

**IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRC-IDRA)
2023 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:

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

FUNDED BY:

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

DEADLINE

Monday, July 17, 2023, at 1: 00 pm ET

Please review the guidelines and [FAQs](#).

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Scope and Objective

IDRC has helped graduate students undertake thesis research in the field of international development since 1982. IDRC International Doctoral Research Awards (IDRA) are intended to build capacity and develop research skills both in Canada and the Global South, and to improve the lives of people in the Global South.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of emerging researchers at Canadian universities, growing the cohort of researchers able to design, lead and carry out high quality research that contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specific development outcome areas of particular interest to IDRC.

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

Administrator

Universities Canada administers the awards 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 www.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 ODA-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.
- You must have completed several courses of the doctoral program, but not necessarily all courses, when you submit your application.
- Your research proposal must be approved by your research supervisor. Proof of this is required as part of the application.

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- 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 following five development outcome areas to which IDRC aims to contribute through its work:
 - [Climate-Resilient Food Systems](#)
 - [Democratic and Inclusive Governance](#)
 - [Education and Science](#)
 - [Global Health](#)
 - [Sustainable Inclusive Economies](#)

Proposals that explore the impacts of and resilience to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, from the perspective of any of the areas above will be accepted. **Applications proposing field research outside of these developmental outcome areas will not be considered.**

You must provide evidence of affiliation with an institution or organization in the country/countries or region(s) in which the research will take place.

You may not be in receipt of two or more active IDRC awards at the same time; these include the IDRC Research Awards. No time overlaps will be permitted. If you are in receipt of IDRC funds from another source (e.g., a Queen Elizabeth Advanced Scholars award or through a professor's IDRC research grant) for activities that will be active when and if 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.

If you are selected for an award, you have up to 12 months to start your field research from the date of the fully executed Award Agreement.

If your research involves one or more countries in one region, you must plan to spend 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.

NOTE: Please be realistic and prepare to be flexible in the proposed departure and return dates, as well as in the design of your field research.

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NOTE: If you are selected for an award, funding cannot be released until candidacy status is confirmed by your institution.

Travel Advisories

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

Applications for countries/regions categorized as level 2, asking to exercise a high degree of caution and level 3, will be accepted. In the case of a level 3, the applicant's research supervisor will be asked to complete the section of the Research Supervisor Approval form outlining the key safety and security risks to the applicant, as well as the safety protocols and university process to mitigate any risks. This information must abide by the Government of Canada travel advisories as well as relevant COVID-19 protocols.

Applications for countries/regions categorized level 4, asking to avoid all travel, **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.

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.

Travel insurance is mandatory. If you are selected for an award, proof of travel insurance (inclusive of medical coverage, hospitalization and repatriation) will need to 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;
- the [United Nations Act R.S.C.](#), 1985, c. U-2, and regulations made pursuant to the UN Act;
- the [Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act](#) (Sergei Magnitsky Law), SC 2017, c 21 and regulations made pursuant to SML;
- the [Freezing Assets of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act](#), SC 2011, c 10, and regulations made pursuant to FACFO;
- the [Export and Import Permits Act R.S.C.](#), 1985, c. E-19.

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

Selection

Complete and eligible applications submitted by the deadline focused on an area of research aligned with the development outcome areas listed above will be evaluated by an independent selection committee with representatives from Canada and the Global South.

In addition to ensuring that IDRC's development outcome areas are represented, the selection process will ensure appropriate gender balance, linguistic representation and geographic balance is achieved across Canada.

In exceptional cases, an award may be made 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 then be submitted to Universities Canada and IDRC for final approval.

Evaluation criteria:

Project feasibility and alignment (40%)

- Alignment with IDRC's mission and development outcome areas
- Overall quality, clarity, appropriateness and completeness 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
- Considerations of EDI principals, cultural, logistical and scientific constraints
- Gender dimensions of the research
- Ethical considerations and risk management plan

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Contribution and results (25%)

- Benefit to the communities where the research is taking place
- Affiliated institution's relatedness to the proposed research
- Applicant's capacity to conduct the proposed field work, including academic training, local 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%)

Ethical considerations

If you are selected for an award, you will be required to provide official documentation confirming that you have received ethics approval from your Canadian university's ethics committee **and** the ethics committee in your country/countries of research. If ethics approval from your Canadian university is considered sufficient to conduct your research in the Global South country/countries, you must confirm this determination via official documentation from both the ethics board in the country/countries of research and your Canadian university.

This documentation is required in order for funding to be released. The minimum period of time required in the field, will only begin once ethics documentation is received.

Results Announcements

IDRC and Universities Canada would like to thank all applicants for their interest. Applicants will be advised of the results by email in November 2023.

Award Disbursements

Awards will be disbursed to successful applicants via EFT, subject to the completion of the award acceptance process.

85% of the award value will be disbursed one month prior to travel. The 15% holdback will be processed upon approval of the [final narrative report](#) and [financial report](#). Both reports must be completed **within two months of return from travel, directly through the portal.**

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Application Process

Eligible applicants can apply online here:

https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca/welcome/IDRCIDRA_En/

The application and all supporting documentation listed below must be submitted online no later than 1PM ET July 17, 2023. 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.

Supporting Documentation

All documents must be submitted in either English or French.

All documents must be submitted through the online application portal.

Applications will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary 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 inclusive of references), double-spaced, 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*
- EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility) considerations

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- Expected results, use and beneficiaries of the research
- Dissemination plan for results

*Applicants need to describe how research ethics requirements will be adhered to both according to their Canadian university and in the Southern context in which they will work. Ethical considerations include ethical conduct for research involving humans or animals, issues of consent, fairness, privacy, confidentiality and conflicts of interest.

Approval from research supervisor

Applicants will be required to have their research supervisor complete the 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
- Confirmation of whether the project is subject to both Canadian and local ethics approval
- Confirmation that you have been “fast-tracked” from one program to another, if applicable
- Outline of key safety and security risks to the proponent while in the field and explanation of the university process for ensuring mitigation of any risks

Two recommendations

Two recommendations are required, one being from a professor and the other from your research supervisor. The application 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 recommenders 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, a government department).

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The letter(s) of affiliation must indicate the institution's interest in your 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, 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 completed. (Note: Web transcripts or Academic History are not recognized as official transcripts.)

OR

If you are a citizen of a 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 or birth certificate, or Canadian Permanent Resident Card.

Important Information for Re-applicants

If you were an unsuccessful applicant during a previous call and you meet all eligibility criteria, you may re-apply by submitting a new application, including all supporting documentation listed above. Note that if you are selected for an award, you have up to 12 months to start your field research from the date of the fully executed Award Agreement.

Re-applicants whose research projects no longer fit IDRC development outcome areas will not be allowed to reapply.

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

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Contact US

If you still have a question after reading the guidelines and FAQs, or have a technical inquiry, you may contact us at idrcidra.crdibird@univcan.ca.

NB: The final date to submit a question is **1:00 pm ET July 7, 2023**. All questions and answers will be shared via the FAQs but not attributed to a person. 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 done by **4:00 pm ET, July 12, 2023**.

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