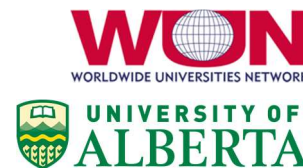


# 2018 CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI) Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Research Development Fund (RDF)



## 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, Food security under increasing resource scarcity/risk; Renewable energy from wind, tidal/wave, and biofuels and the importance of micro/smart-grids; Plastic production and plastic waste; Advancing system approaches for smart climate services through big data, and mapping, particularly for disaster risk management*).
- **Understanding Cultures** (*focus on, Migration - Identify gaps in policy data, bringing scholarship to capacity development, Borders and boundaries, securitization and rights, consequences of migration policies; Heritage - through the lens of mobility, identity and sustainability; Merging Migration and Heritage*).
- **Global Higher Education and Research** (*focus on, HE curriculum for the 21st century; Legitimacy/authority of university in a changing world; Global/local mobilities and HE*).
- **Public Health (Non-communicable Disease NCD)** (*Welcome applications on any topic of Public Health, emphasis on a life-course approach to opportunities for addressing non-communicable diseases*).

## 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. 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. RDF proposals are particularly encouraged to engage with one or more of the new WUN members.

## **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** – Program 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 addressed and the suggested key partners involved.

- **August 15, 2018** – Submit a LOI to the WUN office at the UAlberta for selection of applicants invited to submit a full proposal.
- **August 24, 2018** – LOI applicants will be notified. Two (2) LOIs will be selected to be developed into full proposals.
- **October 12, 2018** – Submit full proposal to the local WUN office for review and feed back.
- **October 26, 2018** – Submit final proposal of UAlberta led RDF applications to WUN.
- **December 14, 2018** – 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.

## CONTACT

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