Program Objective

The objective of the SSHRC Explore - Standard Research /Creative and Performing Arts Grants program is to cultivate a strong research base through the support of high quality research and creative work. It is expected that funding will lead to increased individual and group participation and success in external grant competitions. Seed funding is the Board’s priority. These grants support new faculty, new research initiatives and small-scale projects.

Award Value

The maximum allowable for the SSHRC Explore - Standard Research/Creative & Performing Arts Grant and SSHRC Exchange - Scholarly Publications Grant combined is $7,000 per Researcher per competition Cycle and the award is granted for a period of 24 months beginning January 1st. Any grant funds not used by the end of that period will be returned to the ARB. Any grant funds not used by the end of that period will be returned to the ARB.

Please Note: Depending on the number of high-quality applications received, the ARB may be unable to fund all applications at the level requested and there is no guarantee of funding for each application submitted.

Competition Dates

Each year there is one SSHRC Explore - Standard Research/Creative & Performing Arts grant competition. A completed SSHRC Explore - Standard Research/Creative & Performing Arts grant application form must be received by ROADS by 4:30pm on the deadline date, October 31st. (Next business day if the deadline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday.)

Researchers who intend to apply for ARB grants are encouraged to contact their Faculty Deans and the Research Office for Administration, Development & Support (ROADS), for proposal development guidance.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for ARB funding an applicant must be affiliated with McMaster University and must be eligible for SSHRC funding under the SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) Program. The following will be considered affiliated with McMaster University:

- Faculty members of McMaster University with a tenured or tenure-stream academic appointment.
- Former faculty members of McMaster University who have retired while holding a tenured academic appointment.
- Persons holding at least a one-year appointment at McMaster University. In the event the grantee’s appointment at McMaster ends, unspent funds remaining at that time will be returned to the Arts Research Board.
- Postdoctoral fellows who are conducting scholarly activity in the Humanities or Social Sciences and who are supervised by a faculty member of McMaster University who holds a tenured or tenure-stream appointment.
- Individuals who hold teaching track or non-tenure track positions are eligible to apply for ARB funding for research, provided they obtain explicit permission from their Faculty Deans.
Other persons, including Adjunct Professors and Professional Librarians, who hold permanent appointments at McMaster University and who meet SSHRC eligibility criteria for SIG funding.

Students and visiting fellows or scholars are NOT eligible to apply for ARB funding. However, SSHRC encourages the employment of students in SIG-funded research.

Release Time Stipends (RTS) are not allowed under SIG rules. RTS requests must be addressed at the institutional level.

**New Scholars**

Applicants may request consideration as new scholars. Applications from new scholars will be adjudicated separately from all other applications. To have their applications adjudicated as new scholars, applicants must demonstrate that they have not been the principal investigator on a previous successful research grant from the Tri-Agency (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR) and that one or more of the following applies:

- They completed their highest university degree within five years of the competition deadline;
- They have held a tenure-track university appointment at any university for five years or less;
- They have held an appointment at a university where tenure-track positions are offered, but never a tenure-track position; or
- They have had their career interrupted or delayed for family reasons.

As postdoctoral fellows satisfy the eligibility criteria, they may be considered new scholars.

**Application Instructions**

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESEARCHER TO ENSURE THAT ROADS RECEIVES THE COMPLETED APPLICATION (WITH ALL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS AND SIGNATURES) ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE**

All applications must be reviewed and signed by the Department Chair or their delegate prior to submission to ROADS. If the applicant is the Chair, the application must be reviewed and signed by the Dean or their delegate. The application will undergo administrative review for completeness by the Research Administration Analyst in ROADS. Any additional information or documentation beyond the requested page limits and/or requested documents will be removed from the application prior to review, ensuring all applications are evaluated in an equal context.

