

**IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA)
2024 Guidelines**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

AWARD TYPE:

Doctoral award

FIELD RESEARCH AREAS:

[Climate-Resilient Food Systems](#)

[Democratic and Inclusive Governance](#)

[Education and Science](#)

[Global Health](#)

[Sustainable Inclusive Economies](#)

NUMBER AND VALUE OF AWARDS:

25 awards of up to CA\$20,000 each

FUNDED BY:

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

DEADLINE

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 5:00 pm eastern time

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Scope and Objective

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has helped PhD students undertake thesis research in the field of international development since 1982. The IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRA) aim to strengthen the capacity of researchers enrolled in Canadian universities to design, lead and carry out high-quality research that contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby improving the lives of people in the Global South.

This call for funding is open to those who meet the eligibility criteria outlined below. **Awards will cover the cost of field research conducted for a doctoral thesis in one or more countries in the Global South.**

Funder

As part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts, IDRC champions and funds research and innovation within and alongside developing regions to drive global change. Headquartered in Ottawa, the organization invests in high-quality research in developing countries, shares knowledge with researchers and policymakers for greater uptake and use and mobilizes global alliances to build a more sustainable and inclusive world. For more information, please visit <https://idrc-crdi.ca/>.

Administrator

Universities Canada administers the program on behalf of IDRC. Universities Canada's mandate is to facilitate the development of public policy on higher education and to encourage cooperation among universities and governments, industry, communities, and institutions in other countries. Universities Canada is associated with leading firms in nearly every sector of the economy through its provision of award services and management of more than 130 different award programs on behalf of corporations, government agencies and private foundations. For additional information, please visit <https://univcan.ca/>.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or a citizen of a [country defined as Official Development Assistance eligible](#) by the OECD Development Assistance Committee in Africa, the Middle East, Asia or Latin America and the Caribbean.
- You must be enrolled in a doctoral program at a Canadian university, working to complete your **first** PhD.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

- You must confirm that you will complete your comprehensive examinations and obtain PhD candidacy status (as defined by your Canadian university) by **December 31, 2024**.
- Your research proposal must be approved by your research supervisor. Supervisors will be required to complete an approval form as part of the application.
- Your proposed field research must be conducted for a doctoral thesis and must take place in one or more countries in the Global South.
- Your field research must be relevant to one of the five development outcome areas that IDRC aims to contribute through its work:
 - [Climate-Resilient Food Systems](#)
 - [Democratic and Inclusive Governance](#)
 - [Education and Science](#)
 - [Global Health](#)
 - [Sustainable Inclusive Economies](#)

*Applications proposing field research outside of these developmental outcome areas will not be considered.

- You must provide evidence of an affiliation with an institution or organization in the country/countries or region(s) in which the research will take place.
- You may not hold two or more active IDRC awards at the same time (this includes the IDRC Research Awards). No time overlap is permitted.

If you have received IDRC funds from another source (for example: Queen Elizabeth Advanced Scholars or a professor's IDRC research grant) for activities that will be active when you take up an IDRC International Doctoral Research Award, you will be asked to demonstrate how funds from each are not being used towards the same objective.

Timeline

If you are selected for an award, you must start your field research by **August 1, 2025**, and complete your field research by **March 1, 2026**.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Field work duration

If your research involves **one or more countries in one region**, you must spend a **minimum of 10 consecutive weeks** in the field.

If your research involves **more than one region**, you must plan to spend a **minimum of 5 consecutive weeks in each region**.

The regions are: Middle East, North Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Far East Asia, Caribbean, Central America, South America and Oceania.

This award will cover research costs for a maximum of 52 weeks in the field.

Please be realistic in the proposed departure and return dates, as well as the design of your field research.

Travel Advisories

The [Government of Canada travel advisories](#) provide recommendations about safety and security conditions in destinations around the world to help make informed decisions. Applicants are responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the Government of Canada travel advisories.

Applications for countries/regions categorized as level 2 and level 3 will be accepted.

In the case of a level 3, the applicant's research supervisor will be asked to complete an additional section on their approval form outlining the safety and security risks to the applicant, as well as the safety protocols and university processes to mitigate those risks.

