RSC Research Fund
Frequently Asked Questions

Membership requirements & details on how to upgrade membership.

All applicants must at least be Associate Level Members (AMRSC) or higher (*see below).

Undergraduate Student Members (AFU) and Affiliate (AFF) are **not** an eligible category of membership for this grant. If you hold AFU or AFF membership you will need to upgrade to Associate or above. You can contact membership@rsc.org and they will be able to assist you with this.

Please note that you must hold an eligible category of membership before you submit an application to the grant. Your application will not be considered if you do not hold an eligible Membership category when your submitted application is processed by staff. It is your responsibility to ensure that you hold the correct category at submission. Please contact membership@rsc.org if you are unsure.

* Categories of Membership

Undergraduate student member (Affiliate Ugrad AFU)	**Ineligible**: Requires upgrade to Associate or above. Needs to be approved by application submission.
Affiliate (AFF)	**Ineligible**: Requires upgrade to Associate or above. Needs to be approved by application submission.
Associate (AMRSC)	Eligible
Member (MRSC)	Eligible
Fellow (FRSC)	Eligible

If your membership login shows your membership status as "Web Applicant / Applicant" this means your Membership Application is still being processed, and you have not yet been admitted as a member. You will receive a confirmation email to confirm once it has been activated.

If you are upgrading your membership category, please check the web portal to confirm the change is complete – your new category will show there once the upgrade is finalized. For renewals, you will need to check that the 'paid through date' on your portal has been updated.

How do I submit my application to the Grant?

Please carefully read the Guidance for Applicants document to ensure you are eligible and that you have all of the information you need to apply.

You will then need to log onto our online application system. If you have not used the SurveyMonkey Apply system before, you will need to create an account (this is not an RSC system and so your RSC membership login will not work). Once you have created an account, it will take you step-by-step through completing your application, from entering your details, uploading your project proposal and obtaining the required contributions from your collaborator or supervisor/line manager/head of department.

Can I save my application to return and complete at a later stage?

You are not required to complete your application on the same day you start it. You have the option to save your application as you go through allowing you to return multiple times prior to submission.

I need to reset my Application Portal password. How can I do this?

You can request a password reset by visiting this page: https://roysocchem.smapply.io/acc/p/

Still unable to reset password on SurveyMonkey Apply?

As this is not an RSC site we are unable to reset or request for your password to be changed. If you follow the below instructions, SurveyMonkey staff will be able to assist you. Please bear in mind that they are based in Canada so response times may vary, but they are usually really quick to help.

In order to assist you further with accessing the site, please take the following steps:

- Go to the Support Contact Form (https://roysocchem.smapply.io/helpdesk/).
- Select from the available drop downs the options that best describe your issue, and review the suggested articles as they may help to resolve your concerns.
- If you are unable to find an answer to your question in one of the articles, click Request Support.
- Enter the Name and Email address that your account is registered under.
- Provide the subject of your email and a brief description of your issue.
- Click Submit.

Alternatively, you can also send SurveyMonkey an email directly at (support@smapply.io) from your account's email address, requesting login assistance. In order to maintain the security of your account the following conditions must be met when requesting login assistance:

- The request comes from the exact email address that you are using to login to SurveyMonkey Apply.
- There are no additional recipients on the email chain.

I am unable to access the next task on the application form.

Some tasks can only be started after you complete one or more previous tasks. Please note, you will not be able to submit your application until all sections have been completed including those that require other parties to provide letters or declaration of approval. So allow plenty of time for them to complete prior to the grant deadline as stated on the webpage.

I have missed the application deadline. Can I still apply in this round?

For fairness and transparency to all applicants, we must apply our rules consistently. This means that we do not allow late applications. You are welcome to apply in the next application round providing you meet all eligibility criteria of that round.

Grant Specific Questions

Can I, as Head of Department, apply for the Research Fund?

If you are the Head of Department, you are eligible to nominate yourself and approve your own application.

What do you mean by independent researcher? Does my role fulfil this criterion?

You can apply to the Research Fund if your role allows for independent research. Independent researchers are not under the supervision of a principal investigator. If you are unsure, please check with your institution if your role allows for independent research.

What will my referee be asked to do?

They will be asked to comment on the scientific quality of your application and should be working in a similar field of research to yourself.

They will be asked to comment on:
- How this work fits in the wider context of the field;
- The novelty/impact of this work in its field of research;

- How reasonable the project is given the resources available to the applicant;
- Are the expenses listed in the application appropriate and essential for the project?

Referees would need to declare any conflicts of interest. Please note they cannot act as a scientific referee if they are closely related to you (e.g. if you are a spouse or sibling) or if they are your head of department. They should also declare any of the following in your reference:
1. if they previously had a close working relationship with you in industry, academia or research institutions etc., e.g. PhD/post-doctoral supervisor, co-workers on the same project, collaborators etc.
2. if they are an applicant on another Research Fund application in this round.
3. if you and they are close collaborators, e.g. co-author of papers, joint funding co-bidder.
4. if they are your current supervisor or line manager.