

Collaborative Research Seed Grants Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Terms of Reference

Purpose: The Collaborative Research Seed Grants (CRSG) program will provide seed funding for the formation and development of new interdisciplinary collaborative research teams. The intent is to: (1) promote new collaborations that build on different scientific and scholarly backgrounds; (2) facilitate breakthroughs in solving research questions in a collaborative manner; and (3) position Schulich researchers to successfully apply to Tri-Council or other external funding agencies.

CRSG will support:

- basic and clinical researchers forming new collaborations; or
- faculty members from different disciplines/departments working together in a new area of research or approaching a problem in an innovative way.

The program is designed to help increase Schulich's competitiveness in research involving innovative approaches and to build our portfolio of translational research projects. Only proposals which clearly describe a new project and new collaboration between faculty members will be considered for funding.

Eligibility: CRSG is open to all faculty in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. The Principal Investigator (PI) and co-investigator(s) must have their primary appointment in Schulich. In general, the PI/co-investigator(s) should not have previously held a grant together or published together in the area of science being proposed.

While researchers from outside of Schulich may be collaborators on projects, they may not be PIs or co-investigators. Funding will not be available for collaborators from outside of Schulich.

Projects will only be eligible for funding once. Renewal applications will not be accepted. Applications for funds to augment or supplement currently funded projects will not be accepted. ***Proposals for clinical trials are not eligible for this competition.*** Project success should not be contingent on obtaining additional funds from other sources (in addition to CRSG).

Previous CRSG awardees will not be eligible to apply as PI for a new project until the funding period for their previous CRSG award has been ended, and the work on the project has been completed.

Funding:

While there is no specified maximum amount for proposal budgets, we expect to fund 3-5 awards through this competition. Award sizes are expected to range from \$25,000 - \$45,000. There is no obligation to dispense funds if applications do not meet the standards set by the terms of reference for the award.

Grants are intended to help seed a sustainable collaborative research program. Therefore, proposals must describe a definitive plan for sustaining the research effort after the CRSG funding ends.

Successful applicants will be expected to meet with the Vice Dean, Research and Innovation, and Schulich Research Officers to discuss their plans for seeking external funding to sustain the collaborative effort.

Location of Project: The research activity is expected to be performed at Schulich or an affiliated site. If another location is proposed, a justification must be provided.

Management of Funds: Funds will be administered through a research account established through Research Western.

A ROLA form to establish a research account at Western will be initiated for successful applicants following the adjudication of the competition. A ROLA is not required at the time of the application. If research involves human subjects, animals, or biohazards, appropriate approvals must be in place before funds can be accessed.

Award Duration: Projects are expected to begin April 1, 2018, and be completed by March 31, 2020. Funds must be utilized within 24 months from the date of award. Any unexpended funds at the end of the award period must be returned to Schulich.

Reports: Awardees may be asked to meet with the Schulich Research Office to provide a brief interim progress report.

A final report signed by the PI and co-PI(s) must be submitted to the Schulich Research Office within 60 days after the project period end date.

It is expected that any presentations or published materials generated as a direct result of this funded research will acknowledge this award.

Application Process: Submit the application with required signatures in a single PDF file to research@schulich.uwo.ca by **4:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday January 31, 2018.**

Applications submitted with multiple PDF attachments will not be accepted. Separate attachments will not be accepted.

Adjudication: Proposals will be reviewed by a committee convened by the Vice Dean, Research and Innovation.

Questions: Any questions should be directed to Mady Hymowitz in the Schulich Research Office, mady.hymowitz@schulich.uwo.ca or x86252.

**Collaborative Research Seed Grants
Criteria for Review of Applications**

Multidisciplinary (20 pts)	• Does the research project entail a new multidisciplinary collaboration? • Does the proposed project have an innovative multidisciplinary thrust, and appropriately involve faculty researchers from multiple disciplines? • Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project? • Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out the work?
Problem Description, Need Justified, & Impact (15 pts)	• Does the study address an important need or gap in the field? • If the study aims are achieved, will it generate new knowledge or add to existing knowledge in an innovative manner?
Innovativeness (10 pts)	• Are the theories, approaches, etc. novel to one field or novel in the broader sense?
Project Design (20 pts)	• Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned and appropriate to the aims of the project? • Can the project realistically meet its proposed timeline?
Prospect for Success / Environment (10 pts)	• Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? • Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the academic environment, subject populations or other regional resources?
Budget (5 pts)	• Is the budget reasonable? • Are additional resources available, if needed, to complete or enhance the study?
Funding Prospects (20 pts)	• Will it lead to attracting external funding? • Is there a definitive plan for attracting new research dollars from extramural sources to continue the work? • Do the applicants adequately justify why it is appropriate to apply for this intramural seed funding rather than apply to the target external agency now?