



UM | Vice-President (Research and International)

410/406 Administration Building
66 Chancellors Circle
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2
T: 204 474 6915
F: 204 261 1318
vpri@umanitoba.ca

TO: Associate Deans (Research)/Research Liaison Officers
FROM: Dr. B. Mario Pinto, Vice-President (Research & International)
DATE: October 20, 2025
RE: Call for CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) to the June 15, 2026, competition
(Note: Virtual workshop date on November 14, 10:00am – 12:00pm)

At a time of intense international competition, the [John R. Evans Leaders Fund \(JELF\) Unaffiliated Program](#) is a critical strategic investment tool designed to help institutions attract and retain the very best of today's and tomorrow's researchers.

ELIGIBILITY

New Investigators within their **initial five years** of appointment at the University of Manitoba (UM) as of June 15, 2026, are eligible to apply. They must be full-time academic faculty members with professorial or academic librarian rank, holding tenure or tenure-track appointments; and geographical full-time (GFT) academic faculty members who have a minimum 40% protected time for research.

Notwithstanding the five-year window for eligibility, the UM acknowledges the potential impact of career interruptions and personal circumstances on an investigator's eligibility. Investigators are encouraged to detail any such impacts within their submission. For examples please refer to the Government of Canada's Canada Research Chairs [Guidelines for Assessing the Productivity of Nominees](#).

Proposals will be accepted from: a) a single New Investigator, b) a group of up to three New Investigators, or c) a single New Investigator being recruited for a full-time academic appointment, with a start date prior to June 15, 2026.

NOTE: Those who are beyond the JELF eligibility window are encouraged to apply to the CFI Innovation Fund (IF) program, typically held every 2-3 years. The IF supports larger groups, centers, departments, or other participating institutions undertaking competitive global projects. The current IF 2026 is closed. Calls for the next competition will be communicated through the Deans'/Directors' offices in advance.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The CFI expects proposals to be aligned within the institutions' strategic priorities. As such, please ensure alignment with both your unit and with the [UM Strategic Research Plan](#).

The review process will follow the [CFI JELF Guidelines](#) and the [CFI Policy and Program Guide](#). Incomplete applications will be returned to the Faculty/School and will not be reviewed by the UM CFI Advisory Committee. For proposals recommended for submission to the CFI, investigators will refine their applications with assistance from unit research facilitators, if available, and ORS staff.

For questions regarding the eligibility of New Investigators, the JELF program, or the application process, please contact Birtukan.Gebretsadik@UManitoba.ca, Office of Research Services.

UM PROPOSAL FUNDING LIMITS

For a **single New Investigator**, the maximum total project cost is \$400,000. To facilitate strategic hiring and/or multi-faculty collaboration, teams of **two New Investigators** will have a maximum of \$862,500, and for **three New Investigators** it will be a maximum of \$1,325,000. **Social Sciences, Humanities (SSH) and Arts** proposals will be accepted for requests less than or equal to \$187,500 total project costs, with application requirements of 10 pages instead of 15 pages.

Investigators	TOTAL Funding	< 40% CFI Contributions	< 40% RM Contributions	> 20% Other Contributions
1 Investigator	\$400,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$80,000
2 Investigators	\$862,500	\$345,000	\$345,000	\$172,500
3 Investigators	\$1,325,000	\$530,000	\$530,000	\$265,000
SSH and Arts	\$187,500	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$37,500

Research Manitoba (RM) funding is dependent on availability of provincial funding. Investigators can apply for up to 40% and RM will fund according to what their budget will permit.

Securing the 'Other Contributions' is the responsibility of the Investigator and the Faculty/School submitting the proposal. **NOTE: this may be greater than 20% if RM funds are less than 40%.**

TIMELINES

1. Workshop: New Investigators and their research staff are encouraged to attend the ORS virtual workshop. Microsoft Teams calendar invites will be distributed to registered attendees.

- **ORS Registration Deadline:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 (12:00pm)
- **Workshop Date:** Friday, November 14, 2025 (10:00am – 12:00pm)
- **Contact:** Jocelyne.Orem@UManitoba.ca

2. Proposal Submission: The Deans/Directors must submit proposals on behalf of the New Investigator(s). Units should establish internal review deadlines, in advance of ORS submission.

- **ORS Proposal Deadline:** Monday, February 23, 2026 (4:30pm)
- **Contact:** Birtukan.Gebretsadik@UManitoba.ca

Rank: If submitting more than one proposal, please indicate the rank ordering in terms of their importance to your unit's strategic development of research and training.

3. Recommendations to Proceed: Proposals will be reviewed and assessed by the UM's CFI Advisory Committee, using the CFI's Assessment Criteria and rating standard as noted in the attachment. The Committee will convene to discuss the proposals and ratings and will make recommendations to the VPRI for submission to the CFI. Decisions will be provided to Deans/Directors offices by April 24, 2026.

4. Additional Deadlines: Will be provided at the virtual workshop. For example, these may include deadlines for contacting Physical Plant, Campus Planning, IST, Digital Research Alliance Canada, etc.

CC: Annemieke Farenhorst, Associate Vice-President (Research)
Hans-Joachim Wieden, Associate Vice-President (Partnerships, Knowledge Mobilization, and Innovation)
Tracy Mohr, Director, Grants and Research Operations
Birtukan Gebretsadik, Research Grants Officer (CFI, CRC)
Jocelyne Orem, Senior Research Infrastructure Specialist (CFI)