

## 2026 UArctic Project Funding

### Indigenous and Northern Relationships Development Fund

#### BACKGROUND:

Support for this fund is provided by Global Affairs Canada, **subject to final funding approval**. If you have any questions about the fund or this guide, please contact [uarcticfunding@mun.ca](mailto:uarcticfunding@mun.ca).

#### Indigenous and Northern Relationship Development Fund

In alignment with policies governing research involving Indigenous groups - and recognizing the responsibility of researchers to engage with Indigenous and Northern peoples in a respectful, ethical, and genuinely collaborative manner - the Indigenous and Northern Relationship Development Fund provides support for building and strengthening these essential relationships.

The purpose of this fund is to help build new relationships or strengthen existing ones for discussion and planning of research between Canadian UArctic member institutions and Northern or Indigenous partners.

Two goals of the project include:

- 1) supporting researchers and partners for discussion and planning of collaborative, co-created research projects based on mutual respect and acknowledgment of the deep understanding and knowledge Indigenous and Northern people bring to such projects, and
- 2) ensuring that the academic research and engagement projects meet the needs of the people and the regions where such research takes place. North to North and North to South relationship building projects are both eligible and encouraged. The funding is targeted to support relationship building projects in the Arctic and Northern regions of North America.

Project applications to this fund must be focused on relationship building. The form that process takes is entirely up to the partners – the academic researchers, and Indigenous and community partners. The researchers and the partners are encouraged to explore a range of collaboration and research activities, but are under no obligation to proceed with any form of research or maintain a working relationship if either side determines for, whatever reason, the partnership on any future projects is not suitable.

## Who can apply?

The lead applicant for submission to this funding must come from a Canadian UArctic [member institution](#).

For help building relationships with Canadian UArctic members, feel free to reach out the Lisa Goulet, Membership Engagement Coordinator at [lgoulet@mun.ca](mailto:lgoulet@mun.ca).

Applicants may only hold one Indigenous and Northern Relationship Development Fund award at a time.

## How you can use this fund

This fund is an excellent catalyst for building better and deeper relationships with Northern and Indigenous groups and communities. For example, a seasoned scholar with years of research experience in the North may want to use this fund to help a new graduate student establish their own relationships that will help them develop a research program in collaboration with Northern and Indigenous partners; an emerging Indigenous scholar in the North may use this fund to expand their relationships and partnerships to the Northern and Indigenous communities so they better understand the needs and desires of the Northern people when it comes to research and what they, as a Northern researcher, can bring to those discussions; experienced researchers may use this funding to enlarge and deepen their Northern and Indigenous relationships and networks through knowledge sharing activities.

## Amount of funding

Projects may be funded with a maximum total of \$15,000, pending funding approval. Funding cannot be applied retroactively for activities already carried out.

## Duration of the project

Project activities must occur within the timeframe from September 2026 to August 2028.

## Application criteria

1. Applications with two or more UArctic members, with a project lead from a Canadian member institution (there is no limit to the maximum number of partners) are encouraged and will receive higher evaluation than those involving only one UArctic member.

2. The application must clearly establish how proposed activities will strengthen existing or build new relationships between researchers based at academic institutions and Northern and Indigenous people and communities, and how these activities may lead to new research and learning opportunities
3. The applications must have a local Indigenous and/or community partner clearly supporting this initial and exploratory engagement (focused on relationship building). That support must be provided clearly and unambiguously, either through a letter of support for the application, or some other appropriate indication of willingness to engage with the academic researchers in establishing and building a working relationship (for example, correspondence, or an email exchange)
4. The application must demonstrate how proposed activities will strengthen relationships among the project partners and UArctic members.
5. The applicants must outline how they are going to share their experience with other UArctic members to help them understand the role of Indigenous and Northern communities as equal partners in research development and co-creation process. This applies to researchers at the academic institutions based in the North and the South with the understanding that their experiences may be different depending on how connected and embedded they are in the circumpolar region

## Eligible costs

Recognizing that different partners and Indigenous groups may have different requirements and preferences on how they would like to explore potential relationship with academic researchers, the fund will allow for a broad interpretation of eligible costs on part of the evaluation committee. In general, the fund can cover:

- Meetings and workshop expenses (e.g. venue, meals, accommodation and travel of the participants);
- Fees or payments and per diems. Please note that you cannot cover the permanent salaries for scientific/academic or technical/administrative staff;
- Costs for online conference platforms and tools;
- Honoraria to artists, performers or knowledge holders in keeping with established rates (CARFAC or other appropriate sanctioned body);
- Administrative overhead (maximum 15%)

## Application deadline and procedures

Applications must be completed and submitted through [Memorial University's application portal](#) by **April 24 2026 by 23.59 (CEST)**. **Applications received after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be evaluated.** Review, grant decisions, and acceptance will be finalized by September 2026, pending funding approval by Global Affairs.

**Application portal will require you to register and enter the following information:**

- Personal details
- A project plan
  - The purpose and overall goal of the project
  - Description of the project activities
  - Description of how the project will help the applicant strengthen and develop relationships with Indigenous and/or Northern communities and partners
  - Description of how the project will help the applicant strengthen and develop relationships with other UArctic member institutions

- A detailed budget including the funding from other sources
- The applying institution must provide an endorsement letter from the appropriate leadership level
- A letter of support or other form of clear indication from an Indigenous and/or Northern community or group indicating their willingness to engage in a relationship building process that may lead to future research, teaching, or engagement opportunities

Applicants must document funding of at least 25% of the total budget from in-kind and or other sources.

### Proposal Evaluation procedure

UArctic evaluation focuses on three dimensions of excellence;

- UArctic values: relevance to the North as expressed through six UArctic values and Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy; how the project contributes to circumpolar cooperation, its inclusiveness and openness and diversity of partners and relevance to Northern communities and peoples
- Excellence and feasibility of the proposed activities
- Project's management: internal and external risk management, sustainability plans for the activity, long-term impacts and internal evaluation. Budget must reflect the project activities in a realistic manner

*UArctic and Memorial University expect that all research projects are conducted with research integrity and, where applicable, follow Indigenization strategies.*

The project grants will be managed and administered by Memorial University on behalf of UArctic and in accordance with the terms of a Global Arctic Leadership agreement with Global Affairs, Canada.

### Helpful resources as you consider your application

[Indigenous Research at Memorial University](#)

[Memorial University Policy on Research Impacting Indigenous Groups](#)

[Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework](#)

[UArctic Values](#)

[Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)

[National Inuit Strategy on Research](#)

[Universities Canada principles on Indigenous education](#)

[Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North](#)

[Guiding questions to consider while designing your research](#)

### Questions?

Contact [uarcticfunding@mun.ca](mailto:uarcticfunding@mun.ca)