

Call for Proposals

Faculty Research Development Grant

The Sprott Research Committee invites full-time research stream faculty to apply for Faculty Research Development Grant. This program provides seed funding to help faculty generate the preliminary data, theoretical grounding, or methodological feasibility evidence needed to compete successfully for external funding from tri-agency and other major granting competitions.

Faculty Research Development Grants are a deliberate first step in a longer research trajectory. Sprott is committed to supporting faculty through that trajectory, from Faculty Research Development Grant to external application and beyond.

Program Overview

Grant Value	Up to \$5,000
Duration	1 year (May 1 – April 31)
Number of Grants	Minimum one (1) per cycle
Application Deadline	April 10, 2026
Notification of Award	April 20, 2026
Project Start Date	May 1, 2026
Submit To	Submission via web form application
Contact	Sprott Research Office

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Full-time tenure or tenure-track Sprott faculty (research stream).
- Eligible to hold tri-agency funding.
- Proposed research is in its initial stages and not yet sufficiently developed to support a competitive external funding application.
- Not currently eligible to apply to other Carleton internal seed funding in the same competition cycle (e.g., CU Development Grant, Carleton International Seed Grant). If you are uncertain whether this applies to you, contact the Sprott Research Office before submitting.
- Internally Restricted Research (IRR) Fund balance does not exceed \$5,000 at the time of application. Applicants with existing IRR balances above this threshold are not eligible in the current cycle.
- Past recipients are eligible to re-apply three years after receiving their last award.

Graduate Student Supervision:

Preference is given to applicants who are currently supervising or co-supervising Sprott MSc and/or PhD students. Applicants without current supervision should describe, in their proposal, how research graduate students will be meaningfully involved in the funded project or recruited as a result of it.

Strategic Alignment:

Preference is given to proposals that align with Sprott’s strategic research priorities.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals must be submitted as a single PDF document and include all sections listed below. Page limits apply to each section. Reviewers will not consider content that exceeds stated limits.

Section 1: Project Title

Provide a clear, descriptive title for the proposed research project.

Section 2: Lay Summary | Max 350 words

Provide a concise summary of the research objectives and anticipated outcomes written for a non-specialist audience.

Section 3: Research Questions, Theoretical Contribution, Methodology | Max 2 pages

Clearly state the research question(s) and situate them within relevant literature.

Articulate the theoretical or conceptual contribution the project will make.

Describe the research methodology, including data collection, analysis approach, and any novel or innovative methods.

Tip: Write this section with a future external grant application in mind. Tri-agency reviewers will expect a clear gap in the literature, a well-positioned contribution, and a feasible and appropriate methodology.

Section 4: Research Impact | Max ½ page

Describe the significance of this research within its academic field and, where applicable, for policy, practice, or society.

If graduate students are involved, describe the training and professional development outcomes anticipated.

Section 5: Pathway to External Funding | Max ½ page

Identify the specific external funding program you intend to apply to within 18–24 months of completing this grant (e.g., SSHRC Insight Grant, Insight Development Grant, Partnership Grant).

Describe how the work funded by this grant will directly strengthen that application — for example, by generating pilot data, refining theoretical framing, building a research partnership, or completing a feasibility study.

Section 6: Work Plan and Milestones | Max ½ page

Present a realistic timeline for the 12-month project period, identifying key activities and milestones.

Include a milestone for the preparation or submission of an external funding application, or a clear statement of when that step will occur.

Section 7: Budget and Budget Justification | Max ½ page

Provide an itemized budget showing how grant funds will be used.

Justify each item by connecting it to a specific project activity or deliverable.

Budget Guidance

Eligible expenses include but are not limited to: research assistance (RA), participant compensation, data acquisition, transcription, software licences directly required for the project, and small-scale materials and supplies directly tied to research activities.

Ineligible expenses: open access publication fees, conference travel, computers, office supplies, cell phone plans, and internet.

Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

All proposals are reviewed by the Sprott Research Committee. Reviews are conducted independently and adjudicated collectively. Decisions are final.

Proposals are evaluated using the following weighted criteria:

Evaluation Criterion	Description	Weight
Scholarly Merit and Originality	Clarity and significance of the research question; theoretical contribution; quality of proposed methodology.	30%
External Funding Potential	Strength of the pathway to a named external competition; quality of preliminary work plan; realism of the 18–24 month timeline to application.	25%
Feasibility	Appropriateness of scope, budget, and timeline.	20%
Alignment with Sprott Research Priorities	Relevance to the School's strategic research areas.	15%
HQP Training Potential	Quality of graduate student involvement (current or planned) and training outcomes.	10%

Post-Award Expectations

Successful applicants are expected to:

- Use grant funds in accordance with the approved budget within the 12-month project period.
- Submit a brief end-of-grant report (maximum 1 page) within 30 days of project completion, addressing: (a) activities completed; (b) outputs generated or in progress (e.g., manuscripts, datasets, partnerships); and (c) external funding applications submitted or planned, including the target competition and anticipated submission date.
- Unspent grant funds at the close of the project period will be returned to Sprott. Extensions and carry forwards are not permitted.

The Research Committee may use post-award reports to assess program effectiveness and inform future cycles. Faculty who successfully transition to external funding are encouraged to share their experience to support colleagues at earlier stages.

How to Submit

Submit your complete application package using the application web submission form on the [Sprott Research Office website](#).

Proposals must be received by 11:59 PM on April 10, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.

For questions about eligibility, the application process, or how to align your proposal with external funding requirements, contact: amanda.bradfordjanke@carleton.ca