

RESEARCH ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT FUND

Terms of Reference and Funding Request Process

Purpose of Fund

The Office of the Vice President (Research) is piloting a Research Accessibility Support Fund to support researchers who have accessibility-related costs associated with their research or research dissemination. These funds are not intended as a means of sole research support, but rather as a supplementary resource to address specific accessibility needs and ableism-related barriers faced by D/deaf, disabled and neuro-divergent researchers. This cycle of the fund is \$10,000. **Approved funds will be released on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Eligibility of Applicants and Expenses

- Faculty who hold a primary appointment at the University of Alberta are eligible to apply once per year.
- Must self-identify as D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, or with other identities impacted by systemic ableism and structural inaccessibility.
- **Funding must be used to remove accessibility or ableism-related barriers** faced by the requester that are directly related to their research program. Some possible uses of the funds include but are not limited to: accessing or modifying inaccessible research sites, buying or modifying research equipment to increase researcher accessibility, ensuring accessible travel for research or dissemination, providing personal protective equipment for research participation, enabling more accessible research or dissemination-related communication, and removing barriers for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent trainees without other coverage.
- Ineligible expenses include salary support of any kind, indirect costs of research, direct costs of research with the exception of the items noted above, psychotherapy or coaching for executive function, and providing professional development opportunities to students.
- Applicants may request funding annually if they have applied with the administrative requirements of their funding. Funding will be released on a first-come, first-served basis
- Applicants can apply for funding for expenses incurred between April 1st, 2026 and March 31, 2027. For future items, costs must be paid and reconciled before January 31, 2027. Retroactive expenses will be paid as a reimbursement.

Request Process

Requesters must meet the eligibility requirements and complete the [Research Accessibility Support Request Form](#). The form includes space to provide a rationale outlining the need for the funds (i.e., identify barriers to be addressed and the intended impacts of the funding) and consideration of other sources of funding.

Expenses under \$2000 CAD that are expressly for access needs (e.g., oxygen, ASL interpretation) will be administered on a first-come-first-served basis. Expenses over \$2000 CAD (e.g., first class travel) or those that will be used to purchase multi-use expenses (e.g., iPads) will require additional review while maintaining expedient funding decisions.

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Fund Administration

To request funds, researchers need to complete this application form by June 30th, 2026. Incomplete funding requests will be deemed ineligible and not reviewed.

Funds should be spent and reconciled by January 31st, 2027.

Deadline

This is a limited fund allocated twice annually, between April 1st, 2026 and January 29th, 2027. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on June 30th, 2026, or until the funds have been exhausted.

Contact

Questions regarding this fund can be directed to Stephanie Brooks (stephaniebrooks@ualberta.ca).

Records from this fund will be managed in accordance with the Alberta Protection of Privacy Act.