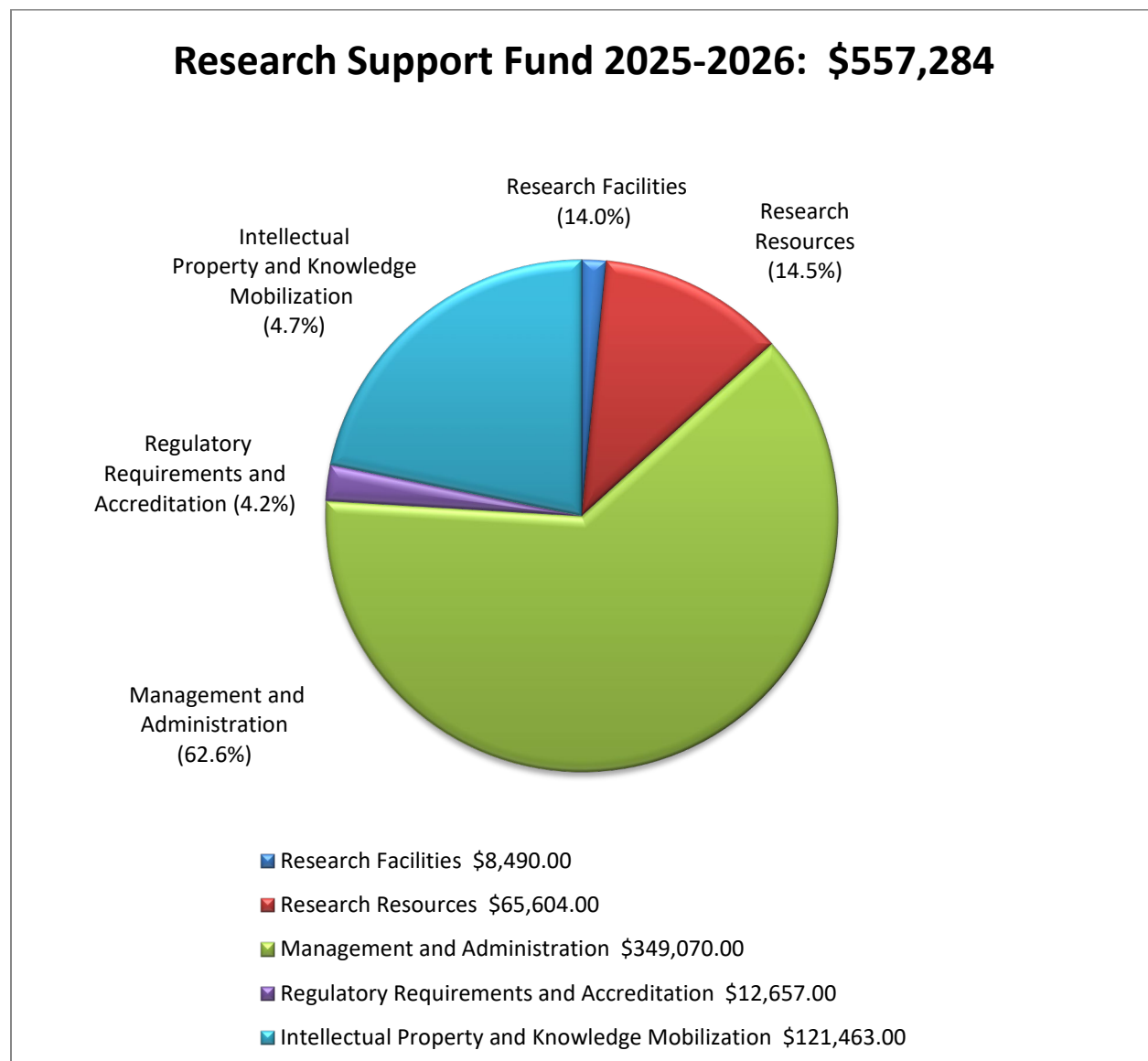


Brandon University Research Support Fund (RSF) Report 2025-2026

Brandon University received \$557,284 from the Research Support Fund in 2025-2026. Funding contributed to various initiatives on campus with the majority of funding going towards the Management and Administration category to sustain the salaries of those involved in research administration. The pie chart below represents the actual amounts allocated to each of the five RSF categories this past year, followed by a summary report that includes the major expenses covered. Brandon University is grateful to the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) for their continued support. The RSF has enabled the Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) to evolve and expand to meet the needs of the growing research enterprise of the institution and ongoing requirements of the Tri-Agency.



1. Facilities

- a. Upgrades to the Knowledge Mobilization Suite were undertaken to better service the Brandon University research community in the dissemination of their research results, events, and accomplishments.
- b. The RSF enabled Brandon University to maintain the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Physics Cluster lab on campus. There were hardware maintenance requirements, and software needed to be updated regularly. The cluster is used by members of the Physics Department, students, post docs, and researchers in Mathematics and Computer Science.

