Welcome to Simon Fraser University

**Office of the Vice-President, Research**

Research is a key part of Simon Fraser University’s (SFU) vision to be a world leader in knowledge mobilization, renowned for its capacity to disseminate knowledge and to harness new ideas and innovations for the benefit of society. This commitment rests on a solid foundation of—and continued commitment to—fundamental research.

Joy Johnson leads Simon Fraser University’s strategic research initiatives and facilitates international opportunities that foster research collaborations and student exchange.

Her work focuses on facilitating research excellence and helping the university respond to new opportunities. She 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 her long-standing leadership and research experience, she works with faculty, students and staff to secure research partnerships within the community and industry.

As the Associate Vice-President, Research, Dugan O’Neil works closely with the Vice-President, Research 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 faculties and other offices at SFU.

He is cited for integrating sophisticated digital infrastructure into a diverse scientific community that spans engineering, natural sciences, health, social sciences and humanities.

**SFU’s 2016-2020 Strategic Research Plan**

SFU’s Strategic Research Plan for 2016-2020 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 2016-2020 Strategic Research Plan.

**Institutional Strategic Awards**

The Institutional Strategic Awards team focuses on pre-award development and post-award management of the largest and most complex grants, contracts, prizes and awards at SFU.

**Research Services**

Research Services at SFU assists faculty in obtaining and administering financial support for their research.

**Research Ethics**

Research Ethics at SFU ensures that research involving human subjects meets high scholarly and ethical standards.

**Industry Engagement**

Industry Engagement assists SFU innovators in assessing the patentability and market potential of new technologies and research innovations in order to mobilize this knowledge and benefit our communities, society and the economy.

**Animal Care Services**

Animal Care Services ensures that SFU conducts research, teaching or testing that involves animals in the most humane and ethical manner possible.

**Library**

The SFU Library provides information resources, teaching and learning programs, and research support of SFU’s faculty, students, and staff. It also engages in national technology initiatives.

**SFU International**

SFU International is responsible for the strategic development and coordination of SFU’s international engagement initiatives in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.
SFU Research: Stats & Rankings

RESEARCH PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGY

Over the last decade, SFU has transformed into one of Canada’s top research-intensive universities. This transformation has been due to a deliberate, strategic shift to build on core and interdisciplinary strengths in the fundamental, social and applied sciences, with a particular emphasis on research excellence, innovation, community engagement and economic relevance of research. As a result, we have increased our research capacity four-fold since the turn of the Century, as reflected by the increase in our total research income.

Our research spans across eight Faculties, covering a broad range of fundamental, interdisciplinary and applied research topics, as outlined in our Strategic Research Plan, which identifies six strategic world challenges the university is equipped to address. These are: (1) Addressing environmental concerns and creating a sustainable future; (2) Understanding our origins; (3) Supporting health across the human lifespan; (4) Strengthening civil society by advancing justice, equity and social responsibility; (5) Enhancing our world through technology; and (6) Transforming the landscape of teaching and learning. In the process of addressing these challenges, we have developed particular strengths that have led to the establishment of four strong research clusters. These clusters provide platforms that enable researchers to tackle large crosscutting challenges, while creating and capitalizing on distinct advantages for global leadership. The clusters are defined by a strong core of researchers from diverse disciplines who use innovative approaches and methods to drive impactful outcomes. The four research clusters, strategically supported by the university, are:

• Big Data;
• Health Technology and Health Solutions;
• New Materials and Technology for Sustainability; and
• Community-Based Research.

At the heart of SFU’s research is a strategy for far-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 over 2100 institutions worldwide, in more than 110 countries.

SFU consistently ranks among Canada’s top universities in research impact. In the latest QS World University Rankings, SFU is ranked 2nd in Canada for three years straight in research impact. Times Higher Education ranks SFU 34th in the world and 3rd in Canada for Best Golden Age Universities. According to Elsevier’s SciVal, SFU ranks 6th among Canadian universities by field-weighted citation impact. In Maclean’s Rankings, SFU has been ranked 1st every year as Canada’s top Comprehensive University, with the exception of 2014, when it was ranked 2nd. Furthermore, SFU was one of four Canadian universities to be named by Times Higher Education in their list of the world’s top 50 Tech Challenger Universities.

Strategic Initiatives

SGF Innovates

Moving ideas into action. SFU Innovates is a university-wide strategy that builds on our dynamic culture and seeks to strengthen SFU’s commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship.

Based on SFU’s vision to be Canada’s engaged university, SFU Innovates helps students and researchers mobilize their ideas for positive social and economic impact.

Learn more on the website at www.sfu.ca/innovates.

KEY, SFU’S BIG DATA INITIATIVE

KEY, SFU’S Big Data Initiative, provides tools, training and expertise to unlock the potential of big data.

Building on a decade of leadership, SFU provides powerful infrastructure to integrate, manage and secure your data on a massive scale. We empower you to translate data into knowledge through hands-on training and access to experts – no matter your domain, discipline or level of expertise. SFU is investing in the growth of data-intensive research across all eight Faculties to raise awareness of big data in every field of study, spark new collaborations, support faculty members and their students, and mobilize knowledge for real world impact.

Discover more on the website at www.sfu.ca/key.

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
• 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.
**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 Simon Fraser University (SFU). As SFU’s sponsored research funding approaches the $140M mark, our researchers are increasingly pursuing larger and more complex opportunities. The 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. The ISA is structured to do both — and to handle complex financial or legal requirements as well.

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

**OFFICE:**

- **RESEARCH SERVICES AND SUPPORT**
  - **VPR Office**
  - **Institutional Strategic Awards**
  - **Research Services**
  - **Research Ethics**
  - **Industry Engagement**
  - **Animal Care Services**
  - **SFU Library**
  - **Research Safety**

**CONTACT:**

- **25080, vprsec@sfu.ca**
- **25798, ors@sfu.ca**
- **23447, dore@sfu.ca**
- **24292, sfuie@sfu.ca**
- **24737, acf@sfu.ca**
- **Bennett: 24351**
- **Belzberg: 25050**
- **Fraser: 27411**
- **24978, ehs@sfu.ca**
- **Bio/Chemical: 27265**
- **Diving: 23705**
- **Radiation: 27238/7998**

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**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.

**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.