Canada's humanities and social sciences researchers deepen our understanding of modern social, cultural, technological, environmental, economic and health issues.

Through research, teaching and community engagement, scholars are helping explore profound questions about who we are as Canadians and what kind of future we want for ourselves and our country.

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is a national, member-based organization that represents Canada's professors, students and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences. We connect researchers to the media, the public and decision-makers. We bring scholars to Parliament Hill to share insights on topical issues through our Big Thinking lecture series. We also organize Canada's largest academic gathering every year, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Who we are and what we do

Roughly 600,000 post-secondary students are enrolled in humanities and social sciences programs in Canada today. Employers are putting a premium on the skills that are acquired through humanities and social sciences learning—skills such as problem-solving, analytical thinking, communications and leadership.

Graduates work in a wide range of sectors, including education, law, finance, communications, media and the public service. Earnings for our graduates are comparable to those in many other disciplines.

Canada's humanities and social sciences research community comprises about 24,000 full-time university faculty teachers, 21,000 doctoral students and 46,000 master’s students.

The research of these scholars is supported by the federal government’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) through competitive grants—as many as 12,500 applications are submitted for research funding each year. Many of these projects will make a substantial, direct contribution to improving public policy and legislative initiatives.

Smart ideas for a better tomorrow

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