2. Research Resources

- a. John E. Robbins Library
 - i. The RSF supported the Library through the maintenance of the Relais Interlibrary Loan software; membership in national and the regional consortium the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN). Without the Relais software, researchers would not be able to make interlibrary requests online and would have to wait longer to receive them. These investments are vital for researchers because they give access to current research publications in a wide variety of fields, enabling researchers to stay current in their disciplines while supporting them with their research programs and publications.
- b. IT Services
 - i. The RSF assisted IT Services with providing operational support to researchers via improved access to network resources and collaboration technologies over a high-speed network. Brandon University's memberships with the Manitoba Research Network (MRnet) and Canada's Advanced Research and Innovation Network (CANARIE) allowed researchers the use of the high-speed research network and established Brandon University as the hub for education and research for southwestern Manitoba. Additionally, the RSF covered the Manitoba Hydro dark fibre maintenance fee.
- c. Memberships

Brandon University is a member of several organizations that support researchers and drive efforts forward.

 - i. Community-Based Research Canada (CBRC)

From the CBRC website: CBRC is a national champion and facilitator of community-based research excellence, a research approach addressing challenging societal problems. CBR Canada stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and is committed to upholding and working to advance the *Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action* and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. We are committed to the decolonization of

knowledge and stand against all forms of systemic injustice and racism in our society. We support the Black Lives Matter movement and all movements and organizations that align with our values.

- ii. Digital Research Alliance of Canada (DRAC)
From the DRAC website: DRAC serves Canadian researchers, with the objective of advancing Canada's position as a leader in the knowledge economy on the international stage. By integrating, championing, and funding the infrastructure and activities required for advanced research computing (ARC), research data management (RDM) and research software (RS), we provide the platform for the research community to access tools and services faster than ever before.
- iii. Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU)
From the website: Established in 2011, the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU) brings together small- and medium-sized comprehensive universities from across Canada. ACCRU strives to be the voice to discuss the challenges and issues that smaller universities face.
- iv. Winnipeg Institute for Theoretical Physics (WITP)
From the WITP website: The WITP is the consortium of all the theoretical physicists within Manitoba and exists to support theoretical physics research in the province. It carries out this mandate by encouraging collaboration between members of WIPT and by financially supporting workshops, visiting colloquium speakers, and the short and long-term visits of research collaborators of international standing.
- v. Brandon University established a partnership agreement with Acfacs SARF (Service d'aide à la recherche en français) program as part of a service to assist French-speaking researchers from Canada's minority settings with grant applications submitted in French to the Tri-Agency.

3. Management and Administration

- a. The Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) Salaries and Benefits
 - i. 85% of the Manager, Research Services
 - ii. 100% of the Research Officer
 - iii. 85% of the Knowledge Mobilization Officer
 - iv. 50% of the Administrative Assistant to the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)
 - v. A portion of the Research Accountant's salary and benefits
 - vi. A portion of the Research Compliance and Policy Officer salary and benefits (new position)
- b. Annual maintenance and upgrades to the Cayuse Romeo research grants management system were covered by the Research Support Fund.

- c. The RSF supported research information sessions and workshops for researchers; both faculty members and students. These events ranged from internally hosted (Brandon University Research Grants, student research scholarships and awards) to external guests (Canadian Research Security Centre, Mitacs)
- d. Expansion of the Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) and associated furniture and supplies for the Office.
- e. Additions to the Research Hall of Fame to recognize Tri-Agency researchers, both faculty member and student awardees.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

- a. Brandon University Animal Care Committee (BUACC)
 - i. The Animal Care Committee received funds to support the animal care function for things such as covering the University Veterinarians' fee-for-service that included animal care committee involvement, animal facility visits, veterinary care services, and memberships in Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) and American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS).
 - ii. An honorarium was provided to the BUACC Community Representative.
- b. Brandon University Biosafety Committee (BUBC)
 - i. The annual inspection and certification of the Biosafety storage cabinets took place, ensuring biosecurity and complying with provincial and national legislation in the safe storage of biological materials.
- c. Brandon University Research Ethics Committee (BUREC)
 - i. The annual Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB) membership fees were covered for the BUREC Chair.
 - ii. The CAREB annual conference attendance was covered for the BUREC Chair.
 - iii. Various CAREB training modules were purchased for BUREC and institutional-wide use.

Intellectual Property and Knowledge Mobilization

- b. The RSF supported the intellectual property (IP) management function at Brandon University by covering a portion of the Manager, Research Services salary and benefits (15%) to administer agreements such and contracts, contribution agreements, and memorandums of understanding with industry and the private sector.
- c. A portion of the Knowledge Mobilization Officer's salary and benefits (15%) was covered by the RSF to transfer research knowledge into plain language and accessible formats for public use.

The Research Support Fund enabled innovative research to take place with well-maintained state-of-the-art equipment in highly functioning laboratories and facilities, while contributing to the attraction and retention of researchers and the training of future highly qualified personnel (HQP). Brandon University continued to use the Research Support Fund to provide researchers with the services and tools needed to conduct stellar research, including the salaries and associated expenses of the Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies). The Research Support Fund allowed Brandon University to redirect funds otherwise used to cover indirect research expenses to other institutional initiatives and needs.