Applications for countries/regions categorized level 4 **will not be accepted**.

If you are selected for an award, and an advisory to "avoid all travel" is issued thereafter for the country or region of your research, funding for your research will be put on hold.

In the absence of a travel advisory, the decision to approve travel for field research rests with the Canadian university, in accordance with their international travel guidelines.

If you are selected for an award and are a Canadian citizen, you will be required to register your international travel with the Government of Canada [Registration of Canadians Abroad \(ROCA\)](#) website in order for the Government of Canada to contact, protect and assist you in case of an emergency.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Travel insurance is mandatory. If you are selected for an award, proof of travel insurance (inclusive of medical coverage, hospitalization, and repatriation) must be provided.

Compliance with Anti-Terrorism Principles and Sanctions Regime

Applicants must ensure that their research complies with [Canada's Anti-Terrorism Act 2001](#) as well as Canada's sanction regimes as set out in the:

- [Special Economic Measures Act](#) S.C. 1992, c. 17, and regulations made pursuant to the SEMA.
- [United Nations Act R.S.C.](#), 1985, c. U-2, and regulations made pursuant to the UN Act.
- [Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act](#) (Sergei Magnitsky Law), SC 2017, c 21 and regulations made pursuant to SML.
- [Freezing Assets of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act](#), SC 2011, c 10, and regulations made pursuant to FACFO.
- [Export and Import Permits Act R.S.C.](#), 1985, c. E-19.

Universities Canada and IDRC are committed to adhering to the provisions and principles of the above legislation in all work they undertake and support. If you are selected for an award, you will be required to consult the above resources regularly to ensure you are abiding with the Anti-Terrorism Principles and Sanctions Regime, and that your research complies with these rules.

Selection

Applications that are complete and submitted by the deadline will be evaluated by an independent selection committee comprised of practitioners from both Canada and the Global South.

In addition to ensuring that IDRC's development outcome areas are represented, the selection process will strive to achieve a balanced representation of gender, language, and geographic diversity among award recipients.

In exceptional cases, an award may be granted conditionally. In such instances, the applicant will be invited to provide additional information based on selection committee comments before the award can be confirmed.

The selection committee will use the criteria outlined below to assess applications. The recommendations will be submitted to Universities Canada and IDRC for final approval.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Evaluation criteria:

Project feasibility and alignment (40%)

- Alignment with IDRC’s mission and development outcome areas:
 - [Climate-Resilient Food Systems](#)
 - [Democratic and Inclusive Governance](#)
 - [Education and Science](#)
 - [Global Health](#)
 - [Sustainable Inclusive Economies](#)
- Overall quality, clarity, and relevance of the research proposal.
- Overall methodology.
- Overall feasibility, duration, and timing of the proposed field work.

Originality and considerations (25%)

- Originality of the proposed research.
- Consideration of Gender Equality and Inclusion (GEI) principles.
- Consideration of cultural, logistical, and scientific constraints.
- Ethical considerations.
- Risk management plan.

Impact and knowledge mobilization (25%)

- Benefit to the communities in the research context.
- Affiliated institution’s relatedness to the proposed research.
- Applicant’s capacity to conduct the proposed field work, including academic training, national language capacity, professional skills, research experience and knowledge of the country/region of research.
- Potential contribution to existing knowledge on the issue.
- Knowledge sharing plan.

Cost-effectiveness and budget (10%)

Ethics approval

If you are selected for an award, you will be required to provide official documentation of ethics approval from your **Canadian university’s ethics committee** and a **nationally recognized ethics body/committee in your country(ies) of research**.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Nationally recognized ethics bodies/committees in the Global South may include:

- University Institutional Review Board (IRB);
- National Council for Science and Technology;
- National government ministry.

*Approval/letters from entities such as NGOs are not acceptable.

Ethics documentation both from the Canadian university and the country(ies) of research is mandatory for funding to be released.

Results announcement

Applicants will be informed of the competition results by email by November 2024.

Award disbursements

Awards will be disbursed to successful applicants via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), subject to the completion of the award acceptance process.

