

Faculty of Science Call for Interdisciplinary Projects 2015

The Office of the Provost has established the Research Excellence Fund (REF) with the purpose to better enable Faculties to support, encourage and develop the research areas of greatest strength and potential within the Faculties.

From these funds, the Faculty of Science has committed to providing \$250,000 in 2015/2016 to specific projects to help develop and support emerging interdisciplinary areas of strength and potential within the Faculty. This fund will provide one-time support to projects that have the potential to develop into areas of excellence. Specifically, these funds will be used to seed new interdisciplinary work within the Faculty. This work should be linked to the Faculty's [Strategic Research Plan](#). Projects are required to demonstrate a specific plan to develop resources and opportunities from the seed funding.

Criteria for funding

This funding should be viewed as a one-time opportunity for seed funding for direct research costs to encourage the development of a particular research area.

Proposed projects should include investigators from at least two different departments from within the Faculty. Participation from other collaborators is also encouraged as is the involvement of students.

Proposals are expected to demonstrate a concrete plan for the development of the interdisciplinary research area. Successful proposals will specifically identify which external funding programs will be applied for and/or outside partnerships explored after the initial work plan has been completed. Potential outside partners should be specifically identified. Knowledge translation plans should be well thought out and consider the needs of the translation partners. The proposed project team's research record will be also considered when determining which projects will be funded.

The Process

Investigators should complete the Proposal Application form (available following and on the Faculty of Science [Research Newswire](#)) by May 20, 2015 at 4 pm.

A representative from the research team will be expected to make a 10-minute appearance before the adjudication committee. Five minutes will be devoted to a presentation to the Committee (about three to four slides) to pitch the proposal, and five minutes will be reserved for the Committee to ask questions of the team's representative.

The Associate Dean, Research & External Relations will strike and chair an Adjudication Committee that will be composed of six members. Committee members will be invited by the Associate Dean to serve depending in part on the disciplines from which proposals are received. The Committee will shortlist projects and then will provide recommendations to the Dean of Science for a final decision.

Budgets and Eligible expenses

The Faculty will fund between three and five projects from the funds available. The maximum project budget allowed will be \$100,000.

Projects are expected to abide by Tri-Council Financial guidelines covering the costs of research. Funds should be spent on the direct costs of research and should not be spent on workshops, colloquia or travel.

To be considered, please submit a completed application form with a recent CV (any format, but Form 100 preferred) for all McMaster professors included on the research team to Seanna-Lin Brodie-Keys, brodies@mcmaster.ca, or to the Office of the Dean, Burke Science Building (BSB), Room 102. Applications are due by May 20, 2015 at 4 pm

**Faculty of Science Interdisciplinary Research Fund
Project Proposal 2015-2016**

The proposal submitted should be no more than 6 pages in length. The Committee will not read longer proposals in their entirety.

Project Title	
Name and Department of Principal Collaborator	
Preferred contact email address of Principal Collaborator	
Collaborators (include full name and Department)	
Collaborators external to the Faculty of Science or McMaster	

Description of proposed activity (1 page)

Potential to leverage seed funding

Please include a five-year plan with reference to specific potential partners and/or specific grant programs (no more than one page in length)

Initiative timeline and deliverables (no more than one-half page in length)

Description of potential impact of the project and the development of the research area to the University and the Greater Community.

Please indicate how the project links to the Faculty's Strategic Research plan (no more than one-half page in length)

Budget and budget justification (1 to 2 pages)

Please indicate how the funds will be spent, and describe any additional funds requested or received from other sources to support the project.

Please note that all funded projects will be required to submit a brief (2 to 3 pages) annual report to the Faculty for three years following the initial grant to allow the evaluation of this program's ability to foster new initiatives, and to provide a brief report to the Provost and Vice President, Research & International Affairs. The Faculty will be very interested to see details about partnerships formed and subsequent grant applications submitted because of the Interdisciplinary Fund.