

2016 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 18 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 global research platforms and resilience of human systems related to food & environment security*)
- **Understanding Cultures** (*focus on migration & population; two-way understanding of China; global digital cultures; and indigenous peoples & societies*)
- **Global Higher Education and Research** (*focus on demographic drivers for engaging disenfranchised parts of the population from different countries; factors that affect participation and achievement for the first in families to enrol in university; role of English language in access to higher education*)
- **Public Health (Non-communicable Disease NCD)** (*focus on lifecourse approach to healthy ageing; health of migrants; resilience of adolescents and health workers in different cultural contexts; and schools as a setting for reducing risk factors associated with NCDs*)

RDF proposals are particularly encouraged to address one or more of these Global Challenges as well as one of WUN's developing crosscutting themes in **economics, big data**, and regional programs of the **Global China Group** and the **Global Africa Group**.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND (RDF)

The WUN RDF offers **seed funding grants** of up to £12,000 (average £10,000) to launch longer-term research collaborations within the WUN Global Challenges. Programs may include exploratory research initiatives, targeted workshops, faculty exchanges, and the formation of collaborative networks, among other activities. Applications that incorporate a component for early career researchers and postgraduate students are encouraged.

The RDF 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** – Program is of high academic quality and address a novel research problem or takes an existing WUN program in a new direction and is likely to have significant impact, is interdisciplinary and is international in scope.
- **Relevance** – Program aligns with WUN strategic objectives and WUN global challenges.
- **Teamwork** – Program involves researchers across relevant disciplines and regions and includes early career researchers and PhD students.
- **Outcomes** – Program results in external funding and academic publications or policy options.
- **Sustainability** – Programs builds long-term international relationships and has a solid plan to attract resources to support the project into the future

UAlberta Application Process and Deadlines:

Contact the local WUN office for advice or further information. Feedback will be provided on the LOIs and the full proposals. Note, the LOI is an informal one-page overview of your proposed research idea. It should include which global challenge will be address and the suggested key partners involved.

- **August 5, 2016** – Submit a LOI to the WUN office at the UAlberta for selection of applicants invited to submit a full proposal.
- **August 15, 2016** – Successful LOI applicants will be notified.
- **October 14, 2016** – Successful LOI application to submit a full proposal to the local WUN office for review and ranking. A maximum of 3 applications will be selected.
- **October 28, 2016** – Local WUN office makes final submission of UAlberta led RDF applications
- **December 16, 2016** – Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal by the WUN Secretariat. Funds will be available soon after. Awarded programs must be started within 6 months, with allocated funding expended within 12 months.

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