transferred from the SSHRC GRF that are not spent by the end of the Fiscal Year in which they are awarded will be clawed back at the end of the fiscal year.

4.0 Interpretation and Questions

4.1 For further information, please contact the Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies.