**LFS Internal Research Grant Program (IRGP)**

Rationale

The Faculty of Land and Food Systems Internal Research Grant Program (IRGP) provides short-term support for the development of innovative, multidisciplinary research that will eventually form the basis of a research proposal submitted to one of the Tri-Agency funding organizations (i.e. NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC) or the UBC TLEF program. The overall aim of the IRGP is to identify and support innovative, early-stage research within LFS which will enable preliminary data to be gathered for the purpose of strengthening the calibre and competitiveness of research proposals submitted to the Tri-Agency and TLEF funding competitions from LFS.

TARGET AREA

This year’s IRGP target area is open, subject to the usual eligibility criteria as stipulated below.

Eligibility

The LFS IRGP encourages collaborative multidisciplinary submissions: **applicant teams must be comprised of a lead PI and least one other co-applicant who represent different research disciplines**. The lead, and at least one other co-applicant, must be full-time LFS faculty members with a minimum of 12-month appointments. Additional co-applicants from outside LFS are permitted. Applicants and co-applicants who have previously held an LFS or another UBC internal research grant must have completed the project and submitted an acceptable [Final Report](http://lfs-researchsupport.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2021/01/LFS_IRGP_Final_Report_Form_Template.docx) where required. Associate Deans and Deans are eligible to apply, but will be expected to recuse themselves from the IRGP adjudication committee (see below).

AWARD PROCESS

Support will only be provided for the direct costs of research that are essential to the completion of the proposed research, including: stipend and salary support for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, research-related travel, and material supplies or consumables. **Equipment purchases will not be supported**. All items must be critical for the successful completion of the proposed research and must be defended in a detailed budget justification to be submitted as an attachment to the main application (see below). Expenses incurred prior to the start date of the proposed work will be ineligible to receive funding.

It is expected that researchers will take advantage of opportunities to leverage LFS funds with funds from other sources (e.g. MITACS) **so that cash and in-kind contributions make up a minimum of 20% of the proposed budget.**

Researchers are invited to submit an application to the LFS internal research grant program that includes:

* A completed [LFS Internal Research Grant Program (IRGP) application form](http://lfs-researchsupport.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2020/12/LFS_IRGP_Application_Form_Jan2021.docx) (applicant and co-applicant information, budget summary table and signatures) with the following attachments:
* A **proposal** (two-page maximum) that includes:
	+ - A **Rationale** in which the central problem or question addressed by the applicant’s research project is explained, with particular attention paid to how the project connects to larger questions that will be part of a future Tri-Agency funding application. The applicant should make clear how the internal research grant will lead to the success of the future external application.
		- A **Methodology** section that details the theoretical/conceptual framework guiding the research and any research hypotheses if applicable, supported by references to existing literature and detailing the methods and procedures to be used and highlights the roles of specific individuals (co-PIs and HQP) required to successfully carry out the work.
		- A **Significance and Faculty Benefits** section which explores the broader impacts of the proposed research including a consideration of the project benefits including the forging of new research collaborations within the Faculty, the training of HQP, planned manuscripts or proposals and the relevance of the work to the UBC and LFS Strategic Plans.
* **Budget** **justification** (one page)
* **References**

FUNDING DETAILS

This intake has a $50,000 envelope: a single proposal may request up to $25,000 of LFS (with the requirement for 20% in-kind/cash from other sources, the maximum allowable budget is therefore $25k + $25k x 0.2 = $30k). The review panel reserves the right to only partially award the envelope available if the proposals submitted are not of sufficient quality.

Funding will be released to successful applicants as a single payment and must be spent within one year of award receipt. This funding competition is one-time and cannot be renewed. Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report on the research activities undertaken within 3 months of the project conclusion. **Applications to future intakes will not be considered until the final report has been submitted.**

SUBMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applications ([application form](http://lfs-researchsupport.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2020/12/LFS_IRGP_Application_Form_Jan2021.docx) plus all attachments submitted as a single PDF file) for this pilot funding call should be sent to lfs.research@ubc.ca  by 5 pm, Friday **January 29, 2021**. Proposals will be reviewed by the Faculty Research Awards Committee, whose membership consists of the Associate Dean of Research (Chair); the Program Directors of: Applied Biology, Food, Nutrition and Health, and Food and Resource Economics; the Faculty EDI Coordinator; other faculty members (e.g. previous awardees or external to LFS) as deemed necessary by the Committee. Decisions will be returned within a month, with the funding start date of March 1, 2021.

Submitted proposals will be judged against the following [**evaluation criteria**](http://lfs-researchsupport.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2020/12/LFS-Internal-Research-Grant-Program-Evaluation_Matrix_Jan2021.docx):

* All proposal requirements have been provided in full
* the quality, originality and potential for impact of the proposed project;
* the extent to which the aims and motivations of the proposal are consistent with the multidisciplinary intent of the LFS Internal Research Grant Program;
* Feasibility of completing project within the one-year timeframe
* Appropriateness of budget allocation and justification
* Evidence of a clear research plan that links the proposed work to future work planned as part of a Tri-Agency funding application or UBC TLEF proposal.

Questions should be directed to [David.Kitts@ubc.ca], or Nick Grant [nick.grant@ubc.ca].