

UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND
2026-27 PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The Research Support Fund (RSF) has enabled and will continue to enable UPEI to maintain its research infrastructure, support the research enterprise, and invest in technology transfer. At UPEI, the RSF is spent in all eligible categories. The outcomes are driven by the research community's interest in applying for funding, and their successes. UPEI's RSF strives to support research at both the pre-award and post-award stages.

2026-2027 Total RSF Allocation - \$1,399,214		
Performance Objective	Indicator	Targeted Outcomes
Research Facilities - \$170,000 (12%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain UPEI research facilities and equipment in support of the research enterprise 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Funds are used to offset operating costs, renovations, or additions to research infrastructure 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Research facilities' operating costs are maintained
Research Resources - \$122,658 (9%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued investment in library acquisitions and library research infrastructure and services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Funds are used to support core database subscriptions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Core database subscriptions maintained or enhanced
Management and Administration of Research Enterprise - \$498,328 (35%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain staffing in support of UPEI research Provide assistance with proposal preparation Update the electronic Research Administration System (eRAS) to enhance workflow 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Number of full-time equivalent positions supported by the RSF Number of researcher outreach (workshops, presentations) Test and validate new eRAS software to enhance and streamline research administration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Invest a portion of RSF in human resources in support and administration of research at UPEI 18-20 research outreach sessions, including summer training and information sessions on funding/grant processes and policies e.g. EDIA in research, new faculty orientation, Research on Tap, and Research Breakfast. Test and validate new eRAS, including data migration, validation, and testing.
Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation - \$260,917 (19%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain human resources involved in regulatory requirements of research at UPEI Support awareness of regulatory requirements for researchers at UPEI 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time equivalent positions supported by the RSF Membership in regulatory bodies Outreach to the research community and support materials for regulatory requirements Collaborate and enhance the workflow for Biosafety compliance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Invest a portion of RSF in supporting compliance with regulatory requirements for research and ensuring applications are processed based on requirements Membership in CAREB Review and approve biosafety permits and renewals. Create Standard Operating Procedures and update forms to clarify processes for Biosafety compliance.
Intellectual Property & Knowledge Mobilization - \$347,311 (25%)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to Research Partnership and Innovation (RPI) in supporting IP and knowledge mobilization Provide tech transfer services to the university community Develop and process collaborations with industry, government and community groups Assist in licensing technology or creation of spin-out companies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Number of researchers working with OCII Number of events with partners, funders and researchers Number of technologies assessed Number of patent applications and number licenses or spin-out companies Number of engagements with partners, including confidentiality agreements Number of funded collaborations with partners 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with at least 15 researchers per quarter. Host 6 events with researchers, partners and / or funders Evaluate 8 technologies with commercial potential Facilitate 2 patent applications and 2 licenses or spin-out companies Engage with 60 partners Engage with 35 partner collaborations.

UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND – Research Security
2026-27 PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The research security funding will help build capacity at UPEI to identify, assess, and mitigate potential risks to research security. A new electronic Research Administration System (eRAS) will automate risk assessments (attestations in the workflow), partner vetting, and prevent unauthorized knowledge transfer/intellectual property theft by mandating adherence to national security guidelines before projects begin. It will prevent funding disbursement or project initiation until all security checklists and mitigation plans are officially approved.

2026-2027 Research Security Allocation - \$15,198				
Project title	Output (investment of research security funds)	Performance objective	Performance indicator	Target outcome
Minimize digital research security threats within electronic Research Administration System (eRAS)	\$15,198 invested in improving software security for the eRAS.	Testing and implementation of new eRAS, as a continuation from the assessment phase that was initiated in 2024/2025.	Test and validate the new eRAS with integration into UPEI's two-factor authentication login service.	Test and validate software system security improvements during the implementation of new software (eRAS); implement improvements. The full implementation is targeted for 2027-2028.

Project objectives: Improve the IT security for the UPEI research database.

Need and projected impacts: UPEI's current research services software is used to store various types of sensitive information including technology disclosures, confidential technology data, proprietary data, research security assessments, and additional confidential research information. The current solution has several security-related limitations, including:

1. The lack of a multi-factor authentication mechanism that ties a user login back to a specific person;
2. Limited access and change logs within the solution to indicate which users are accessing and updating the information;
3. Limited ability to review what access a user has within the system and ensure that it is appropriate;
4. A lack of integration between UPEI and Health PEI solutions that are used for proposal review and management, which can lead to information being shared through insecure mechanisms; and
5. The absence of an automated approval routing algorithm for research proposals, which could result in proposal and contract information being visible to persons with no need to see it.

Assessing and selecting new software to address the limitations of the existing solution will mitigate these IT security risks. Testing, validation, and implementation will encompass a multi-year project.

Institutional commitment: Staff to support the validation, testing, and integration of the eRAS solution which prioritizes software security and required capabilities, and additional funds to implement the solution across the institution.

Anticipated results: A new system that addresses the needs outlined above and will improve IT security for UPEI's research database as follows:

1. Implementing multi-factor authentication will mitigate the risk of unauthorized access through the theft or misuse of authentication credentials;
2. Auditing and logging improvements will allow UPEI to undertake periodic security and access reviews to detect breaches and proactively address concerns related to user privileges; and
3. Improvements in the areas of solution integration and approval of routing will limit access to sensitive information only to those with a need to know.

Estimated timeline: Original timelines outlined in the 2024-2025 Research Security targets have been delayed. The contract was signed in March 2026, and testing, migration, and validation will now occur from June 2026 to June 2027. Implementation will be in the 2027-2028 fiscal year.