

2019 CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI) Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Research Development Fund (RDF)



PURPOSE

The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) office at the University of Alberta (UAlberta) has opened a call for letters of intent (LOI) for the WUN Research Development Fund (WUN RDF).

WORLDWIDE UNIVERSITIES NETWORK (WUN)

The WUN includes 23 research-intensive institutions spanning 5 continents and creates new multilateral opportunities for international collaboration in research and graduate education. Research activities are focused into 4 Global Challenges:

- **Responding to Climate Change** (*focus on, Affordable clean energy; Climate-forced migration; Climate-resilient food systems; Responsible production, consumption and disposal of plastics*).
- **Understanding Cultures** (*focus on, Migration, Heritage and climate change; Decolonization; Threat to humanity*).
- **Global Higher Education and Research** (*focus on, Transforming the higher education curriculum for the 21st century; Strengthening the legitimacy and authority of the university in a changing world; Critically examining/enabling global and local mobilities of people, ideas, programmes, knowledges in higher education*).
- **Public Health (Non-communicable diseases)** (*focus on, Life course approach to health; Health systems, policies and frameworks; Inequalities within and across countries; Evidence based interventions for disease prevention and health promotion*).

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND (RDF)

The WUN RDF offers **seed funding grants** of up to £10,000 to launch longer-term research collaborations within the WUN Global Challenges. WUN RDF support is intended to match funding provided by the applicant's home universities. Funds may be used to support such things as exploratory research initiatives, planning workshops, faculty exchanges, and the formation of collaborative networks.

Projects should be academically rigorous, and address problems of consequence within the broad domain covered by the Global Challenges. The project must engage **at least 3 WUN** member universities in at least 2 countries. The collaboration can include non-WUN universities and external partners but must have an active core of WUN member universities.

Assessment Criteria:

- **Objectives** – the project falls within the scope of one or more of the global challenges, is of high academic quality, and addresses a new research problem or takes an existing WUN research program in a significantly new direction.
- **Teamwork** – the program involves a team of researchers drawn from a range of relevant regions and disciplines.
- **WUN Advantage** – the set of individuals involved, and/or the environment and resources available to them, confers a distinctive advantage in tackling the research problem.
- **Outcomes** – the outcome of the project is likely to be of significant public interest.
- **Sustainability** – the research problem chosen lies within the scope of funding initiatives from national or international agencies, and project completion is likely to make the applicants competitive for such funds.

UAlberta Application Process and Deadlines:

The LOI is an informal one-page overview of your proposed research idea. It should address the assessment criteria above including which global challenge(s) will be addressed and the suggested key partners involved. Feedback will be provided on the LOIs and full proposals.

- **August 31, 2019** – Submit one-page LOI to the UAlberta WUN Coordinator.
- **September 9, 2019** – LOI applicants will be notified regarding whether they are being invited to submit a full proposal. Two (2) LOIs will be selected to be developed into full proposals.
- **October 18, 2019** – Draft of full proposal should be complete online for review by the UAlberta WUN office and to obtain Faculty and RSO signatures prior to final submission.
- **October 31, 2019** – Online submission of complete application to WUN.
- **December 13, 2019** – Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by the WUN Secretariat. Funds will be available February 2020 and should be expended within 12 months.

Contact the local WUN office for advice or further information.

CONTACT

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