**NOTE: Please note that requests for conference attendance and representational activities may not be included in a SSHRC Explore - Standard Research/Creative & Performing Arts Grant application. A separate Conference Attendance and Representational Activities Grant application must be completed.**

**A Complete Application consists of:**

- ARB Application Form (signed by Department Chair or their delegate); and
- Supporting Documentation:
  - Summary (maximum 1 page);
  - Detailed Description (maximum 2 pages);
  - Budget Justification (maximum 1 page)

- SSHRC CV or Common CV (CCV)
• With list of publications from previous 5-years attached
• Additional documents:
  • Applications from postdoctoral fellows must also include a letter of support (maximum one page) from their supervisors.
  • Applications from scholars holding contractually-limited appointments and/or postdoctoral fellows must include a workplan (maximum one page) to demonstrate that the activities for which they are requesting funding will be completed before their appointment ends.

Application Sections

Part A: Researcher and Project Information
Complete all fields with pertinent information for yourself as the project leader.

If there are co-applicants involved, include their information as requested. Add more rows if required. This section can be left blank if there are no co-applicants.

Provide the full title and complete all responses for Certifications, as appropriate to your project.

Part B: Budget
Provide estimated costs for eligible expenditures as appropriate for your project. Proposed expenditures will need to be justified in the Budget justification attachment. Ensure that you have factored in costs such as benefits, taxes, shipping, and delivery fees, and that all travel is estimated in adherence with McMaster’s Reimbursements to Individuals for University Business Policy

The Board will consider all essential direct operating expenditures within the following categories:

Travel
Specify eligible Transportation, Accommodation and Meals expenses by category, following the McMaster Travel Policy.

Transportation
Applicants are encouraged to use the most economical travel arrangements available and suitable to their requirements. Applications quoting higher fares because of a lack of planning will not be considered favourably by the Board. Alternate means, such as interlibrary loans, mail or telephone calls for data collection should be utilized wherever possible.

ARB support is limited to economy-class air fare, or comparable rail or bus fare, as justified. Travel support for day trips is limited to current public transportation costs (e.g. GO Transit fare for trips to Toronto).

Kilometre Rates
The following University rates are to be used:
• 54¢ per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven; and
• 48¢ per kilometre driven after that.

For more detail, see McMaster’s Reimbursements to Individuals for University Business Policy.

Subsistence
The maximum per diems for Meals and Lodging are outlined in the table below. Scanned copies of original receipts must accompany expense report.

Meals: Rates to be used:
In Canada: $51 CDN per diem maximum
Outside of Canada:  $51 US per diem maximum

Accommodation:  
Recommended Rates:
In Canada:  $120 CDN per diem maximum
Outside of Canada:  $120 US per diem maximum

Remuneration will not normally exceed 28 days. (The Board may be willing to consider requests that exceed 28 days provided: the applicant provides a rationale that justifies the longer support period, and specifies the manner in which the funds will be used in as economical a manner as possible.) Day trips are not eligible for a subsistence allowance.

Subsistence funding will not normally be provided in excess of the daily rates noted below. Justification must be provided for requests that exceed the recommended rates.

**Personnel**
Research assistance, both student and technical, essential to the initiation, development and/or achievement of the objectives of the proposed research is eligible for support. The task and/or role, salary rates and employment term of the assistant should be clearly defined in the Budget Justification. The ARB minimum wage standard rates for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Research Assistants is $14.00/hour and Benefits 13.5%. Higher rates may be considered only if the need is well documented by the applicant.

**Materials, Supplies and Services**
Reasonable and justified amounts for requirements such as postage, copying, long distance telephone calls and specialized data directly related to the proposed research are eligible for consideration.

**Equipment and Computer Services**
Equipment and computing needs are eligible for support only if clearly central to the research goals and the need is well documented. Equipment purchased with ARB funds remains the property of the University. McMaster’s policy with respect to ownership and disposition of equipment applies.

**Other expenses**
List all items not relevant to previous categories, and provide a brief explanation for major items.

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**Part C: Other Funding**
List other sources of funding and related details, which have been applied for in the past 5 years (awarded, pending or declined).

**Part D: Supporting Documentation**
The following documents must be submitted as requested. Please attach the following supporting documentation as one (1) PDF document, including the completed application form. Please adhere to the stated format and page length. Any additional materials will be removed prior to review by the Board.

