

Addressing the Challenges of Moving to Alternative Energies and the Hydrogen Economy: WIN-Arts Interdisciplinary Seed Grant Program

Program Description

Traditionally, many of the funding opportunities in alternative energies have focused on funding teams of researchers from science and engineering faculties. Calls are being extended to also include the expertise of social scientists, humanists, and those from across all six Waterloo faculties. This interdisciplinary research seed grant opportunity is focused on addressing the need to move away from current petrochemical dependencies to alternative energies.

Proposals must address challenges of alternative energy technologies from different disciplinary lenses, including political, social, policy and economy of scale considerations. The intent of the program is to support teams in the first steps in obtaining initial data points and insights to enable researchers to target various funding programs, such as the [New Frontiers in Research Fund \(NFRF\) International Joint Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#), the [NSERC Global Centres](#), and the [NSERC Global Centres \(GC\): Use-Inspired Research Addressing Global Challenges in Climate Change and Clean Energy](#).

Funding Amount

The total envelope for this competition is \$45,000 to be allocated for three (3) to five (5) outstanding proposals. It is encouraged to include existing HQP in PI's team for the proposed work plan and supplement their salary from the seed grant. The project duration for the requested funding is for one year. Funds cannot be transferred outside of the University of Waterloo to support external staff and/or RAs.

Eligibility

For this program, the team must consist of at least one core WIN member ([Our Members | Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology | University of Waterloo \(uwaterloo.ca\)](#)) and one member from the Faculty of Arts ([Departments | Arts | University of Waterloo \(uwaterloo.ca\)](#)). The intent of the program is to fund projects that serve as the basis for applications for significant external funding programs that would be applied for within two (2) years of receiving seed grant support.

Application Guidelines

Research proposal

The research proposal should be no more than **five pages** in length and contain the following sections:

- Introduction
- Team Composition and Collaboration
 - Specifying faculty representation and include a summary of each team members research expertise as it relates to the proposed research; approximately 3-4 lines per researcher
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Outcomes
 - Specify briefly how the proposed research will aligns with other competitions such as NFRF, NSERC Alliance, SSHRC Partnership, etc.

Additional sections

These sections are not included in the five-page proposal as described above.

- References (max. 1 page) Plain Language Summary (max. 2,500 characters including spaces; see page 4). This will be used for both internal and external communications
- Budget Table and Justification (max. 2 pages; see page 5 for budget template)
- CV for each team member (any format is acceptable)

Format

Applicants should only use a standard, single column on an 8.5” x 11” page layout. The proposal must be written using a 12-point, black coloured font, single line spacing (six lines per inch) and with no condensed type or spacing, with a margin of no less than 2.5 centimetres (1 inch) around the page. Applications should be submitted as one compiled PDF attachment.

Due Date

Applications are due on **5 May 2023** by no later than **4:30 p.m.** Competition results will be released in early June.

Cover Page

Applicants are to complete the WIN internal coversheet (see page 3), along with the standard UWaterloo Office of Research cover sheet as required for all application submissions indicating WIN as the associated institute: [Electronic Cover Sheet for Sponsored Research | Research | University of Waterloo \(uwaterloo.ca\)](#).