

**IURC /Tri-University Partnership Research Fund – 2019/2020 Call for Proposals  
Regional/Rural/Remote Communities (R3C) Collaborative Research Grants**

Proposal Submission Deadline

**January 20, 2020**

**CONTEXT**

To promote inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary research collaborations among Tri-Universities (TRU, UBCO, UNBC), the Interior University Research Coalition (IURC) has established the Tri-University Partnership Research Fund. The goal of the program is to stimulate thematic research and extend research collaborations among the three campuses.

The goal of this special call is to establish inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary research teams to address issues of importance in British Columbia's non-metropolitan regions. These regions are vast, covering remarkable geographies, with a range of economic dependancies, environmental realities and socio-cultural dynamics. Though non-metropolitan, these rural and remote communities, small towns and sparsely populated areas are also part of the worldwide web with ever-increasing connectivity to the many forces accelerating the pace of change around the world (see:

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/investing-megatrend-rapid-urbanisation/>)

**THE OPPORTUNITY**

Rural and remote communities in non-metropolitan regions are experiencing the modulations of economic, social and environmental pressures in profound and complex ways that are important to understand in supporting the healthy and sustainable development of our society, our economy and our environment.

To help address these challenges, the IURC aims to support and advance research and creative scholarly engagement that explores the needs of British Columbia's non-metropolitan communities, Indigenous peoples, and all levels of government facing these issues. The **Regional/Rural/Remote Communities (R3C) Grant** will support researchers in and across all disciplines, from all three campuses to analyze and consider the full story of regional, remote and rural life. This interdisciplinary initiative engages all facets of research interest engaging in questions surrounding rural, remote and regional inquiry, and can focus on any number of facets (e.g. conservation, environment, social, economic, cultural, health, etc.).

For example, topics could include:

1. How humans affect rural/remote/regional spaces and vice-versa
2. Impacts and opportunities that digital connectivity present to rural/regional/remote communities and spaces
3. How notions of community change over time, and intersect with policy, economic, and environmental concerns
4. How issues of representation play out in political, environmental and resource management contexts

5. What sustainability means today, and how is this idea / term is mobilized in cross-sectoral ways
6. What the limits / boundaries of academic research are in partnered / community contexts?
7. What the pressing health concerns are in specific communities, and how can innovative research help meet delivery challenges
8. Urban planning methodologies as adapted to rural contexts
9. Resource management
10. Engineering solutions for local realities
11. Tourism and sustainable growth

### **Value and Duration:**

Each of the three IURC institutions will allocate \$40,000 for the R3C collaborative research grants and may choose to fund one or more within their institution's allocation. R3C grants are valued at up to \$40,000 for one year. IURC will accept inter-institutional collaborative proposals from the three institutions. An IURC multi-disciplinary panel will adjudicate proposals and funding will be awarded to ensure that each IURC institution will have at least one R3C project led by a PI from their institution.

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

Funds are awarded on the basis of merit of the proposal, team members' research excellence, HQP training, and potential to leverage external funding.

Applications for this funding call must be submitted electronically to [Janice.Larson@ubc.ca](mailto:Janice.Larson@ubc.ca) by 4:00 pm Pacific Time on **January 20, 2020**.

### **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 PIs.

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 each of the three IURC institutions but can also include researchers from non-IURC institutions. Teams representing \*early career researchers, and members of the four designated groups are strongly 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) are encouraged.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Applications will consist of a *single PDF document* that includes the following (in order):

- Cover page and PI and co-applicant(s) signatures

- Abstract of proposed collaborative project (100 words)
- Detailed Project Description (maximum four pages including references) containing:
  - A descriptive title;
  - key 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 milestones and timelines, the anticipated research contributions and impacts;
- Plan to secure external funding;
  - Provide a brief plan for how the team might pursue follow-up funding based on the research completed, including specific award program, design of the collaborative partnership, potential cash and/or in-kind contributions (if required), planned publication outcomes and timelines, and timelines for preparing proposals (1/2 page).
- Itemized budget and justification (maximum two pages): Provide a detailed budget and justification for the funds being requested. Budgets may be supplemented through cash and in-kind support from participating faculties and partners, but this is not a requirement for the application.
- A list of participants (the principal applicant, co-applicant and collaborators), including
  - Applicants **MUST** include a community partner as a collaborator who will benefit from the research conducted.
  - Full names and role;
  - Current position at organization;
  - An overview (maximum two pages) of team members describing their relevant experience and research contribution highlighting individual capabilities, strengths and experience;
  - Current CVs (CCV or University CV format accepted) for the lead applicant(s) and co-applicants; and
  - Support letters from the principal applicant's Dean and respective chair(s) or department head(s) from the partner university or universities must accompany the application.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### **APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED BASED ON:**

- Degree to which proposals clearly address issues of importance in British Columbia's non-metropolitan regions
- Development of new collaborative and interdisciplinary teams. Strong applications will involve the promise of significant and potential long-term collaboration with faculty members from TRU, UNBC and UBCO
- Ability to produce tangible/recognised research impact
- Potential to secure external funding within two years from the start of the Grant

- Feasibility, given the scope, timelines and the research track record of the applicants
- 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, team composition, and student training.
- Quality of student research training, including principles of EDI

#### **ELIGIBILITY OF BUDGET REQUESTS**

- All proposed expenses are subject to the policies and requirements outlined in the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#) (TAFAG) except where indicated otherwise below and must be expended within 12 months from the date of approval. Funding may be used to pay for research assistants, but neither a grantee nor a member of the grantee's family may receive remuneration
- Funding may be used to pay for travel directly related to the research and to the development of further activities (future funding applications, dissemination events) of the partnership
- Other items necessary for research, partnership enhancement, and the completion of an application for external funding
- Extensions of up to three months may be permitted by the program administrator if received at least 30 days prior to the award term end date. Residual funds will be returned to source.

#### **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
- Computers, computer software and hardware
- Retroactive expenses will not be considered

\*An ECR is defined as individuals who have five years or less experience since their first academic appointment as of the first of the month in which the competition was launched (November 1, 2019 for this competition), 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.

\*\*Please see NSERC statement on Equity Diversity and Inclusion for reference: [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/Wpolicy-Fpolitique\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/Wpolicy-Fpolitique_eng.asp)

# IURC/ Tri-University Partnership Research Fund APPLICANTS SIGNATURE FORM

**Contact:**

Janice Larson  
250-807-8025 janice.larson@ubc.ca

## Principal Applicant Information

Institution:		
Applicant Name	Signature	Date
Unit Head Signature <i>(if applicable)</i>		
Name	Signature	Date
Dean Signature		
Name	Signature	Date
Institutional Signature		
Name	Signature	Date

## Co-Applicants' Information

<b>Co-Applicant</b>		
Institution:		
Co-Applicant Name	Signature	Date
Institutional Signature		
Name	Signature	Date

<b>Co-Applicant</b>		
Institution:		
Co-Applicant Name	Signature	Date
Institutional Signature		
Name	Signature	Date

<b>Co-Applicant</b>		
Institution:		
Co-Applicant Name	Signature	Date
Institutional Signature		
Name	Signature	Date