Simon Fraser University delivers academic and research excellence. Building on a solid foundation of fundamental research, we are committed to disseminating knowledge and harnessing new ideas and innovations for the benefit of society. SFU’s 2016-2020 Strategic Research Plan positions the university to continue to grow its capacity in research and knowledge mobilization across diverse sectors. It also identifies strengths at SFU that have led to the establishment of four research clusters: Big Data; Health Technology and Health Solutions; New Materials and Technology for Sustainability; and Community-based Research. SFU ranks among Canada’s top 15 research universities and enjoys the fastest growing research income.

Dugan O’Neil leads Simon Fraser University’s strategic research initiatives and facilitates international opportunities that foster research collaborations and student exchange.

His work focuses on facilitating research excellence and helping the university respond to new opportunities. He works with members of SFU’s eight faculties to ensure they have the support and resources required to conduct excellent cutting-edge research in all its forms.

Building on his long-standing leadership and research experience, he works with faculty, students and staff to secure research partnerships within the community and industry.

Angela Brooks Wilson works closely with the Vice-President, Research and International and shares responsibility for academic leadership in, and administration of, research and other scholarly activities. Together, they work to raise SFU’s research profile to an internationally competitive level. Activities include the encouragement, facilitation and administration of research across all eight faculties and other offices at the university.

She is cited for her passion for higher education, research and her track record of success as a researcher and a Distinguished Scientist at Canada’s Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre at B.C. Cancer.

SFU’s 2016-2020 Strategic Research Plan builds on its strengths and successes, and positions the university to continue to grow its capacity in research and knowledge mobilization. This plan provides direction for solidifying SFU’s interdisciplinary research strengths while building critical mass in areas that are globally relevant and strategically important. It reinforces SFU’s commitment to excellence across the full spectrum of research as the driver of bold research questions, engaged partnerships and transformative impact. Lastly, it provides a road map for how the university will capitalize on new opportunities, invest in strategic research growth areas and drive forward initiatives that enhance its research performance.

Read the Strategic Research Plan.
RESEARCH PERFORMANCE

Simon Fraser University is one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities. SFU consistently ranks among Canada’s top 15 research universities by major global and national university ranking systems.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SFU consistently ranks among Canada’s top universities in research impact. In the latest QS World University Rankings, SFU is ranked 8th among Canadian universities for citations per faculty. QS World University rankings, places SFU 2nd among Canadian universities for research impact.

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

SFU is consistently ranked among Canada’s top universities in major national and global ranking systems:

- In Maclean’s Rankings, SFU has been ranked first every year in the Comprehensive University category, with the exception of 2014, when it was ranked second.
- SFU is one of four Canadian universities named by Times Higher Education in their list of the world’s top 55 Tech Challenger Universities.
- The 2020 Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings places SFU first in the world for impact on sustainable cities and communities.
- SFU ranks 13th in Canada in the latest QS World University Rankings, ranking eighth in Canada for citations per faculty. SFU consistently ranks in the top 200 worldwide for research impact.
- In the Times Higher Education 2020 World University Rankings, SFU is tied for 11th place in Canada.
- Times Higher Education placed SFU among the top 10 universities worldwide for our commitment to tackling climate change in 2020.
- As one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities, SFU consistently ranks among Canada’s top 15 research universities in major global and national university ranking systems.

RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

The research Centres and Institutes are an integral part of research at SFU. SFU has established:

- 44 Research Centres: non-departmental academic or administrative units established for the purposes of facilitating collaborative research mainly within a faculty.
- 22 Research Institutes: created to facilitate collaborative multi-disciplinary research between different faculties or multiuniversity initiatives and to provide research-related services to the community.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Research at SFU spans eight faculties, covering a broad range of fundamental, interdisciplinary and applied research topics, as outlined in our Strategic Research Plan.

On average, SFU researchers publish 2,500 journal articles per year, over 40% of which appear in the world’s top 10% journals (Source: Scopus).

RESEARCH COLLaborATIONS

At the heart of SFU’s research is a strategy for wide-reaching collaborations at the local, national and international levels, to foster a seamless continuum of knowledge generation and knowledge transfer across diverse sectors. SFU has an international footprint of partnerships with 3,000+ institutions worldwide, in 125 countries.

