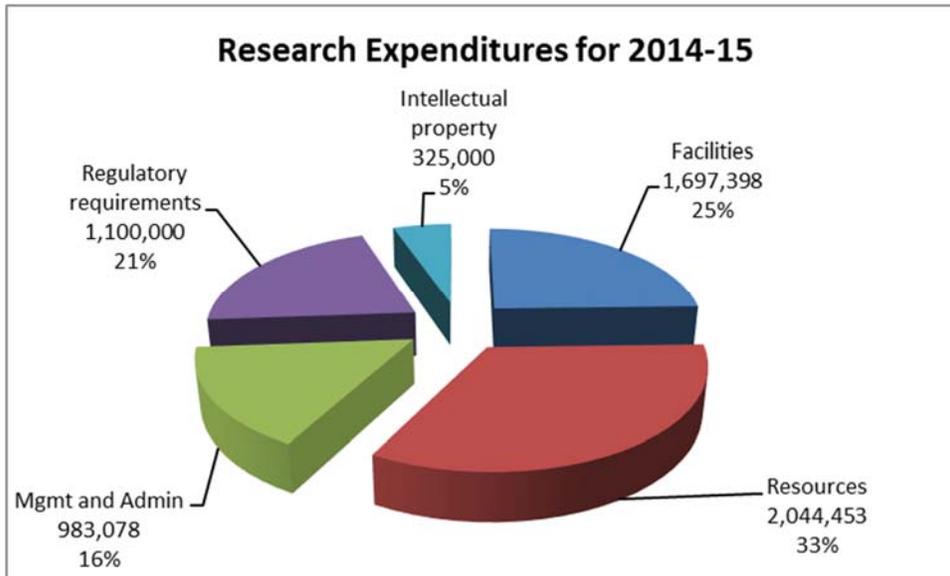


2014 -2015 Federal indirect costs of research expenditures at UVic



Impact of Federal Indirect Costs of Research Funding

The ICR funding provides critical support that enhances and sustains UVic's research environment. We use a centralized funding allocation process that is strategically employed to maximize the number of researchers who benefit from enhancements to library holdings and services, enhanced research support services, common computing facilities and area specific enhancements. ICR funding is a major factor in supporting and encouraging the culture of research excellence at UVic and contributes to the national and international recognition of our diverse research activities. ICR funding demonstrably contributes to our ongoing success in recruiting and retaining excellent faculty, and to attracting outstanding students and postdoctoral fellows.

Total research funding at UVic has risen sharply over the last few years and is now consistently in excess of \$100M per year. This significant increase in research activity has resulted in a sharp rise in the indirect costs in support of these activities. The ~\$6M ICR funding we receive per year reduces the amount required from our general operating funds to provide vital support to research with demonstrable benefit to our academic programs.

Support of grant facilitation and other research services increases our researchers' success in grant competitions. ICR funding also assists us to leverage additional support from other funders particularly through support of contracts management. ICR funds are also employed to enhance support for community and industry research partnerships and to further enhance our support of knowledge mobilization through our innovative Research Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization (RPKM) unit.

Facilities

Funding in this category is 25% of the total ICR funding.

High quality research requires access to and the availability of the right tools and facilities in which Faculty, their associates and students can conduct their research. It is vital that laboratories are as modern as possible, have the right equipment and that the space is adequate and appropriate for the type of experiments that the researchers need to conduct. For the University of Victoria, annual access to federal indirect funds has, since inception, enabled the institution to renovate and support its research laboratories and facilities in ways that would never have been possible without the program. These funds are essential to the continued enhancement of research space on campus.

Over the life of the program these funds have been utilized to support the renewal and renovation of research space across multiple disciplines. Significant amounts were spent in earlier years when the University had vacated space as a result of its expansion program. Over the last few years, including 2014/15, the amount allocated to renovations has been more modest it was still vital in addressing the needs of faculty and graduate students. Without such funding faculty laboratories could not be renewed to address evolving research needs to the current extent.

In 2014/15 these funds supported the renovations mainly for the Faculty of Science. The funds enabled renovations to address some deficiencies within animal care space. This project is a multiyear project.

Federal indirect funds each year are also used to cover a portion of the operating costs that result from research (utilities and maintenance). Research spaces typically have large power draws (e.g. fume hoods or significant computing resources) and often have specialized needs (i.e. cleanliness within animal care).

Without federal indirect funds, the University would either be required to fund these additional costs from the operating budget thereby impacting educational quality and the student experience or alternately reducing laboratory capacity or support and/or availability on campus.

Research Resources

Funding in this category is 33% of the total ICR funding.

As in past years, the major portion (76%) of the funding allocated under this category is spent on library acquisitions. The expenditures in this area allow us to continue to improve the capacity of the university to make available information critical to the success of our many diverse research programs across campus. For many disciplines, these expenditures are critical to providing the research environment needed by faculty, other researchers and students.