1. **Summary**
   A maximum of one page, explaining:
   a) why this project qualifies for funding
   b) how it supports your long-range research plans; and
   c) the external sponsor from which you plan to seek funds to develop this project further

2. **Detailed Description**
   A maximum of two pages of text plus one page of references are allocated for a total of three pages for this section. Images and graphics are to be included in the page limitations. Please use the following headings:
   1. Objectives
2. Context
3. Methodology
4. Students/Talent
5. Communication of Results/Knowledge Mobilization

3. Budget Justification
A detailed explanation and justification for each budget item identified in Part B: Budget is required. Sufficient information to allow reviewers to assess whether the resources requested are appropriate must be provided. This page should only contain information pertinent to the budget (maximum 1 page).

4. SSHRC CV or Common CV (CCV) Form
A complete, current and accurate SSHRC CV or Common CV (CCV) Form will be required for lead PI as an attachment to the ARB application form, to provide the CV information, as well as funding history, student training history, and publication and/or creative & performing arts activity record. Please also include a list of publications from the last 5-years.

Part E: Departmental Approval
You must sign your proposal and submit it to your Department Chair or their delegate for approval, in hard copy or electronically. The Department Chair or their delegate is required to provide comments on the proposal and signature on the application form.

Adjudication Process
The SSHRC Explore – Standard Research/Creative & Performing Arts Grants are adjudicated by the full Board annually. SSHRC Explore – Standard Research/Creative & Performing Arts Grant and SSHRC Explore – Major Collaborative Project Seed Grants are adjudicated separately with priority funding going to the SSRHC Explore – Major Collaborative Project Seed Grants.

SSHRC Explore - Standard Research/Creative & Performing Arts Grant applications will be assessed for the following:
- Clarity, focus and appropriateness of the research objectives, research plan, and the theoretical and methodological approach;
- Extent of scholarly content and originality;
- Overall contribution of the research to the candidates long range research plan; and
- Applicant’s scholarly contributions relative to the stage of career (e.g., publications, reviews, abstracts, conference presentations over the last five years).

When the applicant is a member of the Board the remaining Board members will rank the application. The average rank will be determined by the actual number of adjudicators.

Feedback to Applicants
Board members are not required to submit comments on the proposals. Feedback will be provided to applicants who request it. Deans will provide feedback to their own faculty. For faculty outside Social Sciences, Humanities, Business and Science, the Board members will provide the information to the Chair who will convey it to the applicant. The ARB decisions are final; there is no appeal process.

Delegation of Chair’s Comments
When there is a perceived conflict of interest in the provision of the Chair’s comments, the Office of Research Services will find an alternate Chair (e.g. and acting chair or a former chair) to provide comments.
Final Report Requirement

To be eligible for future ARB funding, researchers who have been awarded an ARB SSHRC Exchange - Conference Attendance & Representational Activities Grants previously must submit a final report to ROADS within six months of completion of the project.

Additional information

Additional information may be found on the ARB Research Office for Administration, Development & Support (ROADS) website.
Submit one complete, signed application (as outlined above) by email to: Muriel Gervais, Research Administration Analyst, ROADS, Email: gervaism@mcmaster.ca  Tel: 905-525-9140, Ext. 21756

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESEARCHER TO ENSURE THAT ROADS RECEIVES THE COMPLETED APPLICATION (WITH ALL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS AND SIGNATURES) ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE**

### Part A: Researcher and Project Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McMaster ID:</td>
<td>Extension:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Department or School:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty:</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Name of Department Chair (or their delegate):</td>
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<tr>
<td>If the Department Chair is not available or the applicant is the Department Chair, please provide the name and position of the delegate who will be completing Part D of the application form (e.g. Associate Dean, Dean, etc.).</td>
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<td>Rank (e.g. Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer, etc.):</td>
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<td>Status (e.g. Tenure, Tenure-Track, Limited Appointment, etc.):</td>
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Do you have a Teaching or Teaching-stream academic Appointment? *(If yes, please obtain explicit permission either in an email or letter from your Faculty Dean)*

- [ ] yes
- [ ] no

Have you had previous successful Tri-Agency grants?  
- [ ] yes
- [ ] no

Have you previously received ARB Funding?  
If yes, have you submitted your Final Report? *(due within six months of completion of the project or conference travel)*

- [ ] yes
- [ ] no

Do you qualify as a new scholar?  

