

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP GRANTS Program Guidelines

Background

The International Research Partnership Grants (IRPG) are internal seed grants designed to provide Waterloo researchers with incentives to develop new innovative international research collaborations with leading institutions known for high quality research and strong global rankings, as well as for projects in underrepresented regions. Partner institutions may include universities, government agencies, NGOs, and industry. Projects must have potential for leveraging external funding from Canadian and international funding programs.

Since 2011, over 160 joint research projects have been launched based on \$2.2 M funding from the Provost and the Vice President Research and International. Funded projects have leveraged over \$3.2M in counterpart cash contributions and UW researchers have generated over \$23.8M in new external grants administered in the Office of Research. Significant impacts include 415 joint publications, 183 new technologies, 9 patents, 6 spin-off companies and the creation of 3 joint international labs.

Two streams of funding are permitted:

Stream 1: Partnerships with leading international institutions known for high quality research and strong global rankings.

Stream 2: Partnerships with underrepresented regions (e.g. developing countries) and institutions or regions/countries with which UW does not have a formal institutional connection.

Note: refer to the [Waterloo International map of UW Agreements](#).

Projects for both streams will normally be funded over a 2-year time period.

Deadlines-Stream 1 and 2

Proposals are due on February 15, 2022.

Funding

Stream 1

Amount: Stream 1 of the IRPG program is a matching program whereby the Office of the Vice-President Research and International provides 50% of the budget up to \$20,000. **The remaining 50% must be cash from other sources.**

Example: \$20,000 from UW + \$20,000 matching cash = \$40,000 total grant

Although an internal match (e.g., start-up funds, Departmental/Faculty cash, existing grants) is acceptable, **strong preference is given to applications in which the match is new, external cash from international partners.** Letters confirming financial support are required for each matching

contribution. Note that in-kind is not an eligible matching contribution and should not be included in the budget.

Note: The matching cash contribution(s) are not required to flow to a UW account. These funds are meant to be utilized by the international partner to support their expenses and activities over the course of the project.

Stream 2

Proposals can be requested up to \$20,000 per project. Matching funding is not required from partners in underrepresented regions but is preferred and can be in-kind support. For an interpretation of underrepresented regions, one consideration is the [OECD list of countries and territories](#) eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA).

You also have the option of providing a rationale for your selection of an underrepresented country region or institution. A portion of IRPG funds can be transferred to Stream 2 institutional partners.

Eligible expenses

Stream 1 and 2 grants are for:

- Partnership-building activities (e.g., virtual or in-person workshops, conferences and related travel);
 - **Note:** Kindly consult with Waterloo International and follow all potential COVID-19 travel restrictions in effect for UW faculty, staff, students, and international visitors. Please consult <https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/return/travel-guidelines#international-travel>
 - Applicants should identify an interim plan to address remote partnership building activities due to any current travel restrictions.
- Remuneration for students or research assistants directly involved in planning and organizing the proposed activities and background research. (e.g. UW research assistants and graduate students);
- Associated research expenses to a maximum of \$2,000 (e.g., lab user fees, consumables, small research related equipment, computer software);
- Activities for the development of proposals for international research and development programs involving groups/consortia.

Ineligible expenses:

- Faculty or staff salaries;
- Indirect or overhead costs;
- Large budget equipment purchases (e.g., over \$2,000);
- Costs of facilities and basic utilities; purchase, repair or shipping of office or lab equipment; computer purchases; insurance for equipment and basic communication devices such as telephones and fax machines, and terminals;
- Conference registration costs

If the applicant is unsure about including an eligible expense, please refer to Program Contact noted below.

