



Canada

1. Science and Innovation Landscape

Key Statistics

Canada is the world's tenth-largest economy, with an export focused market largely characterised by natural resources. In 2021, Canada's gross domestic expenditures on research and development (GERD) reached \$46.9 billion CAD, with preliminary estimates for 2022 reaching \$48.2 billion CAD ([Statistics Canada](#)). This includes R&D spending for the natural sciences and engineering as well as the social sciences and humanities. Compared to other OECD countries, Canada's R&D intensity (the ratio of gross R&D expenditures to GDP) ranks 19th, falling below the [G7 average](#). However, Canada's strengths include its highly educated population, large entrepreneurial presence ([comprising 17% of the workforce](#)), and globally recognised academic institutions, including [three universities in the global top 50](#).

Canada is home to four of the top 100 S&T clusters innovation clusters (Waterloo-Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa) and ranked 15th on the 2023 [Global Innovation Index](#).

Government structures and policies

Federally, the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is responsible for policy on science, technology, and innovation. Please see below for a list of major federally managed research and development institutes across Canada.

- [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#)
- [Clean Energy Research and Development Centres](#)
- [National Research Council Facilities](#)
- [Fisheries Centres of Expertise](#)
- [Science research centres \(federal\)](#)
- [Arctic Research Facilities](#)
- [Communications Research](#)

Under Canada's constitution, each province or territory has considerable autonomy and will have their own policies for Science and Innovation, often with considerable budgets to augment federal funding. Provincial/territorial governments are also responsible for universities and higher education policy and licensing.

2. UK Partnership with the Country on ST&I

The research priorities of the UK and Canada are very much aligned. The two countries originally formalized their shared commitment through the signing of a Canada-UK Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on science, technology, and innovation in 2017. This was renewed by Secretary of State Michelle Donelan and Canadian science and innovation Minister Champagne in 2024, cementing Canada as a key partner in ST&I. The MoU sets out areas of cooperation between the two countries, including:

- **Digital and emerging technology**
 - Artificial intelligence
 - Semiconductors
 - Quantum technology
- **Life sciences**
 - Engineering biology
 - Biomanufacturing
 - Agricultural technology
- **Sustainability and net zero**
 - Critical minerals
 - Ocean science and technology
 - Clean energy technology
 - Arctic and polar research

Partners and Collaborators

SIN Canada's collaborators span across the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, industry partners, and academia.

We work closely with our colleagues at UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), which has a strong working relationship with Canadian partners. In fact, between 2020-2023, £350M of UKRI grants included a Canadian collaborator. Funding agencies in the UK and Canada undertake many joint research funding calls. Please see [the regularly updated list of funding opportunities available through UKRI](#).

3. SIN Contacts

Our officers, based at the British High Commission in Ottawa and the British Consulates General in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver, offer professional and authoritative assistance to British and Canadian stakeholders interested in developing connections with the science and innovation communities between both countries. Our team can be reached by email: sinbox2@fcdo.gov.uk.

