



Faculty of Science
Graduate Studies Committee
School of Graduate Studies
Vice-President Academic and Research

Science Seed Grants Program

Application form available

@ <http://www.upei.ca/science/graduate-programs/science-seed-grants>

Background

The Science Seed Grant Program promotes new interdisciplinary collaborations and aims to provide a springboard for Science faculty and their graduate/honours students to explore research that may lead to further research and funding opportunities.

The Science Seed Grant Program will fund a limited number of projects with a clear (up to one-year) scope that are relevant to the research interests of collaborating faculty and would become an integral part of a graduate/honours student's thesis and publication record. This model is based on the idea that a graduate/honours student project is likely the best "glue" for a truthful effort to bring together faculty from different disciplines ensuring a concrete outcome, for example, a thesis chapter, research manuscript, or conference presentation.

The purpose of Science Seed Grants is to support three co-investigators: two faculty members and a graduate/honours student. A researcher seeking to respond to a well-defined research question outside the core expertise of his/her research group may find complementary expertise with a different research group in the Faculty of Science. Holding of a Science Seed Grant may become the funding vehicle to establish a formal collaboration; the program offers an opportunity to explore a new field and may foster further collaborations beyond the scope of the current project, and rejuvenate research programs.

The adjudication of these grants focuses primarily on the quality of the proposal, the potential for interdisciplinary work, and to a lesser extent on the research history of the applicants (see below). Adjudication will be conducted by the Dean of Science and the VP Academic and Research.

Guidelines, eligibility, adjudication criteria

Please follow these directions and take into account the information provided while discussing and preparing an application.

Title. Please be informative; the title of the proposal should reflect the goals of the project.

Co-Investigators. Grants must include two researchers and a graduate/honours student, all from the Faculty of Science. Eligible researchers include tenured or tenure-track faculty working in different research disciplines. Normally, these faculty members would belong to different departments and normally one of them will be a direct supervisor of the identified student. Formal co-supervisors of the student's program are eligible to apply as Co-PIs, but priority will

be given to projects in which the Co-PIs are seeking to establish a new collaboration for interdisciplinary work. Eligible students include honours or MSc and PhD students in good standing in any discipline within the Faculty of Science.

Lay summary. Applicants must ensure that the summary is informative, clear and concise.

Research proposal. Using the headings provided in the form, describe the project including approach, outcome, the role of the student, and the significance for the disciplines involved. A timeline (up to one year) and the outcome of the proposal must be explicit. This section is central to the assessment of the quality of the proposal, and has a substantial weight on the overall adjudication (40%).

Interdisciplinary nature of the proposal. Applicants must make a case to demonstrate that the researchers' expertise are distinct and complementary (not overlapping). These grants will fund new collaborations, so applicants must disclose any past or ongoing joint research. This page should also indicate how the outcome lies beyond one researcher's individual field of expertise. Preference will be given to research teams that include a faculty member who currently holds no external funding and is working toward an external funding application. The weight of this section in the overall adjudication is also substantial (40%).

Budget. Up to \$4,000 per project can be requested for operational costs of any kind. However, "personnel expenses" must be given careful consideration during the preparation of the grant, ie given that the graduate student is expected to perform the activities involved in the project, expenses to hire additional personnel remain eligible but must be clearly justified. Funds cannot be allocated to pay part of the graduate student stipend.

Research history. A separate list of research contributions by the three Co-PIs must be provided (up to one page each). Because of its goals, this program prioritizes the establishment of new collaborations between faculty and a graduate/honours student. Considering that the latter is at an early stage of his/her career, no assumptions will be made with regards to a "demonstrated" expertise on the subject of the grant. The weight of this section in the overall adjudication is 20%.

References. Please restrict the use of references to those that are clearly relevant to the formulation of the proposal. References must be informative but proper abbreviations are accepted. Please limit the list of references to half a page.

Grant approval and subsequent eligibility. Eligible researchers and students can apply as co-investigators in one project during this competition. Decisions made by the adjudication committee will be final and will be communicated in a timely manner to the applicants. Funds must be used within a year of notification of approval (the form includes a timeline). A grant will be considered "complete" once the Co-PIs submit a copy of the student thesis chapter or a copy of a manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, or acceptance of an abstract to a national or international conference. Researchers who received funds from this program in the previous year are eligible to apply again in a subsequent competition only once their first grant is confirmed to be complete.