

Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Program Call for Applications for 3rd Round of Funding

Objective:

Postdoctoral Fellows (PDFs) are vital contributors to thriving research, scholarly, and artistic programs. As highly skilled researchers, their presence enhances the research intensity and quality, which in turn directly influences a university's impact, reputation, and global rankings. Recognizing this, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) continues to invest in the Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellows program, a strategic initiative designed to recruit outstanding PDFs who will enrich USask's research, scholarly, and artistic enterprise.

Description:

Living Skies Round 3 focuses on transdisciplinary collaborations¹. Transdisciplinary research goes beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries to address complex societal problems. Successful projects will involve collaboration among researchers from different academic disciplines **and** stakeholders outside academia—such as community members, policymakers, industry professionals, or NGOs.

Round 3 funding will support PDFs with at least two faculty supervisors from different disciplinary areas (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) and a mentor from outside of the academy such as a private or public sector partner. The PDFs selected will gain from interactions with this mentorship team. The PDF will have opportunities to work together across the disciplinary landscape by interacting with the three mentors and their respective teams. Projects should align with one or more of the Signature Areas of Research.

Up to 9 awards per competition may be awarded, with no more than one award per Signature Area of Research. The minimum salary is \$60,000/year. As per the PSAC agreement, these funds will be paid as employment. OVPR will contribute \$45,000/year

¹ **Transdisciplinarity** is an approach that iteratively interweaves knowledge systems, skills, methodologies, values and fields of expertise within inclusive and innovative collaborations that bridge academic disciplines and community perspectives, to develop transformative outcomes that respond to complex societal challenges.^[1] While Multidisciplinarity involves studying a subject from multiple disciplines that maintain their separate identities, and Interdisciplinarity integrates these perspectives to create something greater than the sum of its parts, Transdisciplinarity extends beyond academia by involving societal partners in co-creating knowledge that combines scientific and practical expertise to develop solutions with direct impact on society.^[2]
(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transdisciplinarity>)

for 2 years with the remaining salary and benefits to be covered by the supervisory team. The minimum matching contribution is \$25,000/year. Faculty may supplement the stipend to a higher level if desired and will cover the costs of additional benefits. The table below illustrates the top-ups and benefit costs for salaries at \$60K, \$70K and \$80K.

PDF annual salary	Annual award amount	Matching contribution/year	
		Salary top up	Estimated employee benefits
\$60,000	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
\$70,000	\$45,000	\$25,000	\$10,500
\$80,000	\$45,000	\$35,000	\$11,000

Eligibility

The call is open to all USask faculty who are eligible to supervise postdoctoral fellows (members of CGPS). The supervisory team must consist of 2 faculty members who do not represent the same Tri Agency domain. The 3rd team member needs to be a non-academic, external to USask. Those with adjunct appointments are not considered external.

The supervisory team will nominate one PDF candidate. PDFs who are already at USask and who have already applied for a PDF as of December 31st are not eligible for this funding. PDF candidates can be Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or international student. Only under exceptional circumstances will someone who has obtained a PhD from USask be considered for funding.

The supervisory team will provide minimum of 25,000/year for the salary and the budget to cover the identified research costs and must demonstrate secured funding at the time of application.

Application procedure:

Faculty must identify a PDF at the time of application. The supervisory team submit the application package which includes a section completed by the nominated PDF. The application package can be found <here>. (link to the application package section)

Selection Criteria and adjudication:

The applications will be reviewed by a Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Selection Committee consisting of Signature Area leads and representatives from the CGPS Post-Doctoral Advisory Committee.

Application Launch and Deadline. The call will go out mid-November. This opportunity opens January 12 with a deadline to submit by February 23, 2026. Inquiries can be directed to Leah Johnson.

Leah.johnson@usask.ca

Recruitment of PDFs: Once an application is approved, the recruitment will proceed right away. Recruitment processes should follow CGPS appointment procedures found [here](#), and must adhere to the [USask Postdoctoral Fellows policy](#). PDF appointments need to start between May 1st and October 31st of the year awarded. If the named PDF is unsuccessful in coming to USask within that time frame, the award will be cancelled.

Progress Reports:

Recipients of the Living Skies and the supervisory team will be required to submit a brief progress report after the 1st year of funding and 2nd year of funding.

Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellows Program Application

Part 1: Application Form

(To be completed by both supervisors and the prospective Postdoctoral Fellow)

Faculty Member 1 Name	Faculty Member Academic Home	Tri Agency <input type="checkbox"/> CIHR <input type="checkbox"/> NSERC <input type="checkbox"/> SSHRC
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Faculty Member 2 Name	Faculty Member Academic Home	Tri Agency <input type="checkbox"/> CIHR <input type="checkbox"/> NSERC <input type="checkbox"/> SSHRC
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External Mentor Name	Email Address	Primary Place of Affiliation
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Family, Surname, Last Name	Given First Name	Email Address	
Address	City	Country	Postal/Zip Code
<p>It is your choice to self-identify if you belong to one or more of the following groups that have been designated by the University's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous person <input type="checkbox"/> Member of a racialized group <input type="checkbox"/> Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Person with a disability/with disabilities </p>			

Citizenship Status

<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Citizen / Permanent Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Canadian	Indicate Country of Citizenship:	Will you have been a resident of Saskatoon for twenty-four months prior to the date of application? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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PhD completion

Year Ph.D. Obtained / Expected date of completion	University/ Institution
Country	Discipline of Ph.D. Research

Signature Area

Please indicate the signature area under which you wish to be adjudicated. If the work does not clearly fit under one of this year's chosen signature areas, please do not apply. Each year, the competition will centre on varying University of Saskatchewan signature areas of research.

I wish to enter the competition under the following signature area:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> Synchrotron Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Communities and Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> One Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |

Declaration

Applicant

I, the applicant, certify that the information furnished in this application is true and complete in all respects and that no relevant information has been withheld.

Applicant Signature

Date

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTACHMENTS

Each section below is a separate attachment and must accompany the main application form. The full application package with all attachments must be submitted to leah.johnson@usask.ca by February 23, 2026.

Section 1: Supervisors' statement

On a separate page, maximum of 1000 words, excluding bibliography, provide a statement from both supervisors that address the following points:

- Description of the supervisors' academic and research background
- Description of how the research interests/background of the nominated PDF fit with the team
- Description of the proposed research setting
- The 5 most relevant publications from both faculty members

Section 2: External mentor statement

Provide a statement from the external mentor that addresses the mentor's research background, experience, professional activities and contributions related to the proposed transdisciplinary work

Section 3: Research Proposal

The PDF, in consultation with the supervisors, will provide a one-page summary that will include:

- Objectives of the proposed research program
- Explanation of the transdisciplinary nature of the program
- Theoretical approach or framework
- The contribution that the research will make to the advancement of knowledge.

Section 4: Funding contributions

On a separate page, the supervisors will outline the sources of funding (must be committed or secured sources) to match the PDFs salary. It must be a minimum of \$25k/year for 2 years.

Section 5: CV from the PDF