

Vice President Research and Graduate Programs Research Strategic Initiatives Grant (RSIG) Guidelines

Description

The Vice President Research and Graduate Programs (VPR&GP) receives numerous requests throughout the academic year for funding in support of research activities. While the VPR&GP is committed to promoting and enhancing the research capacity at UNBC, the increase in the number and types of requests, and the modest funding available have made it necessary to move to a more formal mechanism for accessing the VP's resources. The VPR&GP has developed a process whereby groups or individuals can make requests for funding. Requests for funding will not be considered if other avenues of funding are available (i.e. external grant programs, internal grant programs, professional expenses fund, operating budgets, etc.). Requests should be considered "one off" contributions.

Funding Source

The Research Strategic Initiatives Grant (RSIG) will be funded through research overhead. There are two defined mechanisms to acquire research overhead funding for the University. These include the Federal Research Support Fund (RSF) and all other research funding programs. The RSF has defined eligibility on what the funding can be allocated towards and is specific for overhead recovery from NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR only. The other sources of overhead funding have more flexibility on what they can be used for. The overhead rate for the University is 25% or what is preset by various funding agencies, which is similar to rates at other research Universities in BC. Research overhead serves to support the indirect costs of research, and facilitate the various funding requests the VPR&GP receives. With the increase in research funding that we have observed, our continued adherence to the research overhead rates provides us with the ability to maintain and enhance our new Tri-Council Bridge grant, the Undergraduate Research Experience, Tri-Council Operating/Scholarship Graduate grant, various matching programs and direct funding requests (via the RSIG) to the VPR&GP. It is the VPR&GP's goal to continue investment and maximize the leverage of our research overhead in support of our research community.

Eligibility

The VPR&GP welcomes requests from all UNBC faculty, research institutes, graduate and undergraduate student groups engaged in research, and university staff working within the research community.

Value of Requests and Award Conditions

The RSIG may provide full funding, partial funding, or no funding at the discretion of the VPR&GP and is based on available budget. Awards will be granted for a period of 12-months. Funds can only be used as indicated in the approved budget. Deviations in the timelines or purpose from the original awards will not be considered. Residual funds are to be returned to the VPR&GP for future competitions. Applicants may only receive funding once in a 12-month cycle for a specific project. At the end of the award period or completion of the research activity for which funding was granted

(whichever comes first), applicants must complete a brief final report and submit it to the VPR&GP for review. Failure to submit the final report will render applicants ineligible for future requests until the submission of the errant report. In the event that certifications (Animal Care, Biosafety, Ethics) are required, funds will not be released until the proper protocols are approved by the appropriate governing body (Animal Care and use Committee, Research Ethics Board, Biosafety Committee).

Evaluation Considerations

The VPR&GP will review all requests. Full, partial, or no funding will be awarded based on the following considerations:

- Have all other sources of funding available to support the request been explored?
- Has the applicant secured other sources of funding or attempted to secure additional funds i.e. Chair, Dean, internal/external grants or partnerships? ***Please note that the contribution of matching funds from other sources will be favourably considered.***
- What are the potential benefits to the advancement of UNBC's Strategic Research Plan and the research capacity of UNBC?
- Who (example: students, faculty, community) will benefit from the request?
- Has the applicant received funding from the RSIG in the past?
- Applicant's previous research activities: research application submissions, publications, graduate students, grants or contracts, mentoring.
- Overall merit of the request.

Application Process

Interested individuals, groups, and/or teams of researchers must complete the **Request Form: Research Strategic Initiatives Grant**. Completed forms must be received by the Office of the Vice-President, Research no later than 4:00pm on the 1st and 15th of every month. In the event that the deadline falls on a weekend, the next business day will become the deadline. Late or incomplete forms will not be considered. Email all applications to Meaghan.wyatt@unbc.ca.

The VPR&GP will endeavour to render a funding decision within 5-10 working days. Successful applicants will be notified of the VPR&GP's decision by email. Appeals will not be entertained by the VPR&GP however applicants may reapply.

For more information or for assistance in completing your request to the Research Strategic Initiatives Grant, please call 250-960-5820 or email Meaghan.wyatt@unbc.ca.