

Collaborative Research Seed Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is a ROLA required for the CRSG?

Yes. All applicants will be required to submit a completed ROLA proposal by the application deadline.

2. Is there a maximum total budget allowed?

There is not a set limit on the total budget. For past successful grants the total budgets typically ranged between \$25K and \$55K. The budget should be realistic, requesting what is reasonable to carry out the proposed project. Reviewers may recommend a reduced budget if not well justified.

3. How long is the funding for?

CRSG awards are awarded as one lump sum in the first year, however you have up to 24 months to use the funds.

4. How many CRSG applications can a Schulich Researcher submit to the competition?

A Schulich researcher may only submit one CRSG application as a Principal Investigator (Nominated Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator) and only one additional application as a Co-Investigator.

Faculty members who do not submit an application as a Principal Investigator can participate as a co-investigator on a maximum of two CRSG submissions.

There are no limits on the number of applications an individual can be a collaborator on.

5. How many active CRSG applications can a Schulich Researcher participate in?

A Schulich researcher can only participate on a maximum of two active CRSGs at any one time. They can only be a Principal Investigator on one active CRSG, and one additional CRSG as a Co-investigator.

Faculty members who are not a Principal Investigator (i.e. Nominated Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator) on an active CRSG, can be a Co-Investigator on a maximum of two active CRSGs.

There are no limits as to the number of CRSGs an individual can be a collaborator on.

6. What qualifies as currently funded research?

Currently funded research includes both internally funded (e.g. departmental seed funding) and externally funded (e.g. CIHR, Heart & Stroke etc.) research.

7. If you have internal seed funding from Western or a department within Western/Schulich are you eligible to apply for CRSG funding to expand the collaboration and research project?

The funds are meant for new research and not to augment something that is already funded.

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Proposed research for the CRSG is not meant to fund research that overlaps with existing internally funded research (e.g. Western Strategic Support, departmental seed funding). If the scope of the CRSG proposal is different than what is proposed in internally funded research or the CRSG proposal will expand the internally funded research by taking it into a different direction to enhance the research, it could potentially be eligible. The onus will be on the applicant to clearly describe what is innovative/different about CRSG proposed research vs. the already funded research (e.g. seed funding from department).

8. Can the signatures obtained on the signature page be electronic signatures?

Yes, electronic signatures are acceptable.

9. Is funding for a graduate student an eligible expense?

Yes, provided the graduate student is already enrolled in a Schulich graduate program at the time of application submission (i.e. Nov. 28, 2022). You cannot request funding for new graduate students.

10. Can funding be requested for research assistants or technicians?

You can request funding for personnel, provided the staff are employed by Schulich or Lawson/LHSC/SJHC. Please ensure benefits and vacation pay (as applicable) are included in the costs.

11. If a Principle Investigator is from Lawson, are they excluded from applying to the competition as a PI or Co-PI?

No, provided their Western primary academic appointment is in Schulich.

Examples:

A Lawson Scientist whose primary academic appointment at Western is in the department of Medical Biophysics, within Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, would be eligible to apply as a PI, Co-PI or Co-Investigator.

A Lawson Scientist whose primary appointment at Western is with the School of Physical Therapy, in the Faculty of Health Sciences, would **NOT** be eligible as a PI, Co-PI or Co-Investigator. However, they would be eligible to be a Collaborator.

12. Would Applications that only consist of team members from the same clinical department but different divisions meet the eligibility criteria?

It will be up to the team to provide information that demonstrates this is truly an interdisciplinary collaboration and they meet the eligibility outlined in the terms of reference.

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13. Would applications that only consist of team members within the same department and same division, but have different specialties meet the eligibility criteria?

It will be up to the team to provide information that demonstrates this is truly an interdisciplinary collaboration and explain how the team fits into one of the following eligibility categories:

- new collaborations between basic and clinical researchers;
- existing collaborations between basic and clinical researchers to further enhance or expand their research program; or
- faculty members from different disciplines/departments to collaborate in a new area of research or to approach a problem in an innovative way.

14. If a Faculty member has their primary appointment in a Faculty outside of Schulich, but they have a cross-appointment within a Schulich Department, would they be eligible to be a co-principal applicant or co-applicant?

No. The terms of reference state “The Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigator(s) must have their Western primary academic appointment within Schulich.” However, they would be eligible to be a Collaborator.

15. Can a Faculty member as part of the budget, invoice for a service needed for the research if the service will be done outside of Western University (e.g. at another institution, or in another province, or in another country)?

Yes, provided it is a fee for a service and the service fee is invoiced (i.e. it is not a sub-grant). Funds cannot be used to reimburse the salary of a named Collaborator.

16. I am an investigator in a clinical department with several divisions. Who should sign the application under “Chair of Department Signature”, the division chair/chief or department chair/chief?

Obtain the signature from the Department Chair/Chief.

17. For Departmental Signature – If I have a joint appointment or appointment at Robarts, who should sign my application?

It is up to you. You should obtain a signature from the department where the research account for a successful proposal will be set up in. If you usually hold your research grants through Robarts, you should obtain a departmental signature from Robarts.

18. What can be used as a brief CV for the application?

An applicant can submit their CIHR Project Biosketch, NIH Biosketch, NSERC CCV or equivalent. Alternatively, they can use the CRSG Biosketch Template. Please e-mail MaryAnn.Pollmann-Mudryj@schulich.uwo.ca if you would like to use the CRSG Biosketch Template.

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19. I am a faculty member with a primary appointment in Schulich, however, I also have a joint appointment in another department outside of Schulich. Can funds be used towards graduate student stipend if the student is enrolled in a department outside of Schulich, but I am the primary supervisor?

No. The student must be enrolled in a Schulich affiliated graduate program.

20. Are clinical trials eligible for CRSG?

No, clinical trials are not eligible for this round of CRSG.

21. How is a clinical trial defined?

We use CIHR's definition of a clinical trial. See definition below and CIHR's definition in the [glossary](#). See also CIHR's "[What are Clinical Trials?](#)" webpage.

CIHR Clinical Trial Definition: *"A clinical trial is a research study involving human participants that evaluates the safety and/or effects of one or more interventions on health outcomes.*

Interventions include, but are not limited to, drugs, vaccines, radiopharmaceuticals, cells and other biological products, surgical procedures, radiologic procedures, devices, genetic therapies, natural health products (NHPs), process-of-care changes, preventive care, manual therapies, and psychotherapies. For more detail, see "[Clinical Trial](#)" in CIHR's [Jargon Buster](#)."

The following four questions can be used as a guide to help determine the difference between a clinical study and a clinical trial:

1. Does the study involve human participants?
2. Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
3. Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
4. Is the effect being evaluated a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?

If you answered "yes" to all 4 questions, the study is considered a clinical trial.