

Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) – Call for Proposals BC Interior Region Seed Grant Health Research Fund

The Opportunity

In collaboration with the Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC), the BC Ministry of Health (MoH) has established a *BC Interior Region Seed Grant Health Research Fund*. The \$150,000 Fund will encourage inter-institutional research, in health-related areas, between researchers at Thompson Rivers University, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the University of British Columbia (Okanagan).

To be eligible, COVID-related research conducted under this call for proposals must be guided by:

1. The BC Ministry of Health Priorities:
https://www.msfr.org/sites/default/files/Health_System_Priorities.pdf; and
2. BC's COVID-19 Strategic Research Framework (with a focus on B.C. specific epidemiology and public health countermeasures to address some of the challenges of long-term care homes, inner city populations, rural communities, Indigenous peoples, and health-care workers).
<https://www.msfr.org/our-work/covid-19-research-response/strategic-provincial-advisory-committee-srac/bc-covid-19>

Important Dates

Submission Deadline: July 29, 2020

Funding Start Date: Upon IURC receipt of funds from MoH

Interim report: November 2, 2020

Final Report: June 30, 2021

Value and Duration

Proposals must involve two or more of the participating IURC universities. Funding is available for one year, and will be allocated into **two funding streams**:

1. Research projects with existing funding may receive \$5,000 – \$10,000 supplements to allow them to include targeted and significant consideration of COVID-19 issues; or
2. New, collaborative research projects focused on COVID-19 research are eligible for project funding of \$10,000 - \$20,000.

Adjudication

Funds are awarded on the basis of merit of the proposal, team members' research excellence, Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) training, and alignment with MoH's priorities and BC's COVID-19 Research Framework. The funds will be adjudicated by an IURC adjudication committee, with representation from MoH, a representative from Northern Health, and a representative from the Interior Academic Health Science Consortium.

Eligibility

Full-time faculty with ongoing or tenure-track appointments are eligible to apply. Those holding sessional or term appointments may contribute to and receive funding from an approved project, but they are not eligible to apply as Principal Applicants.

Joint research proposals can originate from any one of the three IURC institutions, and must be led/co-led by IURC researchers. Proposals must include researchers from at least two of the three IURC

institutions but can also include researchers from non-IURC institutions. Teams representing early career researchers¹, and members of the four federally designated equity seeking groups are encouraged to apply. Joint research proposals across all disciplines demonstrating engagement with and/or plans to develop respectful Indigenous partnerships, and addressing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)² are encouraged.

Awarded projects will have a single administrative lead Principal Applicant who will be responsible for managing all aspects of the project, including financial oversight, and will provide mid-term and final reports that describes progress to the Director of the IURC Partnership Office.

Reporting

All successful applicants are required to share their research through BC's COVID-19 Research Response Inventory: <https://bcahsn.ca/covid-19-response/covid-19-research-inventory/>

IURC will provide to MoH the following information: Project title, PI and collaborators, Abstract (not to exceed 250 words), keywords, funding amount.

Mid-term reports will be due on **November 2, 2020**, using achievement templates that will be provided in advance. Final report is due **June 30, 2021**. No extensions are allowed.

Proposal Submission Requirements

A full application as a single PDF document must be prepared according the following guidelines and must be submitted electronically to Janice.Larson@ubc.ca by 4:00 pm Pacific Time on **July 29, 2020**.

Applications will include the followings (in order):

1. Cover page with Principal Applicant and co-applicant(s) signatures
2. Project Description (maximum two pages plus one page for bibliography).
2-page project description should include:
 - A descriptive title
 - Abstract of proposed collaborative project (100 words)
 - A free-form detailed proposal addressing the evaluation criteria such that reviewers can evaluate the goals and approach of your proposed research. The description should address the mandate of this call, make a case for the uniqueness, value and impact of the proposed research and include a clear rationale for the collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, methodology employed, a work plan including timelines, knowledge mobilization plan, the anticipated research contributions and impacts.
3. Itemized budget and justification (maximum one page): Budgets may be supplemented through cash and in-kind support from participating faculties and partners, but this is not a requirement for the application.
4. Project Team
 - Full names, current positions, and role of each team member in the proposed research activity by stating what is to be done, by whom, how and when (maximum one page); and
 - Current 2-page CV(s): listing each team member's education, recent relevant publications, prior scholarly activity and any long-term research collaborations. (*CVs not complying the page limit will not be reviewed*)

Eligible Expenses

All expenses must be in compliance with the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#). Expenses directly related to the research are eligible. Funding may be used to pay for research assistants, direct

cost of the research including data procurement and analysis, travel (or virtual technology) for field work, research team activities such as meetings and workshops for the development of the partnerships, knowledge mobilization activities (cannot exceed 20% of the overall budget), and other items necessary for completion of the project (e.g., research supplies directly required for completion of the project, transcription services, technical services, etc.).

Ineligible expenses

Release time for faculty; salary and benefits for a Post-Doctoral Researcher; direct support to Graduate student research that fulfils degree requirements; funding for publication; office supplies; equipment purchases; retroactive expenses and overhead costs. (For this call, the IURC universities will waive overhead costs, ensuring that all funds received are applied to the direct costs of research).

Evaluation Criteria

- Degree to which research project aligns with the Ministry of Health Priorities and, the research question(s) addressed are guided by the BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Framework: An Evolving Guide for Decision-Makers and Researchers, authored by BC's COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee
- Degree to which proposals clearly address issues of importance in British Columbia's non-metropolitan regions
- Feasibility, given the scope, timelines and the research track record of the applicants
- Quality of HQP research training, including principles of EDI
- Quality of knowledge mobilization activities
- Ability to produce tangible/recognised research impact
- Potential to secure external funding within two years from the start of the Grant
- Development of new collaborative and interdisciplinary teams. Strong applications will involve the promise of significant and potential long-term collaboration and sharing of resources among faculty members from TRU, UNBC and UBCO
- Ability to develop and enhance the applicants' research and scholarly profile
- Development and enhancement of IURC research capacity by including, where appropriate, early career researchers, women, and Indigenous faculty as part of the collaboration and an emphasis on including EDI in the research design and team composition

¹ An ECR is defined as individuals who have five years or less experience since their first academic appointment as of July 2, 2020 (Project start date), with the exception of career interruptions (e.g., maternity or parental leave, extended sick leave, clinical training and family care) that occurred after their appointment. Part-time positions are also taken into consideration.

² Please see NSERC statement on Equity Diversity and Inclusion for reference: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Politiques-Politiques/Wpolicy-Fpolitique_eng.asp