Access to library resources is a significant faculty recruitment and retention issue in

many areas. The library is frequently asked to purchase research materials that are critical to the success of our research programs. If these needs were not met, many faculty members' research would be negatively impacted. ICR funds are essential for these types of purchases.

In addition, the library needs to be able to purchase new forms (e-books, texts, newspapers, statistical information, historical materials, and journals) of digital research sources, both historical and current. This would be severely curtailed without ICR funding.

Since most research grants do not allow for the costs of insurance, funds (1.7%) in this category are also used to purchase insurance for research vehicles. Lastly, some of the funding in this category (22.1%) is allocated to information resources in the form of databases, telecommunications, information technology and research tools.

Management and Administration

Funding in this category is 16% of the total ICR funding.

Approximately 66% of the expenditures in this category, provides support for key positions, both administrative and management, in the Office of Research Services.

The Research Agreements Facilitator provides vital services in the review and negotiation of research funding agreements between the University of Victoria and our funding partners and collaborators. Timely review and effective negotiation are required in order to respond to the significant growth in the numbers and increasing complexity of research agreements. Partnerships with government, industry and other organizations are pre-requisites for the University of Victoria to take advantage of a number of Tri-Council programs and these collaborations are supported by this position. Without the funding provided by the ICR program for this position, there would be a substantial reduction in the support provided by the Office of Research Services for the agreement review process and the management of external partnerships and a consequent downturn in the size and diversity of our research funding portfolio,

IRC funding also provides for an External Awards Officer who, together with faculty and administrative staff, supports the development of applications for awards, prestigious fellowships and other significant academic honours. This support ensures the detailed processes required to meet competition requirements are met. The University of Victoria has had significant success in winning awards and our faculty members continue to be inducted into prestigious societies in significant numbers across all disciplines. This success is due in large part to the dedicated work of the External Awards Officer. Diminishing this support for the award process would reduce the success and recognition of both faculty members and other research personnel.

Approximately 33% of the expenditures in this category supports personnel in research accounting and purchasing departments dedicated to assisting researchers with budget submissions, reporting and purchases. Increasingly, the reports and proposal submissions are complex and the dedication of support to this area is crucial to the effective support for budget development and the effective administration of

research funding at the University. Without ICR funding, this support would not be possible.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation.

Funding in this category is 21% of the total ICR funding.

Researchers at the University of Victoria submit over 1000 applications, renewals and amendments for research ethics approvals each year. This large number of applications has made the effective management of the human research ethics (HRE) review process critically important. ICR funds support two full time positions: the HRE Coordinator and the HRE Assistant, both critical positions for the effective review and administration of human research ethics protocols. These positions also provide administrative support to the HRE Chair, Vice-Chair and the HRE Board. In the absence of these positions, the response time for protocol review would increase, significantly impacting on the researchers' timely engagement of human participants in their studies.

The University of Victoria supports significant infrastructure related to research with animal models. ICR funding, about 78.6% of the expenditures in this category, provides substantial support for the required regulatory committees,, technical support, equipment and renovations required for animal care. This support is critical to the ability to effectively manage animal care facilities and to ensure that the regulatory requirements of the Canada Council on Animal Care (CCAC) are met.

The University had a regular CCAC monitoring visit in December 2014. CCAC reviewed the animal care facilities, met with staff and administrators and assessed the university's level of administrative and management in support of our animal care program. We have subsequently received their report, with the recommendations including the refinement of our procedures and processes UVic is now in the process of responding to these recommendations and is providing the CCAC with regular updates on our progress. The personnel supported by ICR are critical to ensuring that we are able to provide high quality animal care and adhere to the standards required for successful renewal of our CCAC certificate of Good Animal Practice (GAP).

The remaining 32.7% of the expenditure in this category provide support for the handling of dangerous substances and biohazards as well as addressing costs of regulatory compliance. The funds enabled renovations to support improved biosafety through a number of labs as required under new Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines. This is a multi-year project.

Intellectual Property

Funding in this category is 5% of the total ICR funding.

ICR funding is used to support a portion of the costs associated with the following activities of the UVic Research Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization (RPKM) unit within the Office of Research Services.

- Salaries of the RPKM staff who support the development of research partnerships with our external community, including industry, government and non-government

organizations. The liaison staff also provide technology transfer services to the entire UVic community (including faculty, staff and students);

- Costs of filing, prosecution and maintenance of new and existing patent applications based on UVic faculty or student research innovations; and
- External legal costs to develop option to license and research agreements with industry partners.

The funding is critical in assisting UVic to protect, manage and transfer intellectual property for the benefit of society and the Canadian economy. The provision of these services is essential for attracting and retaining faculty, and in assisting them with the development of the key partnerships that will support their research.