

4.3 Eligible Research Expenses

Purpose

1. Outlines the permitted research expenses for researchers/organizations that are awarded or granted funds from RNS.

Principle

2. RNS funds must be used effectively, efficiently, and ethically. To be eligible, the expense must be essential for the purpose for which the funds were awarded, and used only in accordance with the ethical, financial, and equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) policies and practices of the administering organization.

Policy

3. *Policy 4.1 Indirect Research Costs* applies except where superseded by a specific agreement.
4. RNS will fund only research, and expenses related to that research, that is consistent with its legislation and regulations.
5. Project costs covered by another funder are not eligible research expenses.
6. When RNS provides matching funds, as a secondary funder, RNS will accept the cost eligibility rules of the primary funder if:
 - a. the primary funder is the organization that established the funding opportunity and criteria, and to whom the applicant first applied.
 - b. the secondary funder means that that RNS has been asked to provide a funding match to a project identified through a process established by the primary funder.
7. Where Research Nova Scotia has signed an MOU or other agreement with an institution or organizations that specifies eligible expenses, that eligibility list will apply.
8. For funding granted to researchers affiliated with an organization that does not have an existing agreement with RNS or a primary funder that otherwise specifies eligible expenses, the following Eligible Cost Guidelines apply:

9. Eligible Cost Guidelines

Expense type	Eligible	Ineligible
Personnel Costs	<p>Salary and benefit costs for personnel that contribute directly to the project, except for applicants, co-applicants, and collaborators already employed by their primary organization. RNS will align its funding of research costs related to personnel, procurement, and travel with those of the administering organization.</p> <p>Stipends paid to trainees (e.g., students).</p> <p>Costs related to participant recruitment/ remuneration (if included in project’s Research Ethics Board approval)</p> <p>Consulting fees</p> <p>Salaries for clerical or administrative personnel directly related to dissemination of the research findings (e.g., preparing a manuscript).</p>	<p>“Release time” or costs associated with loss of teaching time or time required for other professional commitments.</p> <p>Remuneration for members of the board of directors or other volunteers associated with governing the funded organization.</p>
Travel Costs	<p>Travel and related expenditures at the most economical rates deemed to be reasonable, as based on the administering organization’s policies.</p>	<p>Costs associated with entertainment, alcohol, or cannabis.</p>
Computers/ Electronic Communications	<p>Computers, tablets, emerging technologies, and other hardware and/or specialized software that are not provided by the administering organization, and with adequate justification.</p> <p>Cellular phones when they are necessary for research purposes and/or for personal safety purposes, with adequate justification.</p> <p>Monthly plans for electronic devices when they are used for research purposes and/or personal safety.</p>	<p>Costs associated with extended warranties for standard equipment.</p> <p>Costs for home internet connections.</p>
Meetings and Hospitality	<p>Meeting room rental fees and catering costs for the purposes of data collection, partnership development, and research knowledge sharing, as identified in the original project proposal.</p>	<p>Costs incurred for interactions between personnel already involved in the research project.</p>

Expense type	Eligible	Ineligible
	Hospitality costs related directly to the funded research for assemblies that contribute to achieving the research objective(s).	Costs associated with entertainment, alcohol, or cannabis.
Gifts, Honoraria, Incentives	<p>Individuals or groups involved in the research but not a member of the grant team may be offered gifts, honoraria, and incentives as a token of appreciation.</p> <p>For Indigenous Knowledge Keepers involved in research, gifts may be given in a ceremonial context.</p>	

10. Eligibility of other expenses will be covered in either the approved project application or in the funding agreement for individual research projects.

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