

Major Research Awards Expression of Interest (EOI)

AWARD: Robbins-Ollivier Award for Excellence in Equity

Program

Despite decades of efforts to address inequities in research and academia, systemic barriers persist. The historical underrepresentation of members of racialized minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, women, and individuals from the LGBTQ2+ community in the CRCP reflects the barriers that exist in academia and Canada's research ecosystem more broadly. These barriers often exist in research programs, institutional policies, practice and culture, and in the organizational environment.

To address the persistence of these barriers, bold and potentially game-changing measures and actions that challenge the status quo and spark change are needed.

Objectives

The objectives of the annual Robbins-Ollivier equity award are to:

- fund **bold and potentially game-changing** institutional-level initiatives that will challenge the status quo, spark change and take action to address persistent systemic barriers in institutions research ecosystem and academia;
- recognize faculty members who contribute their time, expertise and lived experience to help address inequities in their institution, the research ecosystem and academia; and
- provide opportunities for students and trainees to contribute to this important work.

The award provides a total of \$100,000 over one year, with the potential for a one-year no-cost extension, to a faculty member or a team of faculty members nominated by an eligible institution, to fund the implementation of bold and potentially game-changing initiatives led by the nominated individual or team that:

- contribute to the understanding of the persistence of systemic barriers in the nominating institution and, by extension, the research ecosystem and academia more broadly; and/or
- identify innovative measures that could be implemented within the institution to change the status quo and break down those barriers in the long term.

The awardee(s) and their initiative will be featured on the CRCP website and social media. The individual or team will also be invited by the agencies to present their initiative and its impacts in a public forum (e.g., a conference).

The institution whose nominee(s) receive(s) the award will be required to provide the CRCP with a promotion strategy (two pages maximum for English; 2.5 pages maximum for French) outlining a proposed approach for promoting and celebrating the award winner(s) and the impact and outcomes of their initiative.

Instructions

The EOI makes the case for why you should be nominated for this award. Your EOI will be evaluated by the University's **Robbins-Ollivier Award committee**, which makes recommendations about nominations to the Vice President (Research & Innovation).

The EOI content will also form the base of your nomination documents (i.e. nomination statements, institutional nomination letters, etc.) should your nomination move forward to the national competition.

It is highly recommended that you contact your College Research Manager and Associate Dean of Research to discuss your interest in the award. Your College Research Manager can also provide support in completing the EOI.

Please submit the EOI + team CVs to jmoores@uoguelph.ca and your College Research Manager by the internal deadline.

EOI Components

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT (2 pages)

The project description must include:

- a title and summary, written in plain language, describing the uniqueness, importance and explicit objectives of the proposed initiative (max 100 words)
- a detailed description of the proposed project that shows how it is bold and potentially game-changing;
- the expected impacts/outcomes, in terms of changing the status quo and sparking change towards a more equitable institution and/or research or academic ecosystem;
- who will be involved in helping implement the project (e.g., faculty, students, administrators) and what their specific roles will be;
- how co-creation with individuals from underrepresented groups (racialized individuals, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, women, individuals from the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities) will be conducted to help inform the work; and
- how best practices in equity, including intersectionality, will be applied within the project.

See detailed selection criteria at Robbins-Ollivier Selection Criteria

B. DESCRIPTION OF LEADERSHIP (.5 pgs/team member)

- a summary of each of the nominees' overall contributions to and leadership in addressing inequities in their institution and/or the research ecosystem and academia more broadly, [in alignment with the selection criteria](#).

C. BUDGET (up to 1 page)

The Robbins-Ollivier Award provides \$100,000 of funding for a 1-year project with the potential of a one-year no-cost extension. **Please provide a draft budget for a total cost of \$100,000 over one year.**

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- teaching/administrative release for the individual(s)
- student/trainee stipend(s) or salary
- research costs according to the Chairs Administration Guide

The list above is not comprehensive, as the proposed initiative is expected to be bold and game-changing and thus may include costs that might not specifically be stipulated as eligible in the program's administration guide. The assessment process will include an administrative review of the proposed expenses to determine whether they are aligned with the objectives of the award.

The primary awardee (not the nominating institution) is to manage the spending of award funds according to the initiative proposal submitted.

Institutions may choose to devote additional funds to support the proposed initiative(s), though it is not a requirement.

Indirect costs are not an eligible expense. The salary of faculty is not an eligible expense.

The award is not intended to "top up" or be added to pre-existing, ongoing initiatives.