2026–27 Annual Competition to Support Projects Led by Research Members

The annual project support competition of the SHERPA University Institute aims to support members in carrying out targeted, structuring projects with the potential to deliver tangible short-term benefits.

Funding of up to **$8,000 per project** is available to support activities over a period of **12 to 18 months** that would be difficult or impossible to carry out without support from the SHERPA University Institute.

The competition gives particular priority to projects with **leverage potential**, meaning the potential to lead to an external funding application or a larger-scale project, as well as projects that support the rapid production of knowledge, tools or results that practice settings can use. Funds will be awarded in February 2027 and must be used by March 31, 2028.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, the project must meet **all of the following conditions**:

1. Align with **at least one priority area of the SHERPA University Institute's scientific program**;
2. Involve **at least two regular members of the SHERPA University Institute**;
3. Be feasible within **12 to 18 months of the funding award**;
4. Deliver **at least one tangible outcome** during the funding period, for example:
    - submission of an external funding application;
    - submission of a publication or another knowledge product (article, report, review, policy brief, etc.);
    - development, validation or dissemination of a tool;
    - design and implementation of a pilot project;
    - delivery of a knowledge mobilization activity in which the SHERPA University Institute is involved as a partner
5. Demonstrate a **clearly established need for funding**; the proposed activities must not already be fully funded by another source.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a review committee according to the following criteria:

- **Relevance and scientific alignment**
- **Project quality and coherence**
- **Feasibility and budget relevance**
- **Benefits, knowledge mobilization and leverage potential**
- **Collaboration and contribution to the centre's dynamics**

Among projects of comparable quality, priority will be given to those that promote leadership by early-career researchers, establish new collaborations, provide leverage for external funding, and generate significant benefits for practice settings or the populations concerned.

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Please complete the **online form** and submit it **no later than January 8, 2026, at 4 p.m.**

CONTACT PERSON

Annie Pontbriand
Research Coordinator
SHERPA University Institute
(514) 273-3800, ext. 6591
annie.pontbriand.dlm@ssss.gouv.qc.ca