

TRI-UNIVERSITY, TRI-AGENCY MAJOR PROJECT COLLABORATION GRANT

THE FUND

Thompson Rivers University (TRU), The University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), and the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus (UBCO) collectively form a core of research and innovation talent and infrastructure in the BC Interior. This core, surrounded by and connected to industries, communities and other stakeholders throughout the province, is central to the Interior's research and innovation ecosystem.

While these institutions are relatively small and relatively new compared to institutions in the Lower Mainland, each is building research strength areas with demonstrated abilities to attract funding and talent that helps address key issues relevant to the communities we serve. However, each recognizes there are opportunities for greater success by collaborating as partners, particularly in areas where their research and infrastructure strengths can be strategically combined to form clusters that align with provincial and federal research and innovation priorities. The three institutions have thus entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish their partnership, outline its objectives, and propose activities aimed at achieving those objectives. An intentional effort to increase collaboration among the three institutions and across disciplinary boundaries will help the Coalition become more than the sum of its parts.

Thompson Rivers University is committed to delivering on its Priority of "Building Research Capacity" by implementing its *Strategic Research Plan*, especially in the area of partnership development and inter-institutional collaboration. Supported by the Interior Universities Research Coalition, this grant opportunity is intended to encourage the development of new collaborative research teams and projects that span multiple campuses. Designed as seed grant funding, the Grant will incentivize and accelerate research and creative networking proposals that build capacity by conducting collaborative research, producing refereed publications and associated research impacts, extending scholarly reach, providing first-class undergraduate and graduate research training, and, as a result of research completed, attracting significant external funding i.e., successful strategic partnered research grant applications (NSERC CREATE, Strategic Partnership Grants, Collaborative Research Development Grants, Networks of Centres of Excellence, SSHRC Partnership/Partnership Development Grants, CIHR SPOR Grants, Collaborative Health Research Project Grants, etc.).

THE AWARD

Please submit completed application to research@tru.ca no later than **January 15, 2018**. Four awards are available in 2017/18, valued at \$10,000 each. Funds are awarded on the basis of research excellence that can be supported by external funders. All applications are peer-reviewed by a faculty subcommittee of the Senate Research Committee and informed by external peer-review from the Interior Research Coalition partners. **Funding start: March 1, 2018.**

ELIGIBILITY

Full-time TRU faculty are eligible to apply. Eligibility includes all faculty members with ongoing or tenure-track appointments. Those holding sessional or term-certain appointments may contribute to and receive funding from an approved project, but they are not eligible to apply as PIs for funding.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Abstract of Proposed Collaborative Project:

Provide a 100-word summary of your research proposal.

2. Detailed Project Description:

Provide a two-page description of your research proposal. The description should make a case for the uniqueness and value of the proposed research and include a clear rationale for the collaborative approach, the role of the Interior University collaborators, the research methodology employed, and the anticipated research contributions and impacts. The description should include sufficient detail such that reviewers can evaluate the goals and approach of your planned research.

3. Plan to Secure Future Project Funding

Provide a brief plan for how the team will 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).

4. Budget Justification:

Provide a detailed budget and justification for the funds being requested (1 page maximum).

5. Current CVs of collaborative team and supporting letters from the applicant's Dean and the appropriate Dean(s) from the partner university or universities must accompany the application.

USE OF FUNDS

- All expenses must conform to the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide and be expended within 18 months from the date of approval. No extensions will be granted.
- 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 the partnership and funding proposal
- Other items necessary for research, the partnership development, and the completion of the application for external funding

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Release time for faculty

- Salary and benefits for a Post-Doctoral Fellow
- Direct support to Graduate student research that fulfils degree requirements
- Funding for publication
- Office supplies
- Computers and equipment
- Retroactive expenses will not be considered

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Priority is given to proposals that build new collaborative and interdisciplinary teams at TRU and involve the promise of significant and potential long-term collaboration with faculty members from UNBC and/or UBCO
- Priority is given to proposals judged as most likely to produce tangible research results (i.e., peer-reviewed publications) and, on the basis of those results, to secure external funding within 2 years from the start of Collaboration Grant
- Priority is given to proposals judged as feasible, given their scope, timelines and the research track record of the applicants
- Priority is given to proposals that are most likely to develop and enhance the applicants' research and scholarly profile
- Priority is given to proposals that develop and enhance TRU's research capacity by including, where appropriate, early career researchers as part of the collaboration
- Priority will be given to proposals involving student research training
- Priority is given to proposals with the potential to develop areas of existing or emerging institutional strength and excellence as articulated in TRU's *Strategic Research Plan*