



Research Support Fund and Objectives 2025-2026

Report on Research Support Fund Objectives and Indicators April 2025 - March 2026

In 2025-2026, Brock University allocated its Research Support Fund (RSF) funding in the following five areas:

Facilities (8%): RSF funds were used to upgrade laboratory and other research space to meet researchers' urgent needs. A portion of these funds supported the maintenance of institutional websites that profile research accomplishments, build research partnerships and provide researchers with the forms, guidelines and other documents they need for their work.

Resources (4%): RSF funds supported the licensing of tools that accelerate the research process by integrating funding, collaborator discovery, and publishing opportunities. These tools connect researchers to financial support by leveraging the most comprehensive global source of sponsored funding opportunities and provide scholarly profiles to match researchers with financial partners and collaborators. Additionally, renewed licenses for a research survey instrument (Qualtrics) and MatLab were also funded to enable researchers across campus to collect and analyze critical data.

Management and Administration (60%): RSF funds were and are a key component of the Research Enterprise budget, which provides researchers access to Research Officers, accounting and other professional research staff who assist them with grant application preparation, facilitate support with institutional Honors, Prizes, Awards and Distinctions, provide guidance on Equity Diversity and Inclusion practices, guide research impact and knowledge mobilization, and oversee their financial compliance and reporting.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation (11%): RSF funds were used to support the operation of the Research Ethics Boards (REBs), the Animal Care Committee (ACC), Research Safety, and additional regulatory accreditations and certifications as required (e.g., Cannabis Licensing through CTLS).

Intellectual property and Commercialization (17%): RSF funds allowed Brock University to meet rapidly expanding needs in the fields of intellectual property, patenting, technology transfer, and commercialization. Funding received in 2025–2026 supported the salaries of staff working in business development and research partnerships, as well as legal counsel who advises on IP management strategies. These staff build research partnerships between Brock researchers and industry and community groups and develop identified avenues for the advancement of new technologies.

Eligible Expenditure Category	Output (Investment or Expense of RSF Grant Funds)	Performance Objectives	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Reported Outcome
Research Facilities	8% of the RSF grant will be used to upgrade research space, support equipment operations, and updates to the research website.	Maintain/improve sustainability and efficiency of research equipment. Enhance or establish facilities that serve to attract top researchers. Update the institutional website for research communications and partnership building.	Laboratories and core facilities updated, support of technical staff, operations, and ongoing maintenance and service costs. Website updates implemented with revised content to reflect current research priorities and partnership opportunities.	Continued investment in infrastructure. Maintain research space attributed to Tri-Agency funded research. Support for at least three infrastructure related projects. Maintain website to support research communication and engagement.	Supported over 3 infrastructure related projects. The website was updated and maintained regularly to improve integration with the Brock research community. See the corresponding investment story.

Research Resources	4% of the RSF grant will support software licensing, including funding/collaborator and publication database (Pivot), the licensing of survey tool (Qualtrics) and data analysis instruments (MatLab), as well as memberships to the Digital Research Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, and the Conversation Canada.	Continued promotion and usage of institutional research resources. Enhanced support for researchers in finding external funding, collaborators, and publication opportunities with Pivot database. Sustained usage of Qualtrics software for research survey design and implementation. Maintenance of MatLab institutional license for use by researchers.	Number of webpages, posts, workshops, etc. related to promoting resources. Number of users of Pivot, Qualtrics, and MatLab resources. Usage of resources offered through licensing and memberships. Number of articles published in Conversation Canada.	User base of institutional research resources and memberships maintained.	The user base of institutional research resources and memberships was maintained as defined in the target outcome, including Qualtrics and MATLAB subscriptions, as well as memberships to the Digital Research Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, and the Conversation Canada.
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Management & Administration of Institution's Research Enterprise	60% of the RSF grant will be used for the salary of research officers, accounting, and other research support staff (e.g., Animal Care Veterinarian) who provide core services to Brock researchers.	Continued support from research services staff in the preparation of grant applications, agreements, and post-award financial administration.	Optimizing processes through the new Research Management System to enhance services. Implementation of initiatives that improve efficiency and accountability related to research administration.	Continued improvement of research administrative processes.	Research administrative processes have been a focus of improvement to optimize operations and impact. A Research Operations Manager position now serves as a central resource on process improvements, including engaging and leading the Research Enterprise team through technology upgrades. As well, as detailed in the corresponding investment story, the research participant payment process was effectively modernized.
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Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	11% of the RSF grant will be used to support the operation of the Research Ethics Boards (REBs), the Animal Care Committee (ACC), and additional regulatory accreditations and certifications as required (e.g., Cannabis Licensing through CTLS).	Maintenance of on-going operations of the REBs, ACC, and other accreditations (e.g., Cannabis licensing). Provide essential research ethics and animal care training to members of the University's research community.	Timely support of researchers using the services of the boards. Sustained compliance record and maintenance of existing accreditations. Training sessions conducted.	Maintenance of average turnaround time for compliance-related requests. No breaches in compliance or changes in accreditation. Maintain the number of training sessions conducted.	Average turnaround time for compliance-related requests was maintained. To date, there have been no breaches in compliance or change in accreditation with the Research Ethics Board (REB), Animal Care Committee (ACC), and Cannabis Licensing. The number of training sessions conducted was maintained and new training sessions continue to be offered based on researcher need/interest.
Intellectual Property	17% of the RSF grant will be used to offset salaries of staff dedicated to business development and industrial research partnerships, as well as legal counsel who advises on IP management strategies.	Continued support to researchers seeking to advance innovations, commercialize technologies, or build research partnerships. Build connections between Brock researchers, industry, and funding agencies to facilitate innovation.	Number of industry research partnerships, inventions reported, patents filed and granted.	Increase or maintain the number of research partnerships, inventions, and patents with industry and community groups.	Research partnership activity was held stable, with planned decreases in invention disclosures and patents.