



This document provides 2 example investment “stories” related to the 2025-26 expenditures of the Research Support Fund by Saint Mary’s University. This is in response to the reporting request:

*“Provide investment stories – for any of the five expense categories – that demonstrate how the RSF base grant contributed to sustaining a strong research environment within your institution during the reporting period. The stories should demonstrate the value and need for the program.”*

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**Story #1:**

Expenditure category for story #1:

Management and administration of the institution’s research enterprise

With Saint Mary's University (SMU) being in the category of small-to-medium sized Canadian universities categorized in the MacLean's magazine "Primarily Undergraduate" category (with just under 6000 total students, about 11% of which are graduate students), SMU nevertheless has a high level of research activity - garnering the most external research funding of the small-sized universities in Atlantic Canada, and ranking 42nd in the 2024 Research Infosource national rankings for universities of the year. In order to administer this level of research activity, the personnel required would be difficult to maintain/justify fully from the university operating budget (which is driven primarily from undergraduate student tuition) - therefore, the **RSF allocation of over \$400k toward the salaries of the research office staff** (as enumerated in our posted Outcomes report) is an absolute necessity to maintain the size of team needed. In particular, our **one Research Grants Officer – “RGO”** (full salary included in RSF allocation) has taken specific actions over the last few years to **help professors secure higher levels of success for their SSHRC grant applications** – this has involved organizing SSHRC application workshops (as well as broadly communicating other such workshops organized by other senior professors in coordination with Faculty Associate Deans), engaging on many 1:1 consultations with faculty preparing SSHRC grant applications and providing constructive feedback to enhance the application strength, and organize seminars highlighting successes of our early career researchers. With this specific and dedicated attention (along with all of their other duties), the RGO has been instrumental in a remarkable increase in success: in **2023**, SMU’s SSHRC success across all programs was 12 awards totalling \$894,500 – then, by **2026**, SMU’s SSHRC success has increased to 22 awards totalling \$2,501,500 (an **83% increase in the number of awards, and 280% increase in award value**).

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### Story #2:

Expenditure category for story #2:

#### Regulatory requirements and accreditation

With Saint Mary's University (SMU) being in the category of small-to-medium sized Canadian universities categorized in the MacLean's magazine "Primarily Undergraduate" category (with just under 6000 total students, about 11% of which are graduate students), SMU nevertheless has a high level of research activity - garnering the most external research funding of the small-sized universities in Atlantic Canada, and ranking 42nd in the 2024 Research Infosource national rankings for universities of the year. In order to administer this level of research activity, the personnel required would be difficult to maintain/justify fully from the university operating budget (which is driven primarily from undergraduate student tuition) - therefore, the **RSF allocation of over \$168k toward the salaries of the regulatory-support staff** (as enumerated in our posted Outcomes report) is an absolute necessity to support faculty research involving humans or animals. With the RSF allocation providing the majority salary support for SMU's **Animal Care Committee Coordinator and Animal Facility Manager** (that is one person – a combined role), SMU continues to be able to support a program of research that supports research involving fish, in a dedicated facility that received initial funding for setup through CFI's JELF program. In addition, by providing expert support for the SMU Animal Care Committee, other research involving animals conducted by a small number of professors has been made possible, following the requirements and guidance of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.