- [ ] yes
- [ ] no

Applicants may request consideration as new scholars if they demonstrate that they have not been the principal investigator on a previous successful research grant from the Tri-Agency (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR) and that one or more of the following applies:

1. They completed their highest university degree within five years of the competition deadline;
2. They have held a tenure-track university appointment at any university for five years or less;
3. They have held an appointment at a university where tenure-track positions are offered, but never a tenure-track position; or
4. They have had their career interrupted or delayed for family reasons.

**Research Team:** List names of your team members (co-applicants and collaborators) who will take part in the intellectual direction of the research. Do not include assistants, students or consultants. *(add rows if required)*

| Name | Title | Role | Department/Affiliation |
## Project Information

**Title of Project:**

**Keywords (maximum of 6):**

**Does the project involve use of Humans, Animals, Biohazardous Materials or Controlled Goods?**

All research proposals involving human or animal subjects, biohazardous materials, radioactive substances, or controlled goods and/or technology must receive clearance from a McMaster ethics, animal-care, biohazards, radiation safety or controlled goods review board.

- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes - Please indicate below which approvals are required and their current status.

### Human Subjects
- Status: [ ] Pending  [ ] Approved – Authorization #

### Animal Subjects
- Status: [ ] Pending  [ ] Approved – Authorization #

### Biohazards
- Status: [ ] Pending  [ ] Approved – Authorization #

### Health Physics
- Status: [ ] Pending  [ ] Approved – Authorization #

### Controlled Goods and/or Technology
- Status: [ ] Pending  [ ] Approved – Authorization #

## Part B: Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Costs (Specify)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>Meals</td>
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<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>Materials, Supplies and Services</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>Equipment &amp; Computer Services</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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**Total Amount Requested (Canadian Dollars only):**

The maximum allowable is $7,000 per fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) $0.00
Part C: Other Funding

List all sources of support (internal and external) awarded or applied for in the last 5 years.
A one-page document may be attached if additional space is required to complete Part D.

**Support awarded in the last 5 years:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title or Conference Name, Year and Location</th>
<th>Project Period (date of conference or start and end date of research)</th>
<th>Funding Agency or Program</th>
<th>Type of Support (e.g. research grant, strategic grant, conference grant, fellowship, etc.)</th>
<th>Amount Awarded (for multi-year grants please indicate the total amount awarded)</th>
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**Support applied for in the last 5 years (pending or denied):**

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<th>Project Title or Conference Name, Year and Location</th>
<th>Project Period (date of conference or start and end date of research)</th>
<th>Funding Agency or Program</th>
<th>Type of Support (e.g. research grant, strategic grant, conference grant, fellowship, etc.)</th>
<th>Status (pending or denied) and Amount Requested and Duration of Grant:</th>
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Part D: Supporting Documents (to be included as part of one PDF file submitted to ROADS)

Please attach the following documents as a single PDF using these headers:

1. **Summary** - an explanation of how this project contributes to your long-range research plans (maximum 1 page);
2. **Detailed Description** - a description of the project using the following sub-headings: Objectives, Context, Methodology, Students/Talent and Communication of Results (maximum 2 pages); plus up to one page of references
3. **Budget Justification** - a detailed explanation of the expenses itemized in Part B of the application form (maximum 1 page); and
4. Current **SSHRC CV or Common CV (CCV) Form from lead PI** (including list of publications from the previous 5 years)

*Please use minimum 12pt font, single spaced, number pages and include your name in top right corner of each page.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant’s signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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### Part E: Departmental Approval

Once Parts A through C of the application have been completed, applicants should forward a PDF of the complete application package to their Department Chair or their delegate for comments and signature. Department Chairs should arrange to have one signed electronic copy of the application forwarded to the Research Office for Administration, Development & Support (ROADS).

In the space below please answer the following questions:

1. If the applicant is a new faculty member, please comment on the significance of this proposal for career development.
2. Is the applicant’s publication and research record (or equivalent recognition in the arts) at this career stage above, at, or below expectations?
3. How original is the research (or activity in the arts) and what is the possible impact on the field?
4. Are there other considerations that the Board should take into account?
5. Is the budget, in your opinion, justified for each item?

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**Chair’s Name (Print)          **Chair’s signature (or delegate)          **Date**