Eligibility Stream 1 and 2

- UW PI applicants must be full-time faculty members and meet the eligibility rules for Principal Investigators under NSERC/SSHRC/CIHR (as appropriate to the applicant's discipline). Adjunct professors can be included as co-investigators;
- Projects should involve a group of Waterloo researchers and international partners. Preference will be given to interdisciplinary projects involving two or more Waterloo Faculties and a network of partner institutions;
- Preference will be given to projects that include highly qualified personnel (faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs);
- Projects must adhere to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in recruitment, training and development;
- Projects should align with one or more of the focus areas of [UW's Strategic Plan](#) related to Advancing Research for Global Impact:
 - Quantum science, nanotechnology, connectivity, and telecommunications
 - Water, energy and climate: sustainability, security, infrastructure
 - Information technology and its impact, including intelligent systems, human-machine interfaces, cybersecurity, privacy and data science
 - Robotics and advanced manufacturing
 - Health technologies
 - Human dimensions of global challenges;
- Alignment with [UN development goals](#) is encouraged;
- Only new collaborations and projects that have not previously received IRPG funding will be considered;
- Preference will be given to applications in which the matching cash contribution is from outside the University of Waterloo;
- Some designated funding will be allotted to research with UW's formalized strategic partners (currently the University of Bordeaux, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, University of Strathclyde, and Technion Israel Institute of Technology);
- Applicants **must** identify national or international research funding agencies/programs to which they will apply for funding to continue the collaboration once the IRPG seed and matching funds have been spent;
- Matching funds cannot already be leveraged/matched to another research grant;
- Consider that projects will be screened through [National Security guidelines](#).

Evaluation Criteria Stream 1 and 2

- Alignment with the eligibility requirements;
- Contribution to the advancement of knowledge (quality and global scientific impact of the research/project; global scholarship);

- Quality and significance of the partnership (global or other rankings of the partner institution, areas of complementary research strengths, etc);
- Quality and impact of the research contributions of team members (expertise, complementarity) and evidence of contributions to the promotion of equity, diversity and, inclusion in the research enterprise*;
- Possible outcomes of the proposed research collaboration (e.g., new international funding applications, scientific advances, technology development, policy formulation, joint publications, dissemination of results, advancing Waterloo institutional partnerships);
- Feasibility of the research/project (activities plan, milestones, budget);
- Consideration of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the research plan, in addition to opportunities for enriched training experiences for trainees.

Evaluation procedure Stream 1 and 2

All applications are evaluated by an IRPG Selection Committee based on the guidelines noted above. The Committee is chaired by the Associate Vice-President, Interdisciplinary Research.

Successful applicants will be notified by email. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified by email and provided with some evaluative comments.

Submission instructions

Each application package must include:

- Completed [Application Form](#). (Project Information section of application must not exceed 4 pages);
- 1-2 page CV or biography for each PI (Waterloo and Partner Lead PIs only). Include only recent activities (e.g., within the last 5 years). CVs/biographies more than 2 pages in length will not be accepted;
- Letters confirming financial support for each matching source identified in the “Source” section of the Budget. These must include the amount and what the funds will be used for;

Please send completed applications to [Monica Finlay](#) as a PDF.

Note: Please also submit a [completed OR Cover Sheet](#) signed by the PI, relevant Chair/Director, and Faculty Dean or ADR with the application. If your department/faculty has been onboarded to use the Electronic Cover Sheet system, please use this system to submit your Cover Sheet. Otherwise, please submit the PDF version of the Cover Sheet in the same document as your application.

Ongoing program requirements

A final [Outcomes Report](#) (1-2) pages outlining the outcomes of the project is required at the conclusion of your grant period. In addition, for three years following the end of the project, we

would appreciate annual project updates, in particular about any new grants secured. This is an important metric to track for the continued funding of the IRPG program.

Program contact

Please direct applications and any questions or comments to: [Monica Finlay](#), Grants and Contracts Manager, International Research and Partnerships, Office of Research.

***Note:**

For more information on equitable, diverse and inclusive research and training environments and partnerships, refer to:

- <https://uwaterloo.ca/research/about-research/research-equity-and-inclusion/edii-resources-and-guides>
- <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx>
- <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/guidance/equitable-partnerships-hub/>