

**UPEI At Issue #7**  
**January 20, 2023**

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH**

Engagement of faculty in scholarship and research is central to the mission of the University of Prince Edward Island. As such, UPEI has and continues to make significant investments to support faculty members to carry out a broad range of intellectual, scholarly, and creative endeavours at the University.

### **What are UPEI's plans for research?**

In November 2022, the UPEI Senate approved a new *Strategic Research Plan (2023–2028)—Roadmap to Research Excellence* that aims to build upon past success and the University's commitment to excellence. This Plan identifies the vision, priorities, and actions to build upon UPEI's reputation of research excellence. It includes the following supports to enhance faculty members' research:

- develop pool of funds for course releases to support research programs with graduate students, honour's students, and directed studies courses,
- increase and broaden scope of fellowship support to attract and retain outstanding graduate students and support faculty competitiveness for external grants,
- create opportunities for graduate student supervision by all eligible faculty members,
- develop resources to engage more undergraduate students in research programs of faculty members, and
- develop resources to increase open access for peer-reviewed publications.

### **How do we define UPEI's scholarship and research excellence?**

In the most recent *MacLean's* rankings released in October 2022, UPEI was ranked number two among all Canadian primarily undergraduate universities for faculty awards which include research awards. UPEI has two current Canada Research Chairs with two additional nominations submitted for review, and seven endowed and sponsored chairs.

*MacLean's* also ranked UPEI number six among primarily undergraduate universities for total research funding. If we examine tri-council (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR) funding awarded to UPEI researchers, we see a 10% increase in awards over the past seven years (2014–21) and an almost 23% increase in awards over the past three years (2019–21). Internal research awards (SSHRC Explore and IRG) had a success rate between 70–100% over that same three-year period.

Further evidence comes from *ReSearch Infosource* that ranked UPEI as number three among undergraduate universities in Canada for the percentage of not-for-profit research as a percentage of

total research income in both 2021 and 2022. UPEI was also ranked number four for research intensity per graduate student in 2022, up from the rank of number eight in 2021.

**What other supports are there for scholarly work and research?**

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) training and resources to support EDI in research are available to UPEI researchers.

UPEI has a designated travel fund for researchers who are presenting a paper or poster at a national or international scholarly conference. Applicants receive up to \$750 toward travel expenses to conferences in Canada and up to \$1500 toward travel expenses for international conferences.

There are also funds available for research start-up, research conference and workshop planning, research publication, and a new scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) research grant.

A UPEI research start-up guide has been developed and a new funding website was launched in summer 2021 to support UPEI researchers.

Supports for research partnership development, intellectual property (IP) protection, and commercialization of products, processes, services, and insights, which can provide practical social and economic benefit beyond the university environment, are available through the new Office of Commercialization, Industry, and Innovation.

Our proposal for increasing supports for scholarly work and research for sessional instructors was reported in UPEI At Issue #4.