85% of the award value will be disbursed prior to travel. The 15% holdback will be processed upon receipt of the research supervisor confirmation form and approval of the final narrative report and financial report.

Both reports must be completed and submitted **within sixty days of returning from travel.**

Application Process

Eligible applicants must apply online via the IDRA portal:
https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca/welcome/IDRCIDRA_En/

The application and all supporting documentation listed below must be submitted online no later than 5:00 pm eastern on Wednesday, July 17, 2024. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email. Note that your server may not recognize the address and may send it to your junk or spam folder.

It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor their application portal to ensure that all supporting documents have been received and accepted.

Incomplete applications will not be considered, and late applications will not be accepted.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Supporting documentation

All documents must be submitted in either English or French via the IDRA portal.

Applications will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary committee. As such, technical terminology should be kept to a minimum.

Please ensure all documents are legible from top to bottom when opened.

Research proposal

Research proposals must be 8-10-pages (not including references), double-spaced, and in 12-point font.

To be eligible, proposals **must** use the following headings in the order listed:

- One-page summary
- Literature Review
- Research question(s) and objectives
- Methodology
- Tentative schedule of field activities
- Ethical considerations *
- Gender Equality and Inclusion (GEI) considerations
- Expected results, use and beneficiaries of the research
- Knowledge sharing plan

*Applicants must describe how research ethics requirements will be adhered to both in accordance with their Canadian university and with their country(ies) of research.

Approval from research supervisor

Applicants will be required to have their research supervisor complete a Research Supervisor Approval form found in the application portal. Once completed and signed, the applicant is required to upload the form as part of their application. The Research Supervisor Approval form includes the following:

- Approval of the final version of the research proposal.
- List of courses completed and to be completed in the program.
- Outline of key safety and security risks to the applicant while in the field and explanation of the university processes to mitigate these risks.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Recommendation letters

Two recommendation letters are required as part of each application. One must be from a professor and the other from your research supervisor. The IDRA portal contains two recommendation forms for this purpose.

It is your responsibility to ensure this requirement is completed and submitted before the application deadline. We recommend that you notify your letter writers of this process well in advance of the application deadline. No documents will be accepted after the application deadline.

Letter(s) of affiliation

The letter(s) of affiliation must be signed (electronically or by hand) and on official letterhead from an institution/organization confirming the affiliation.

The institution/organization must be located in the country where the field research will take place.

If more than one country is involved, one letter per country must be provided.

The institution may be academic (a university) or non-academic (e.g., an NGO, or government department).

The letter(s) of affiliation must indicate the institution's/organization's interest in the research and provide specific information on how the institution will assist you (e.g. by providing an office, allowing access to the library or to previous research, introducing you to researchers in the same or similar fields, providing scientific guidance, ethics approval support, etc.).

Official transcripts

Applicants are required to upload scanned versions of original or notarized/certified transcripts from their most recent completed degree and of their current program, even if it is not yet completed. Web transcripts or academic history are not recognized as official transcripts.

If you are a citizen of a Low- or Middle-Income Country (LMIC) and cannot send the requested documents on your previous degree(s), please provide a scanned version of the original signed letter on official letterhead from the university confirming the degree and the marks obtained.

Proof of citizenship/permanent residency

Only scanned versions of the following documents are accepted: current passport, birth certificate, or Canadian Permanent Resident Card.

IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA) 2024 Guidelines

Important information for re-applying

If you were an unsuccessful applicant during a previous call and meet all eligibility criteria, you may re-apply by submitting a new application, including all supporting documentation listed above.

Applicants whose research project no longer fits into IDRC's development outcome areas will not be allowed to reapply.

Applicants who have previously been awarded an IDRC-IDRA, and who received IDRC funding, are not eligible to re-apply.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the application process or eligibility criteria, please contact us at idrcidra.crdibird@univcan.ca.

All questions and answers will be shared via the [FAQs](#) but not be attributed to a specific individual. It is important to regularly consult the FAQs as applicants will not be notified that new questions/answers have been added.

The final update to the FAQs will be made on **July 15, 2024**.