SFU enjoys the fastest-growing research income among research universities in Canada having surpassed $100M in 2013 and reached $161M in 2019.
RESEARCH COMPUTING

IT Services supports SFU researchers with a number of information technology services, including:

• Expertise regarding specific software packages;
• Access to high-performance computing installations;
• Access to large-scale data storage;
• Assistance in analyzing, designing, and procuring IT software and hardware;
• Project management support, and;
• The preparation of the IT section of a grant proposal.

Researchers have access to large-scale computing resources and large-scale storage facilities. Service is provided through the IT Services Research Computing Group (RCG), and it is free for all researchers.

MORE INFORMATION:

IT Services
Supercomputer Cedar
WestGrid
Compute Canada
Collaboration facilities @SFU

Please contact research-support@sfu.ca.

MOVING IDEAS INTO ACTION

SFU Innovates is the university’s innovation strategy with a mission to engage SFU researchers, staff and students with our communities and partners to solve societal challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Based on SFU’s vision to be Canada’s engaged university, SFU Innovates builds on our dynamic culture and seeks to strengthen SFU as Canada’s academic leader in innovation.

Learn more at: www.sfu.ca/research/sfu-innovates.

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SFU EMPOWERS LEADERS TO PUT DATA INTO WORK FOR REAL WORLD SOLUTIONS

SFU leverages the power of big data so Canada can lead in a digital world.

With over a decade of leadership in the big data field, SFU unlocks data to fill a critical talent shortage, generate new knowledge and contribute to an innovative economy. We bring our partners from government, industry and communities together to deliver unexpected insights and impact that drive business forward and benefit society.

Job-ready talent harnessing data for positive outcomes. Hands-on training to make better decisions. Strong partnerships that transform society.

We empower people to use data for impact to grow a competitive economy and solve global challenges.

Discover more on the website at www.sfu.ca/big-data.
RESEARCH FACILITATION AT SFU

RESEARCH GRANT FACILITATORS

SFU staff in each faculty with research credentials and experience, who can match researchers with funding opportunities and potential collaborators, assist with the development of competitive applications for external grant and contract funding, and offer grant-writing workshops.

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC AWARDS

The Institutional Strategic Awards (ISA) team focuses on pre-award development and post-award management of the largest and most complex grants, contracts, prizes and awards at SFU. Our researchers are increasingly pursuing larger and more complex opportunities. ISA is a complete re-think of how the university approaches these larger projects. A team of facilitators, writers and project managers provides the appropriate level of support for each type of opportunity. A large PI-driven grant with multiple institutional and/or community partners requires a very different support team from a CFI-driven infrastructure proposal. ISA is structured to do both.

ISA also supports and manages nominations for significant prizes and awards, helping develop a culture of recognition and highlighting the cutting-edge achievements of our faculty.

QUICK LINKS

- SFU’s Research Policies
- Strategic Research Plan
- Centres & Institutes
- Research Support Fund
- Research Events
- Research Ethics Policies & Guidelines
- Research Ethics Training
- Funding Opportunities
- Internal Grant Deadlines
- Grant Info for New Faculty
- Guidelines & Policies
- Research Services Forms
- Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide

DID YOU KNOW?

At SFU, university members own the products of their intellectual endeavours and are free to publish those products without commercial intent, to pursue commercialization with the assistance of the university, or to pursue commercialization of the IP in their own right. For more, see SFU’s Intellectual Property Policy or connect with Technology Licensing Office.

THE CONVERSATION CANADA

SFU has joined 20 other Canadian universities as a partner of The Conversation Canada.

Academics and researchers who publish articles through The Conversation Canada get access to a robust analytics dashboard that provides data they can’t get from traditional academic publications. The researchers can in turn use this data to demonstrate knowledge mobilization, an increasingly important element in grant applications.

Learn how to join and see what SFU offers for media training: www.sfu.ca/communicators-toolkit/guides/media-guide/contributing-to-the-conversation-canada.html

UNITS:

- VPRI Office
- Institutional Strategic Awards
- Research Services
- Research Ethics
- Technology Licencing Office
- Animal Care Services
- SFU Library
- Research Safety

CONTACT:

- 2152, vpr_ea@sfu.ca
- 23229, isa@sfu.ca
- 25798, ors@sfu.ca
- 23447, dore@sfu.ca
- 24292, tlo_admin@sfu.ca
- 24737, acf@sfu.ca
- Bennett: 24351
- Belzberg: 25050
- Fraser: 27411
- 24978, ehs@sfu.ca
- Bio/Chemical: 27265
- Diving: 23705
- Radiation: 27238/7998