Guidelines for Proposals for
UVic Collaborative Health Grants

Objectives of the Program
We are pleased to invite proposals for the UVic Collaborative Health Grants. This is a new program sponsored by the UVic Health Initiative to support health-related research and creative projects across campus. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to stimulate team-based, interdisciplinary, health-related projects that are likely to have significant impact and that will advance the research pillar of the UVic Health Initiative. Projects may have as their primary objective either the collection of preliminary data to support the development of an application for external funding or the creation of an end-product with lasting impact, such as, but not limited to: an art installation, a new or strengthened partnership with a community organization, the creation of a health-related policy, or a new performance or exhibition. This program is open to members of all Faculties and is a separate competition from the UVic Internal Research and Creative Project Grants program. Faculty members are eligible to apply to both competitions but will not be awarded funds from both sources for the same project.

Research Teams and Funding Timeline
This funding is intended to support interdisciplinary teams comprising faculty members from at least two different academic units.

The deadline for submission of applications is 1 PM, January 15, 2021. Applications must be submitted to Sally Lin, Health Research Officer (healthproj@uvic.ca). Questions about this competition may be sent to the Special Advisor, Health Research (specialadvisorhealth@uvic.ca). Applications will be adjudicated by a multidisciplinary committee appointed by the Vice-President Research and successful applicants will be notified by February 28, 2021. Funding will begin shortly thereafter.

Application Requirements
Applicants may request any amount up to a maximum of $40,000 to support novel health research or creative activity projects that will lead either to a proposal for external funding by the fall of 2022 or to a defined end-product of a type describe above. We are expecting that most of the funded projects will be completed within one year but recognizing the challenges associated with the current pandemic, we will consider funding that extends over two years.

Higher priority will be given to projects that have the potential to lead to meaningful, long-term collaboration in health research or creative activity beyond the term of funding. The engagement of an external partner, such as a health authority, community group, or industry partner as part of the project team is not required, but will strengthen the application.

The proposed research team must include at least two regular, tenure-track or tenured faculty members from different academic units (Department, School, or Faculty) at UVic. The lead applicant must be a regular tenure-track or tenured faculty member. The team may include other participants who are not regular UVic faculty, if these individuals have relevant expertise that would strengthen the proposal.
Each project must make a significant contribution to one of the signature areas of the UVic Health Initiative: Healthy Aging, Indigenous Health, Mental Health, and Translational Medicine. A detailed description of these areas and associated methods and approaches is available in the UVic Health Sciences Initiative concept paper (see p. 4). The intention is to distribute the available funds across all four signature areas.

Each proposal should list all primary members of the project team and their affiliations and any external partners. The main section of the proposal should explain the synergy of the team and describe the planned research or creative activity. The outcomes and expected impact of the project must be described as well.

Download: UVic Collaborative Health Grants application form

Evaluation Criteria

(a) Required elements for all proposals:

• research team includes at least one regular, tenure-track or tenured faculty member from two different academic units
• proposed project is relevant to at least one of the four signature areas of the UHI
• proposed budget provides some amount of funding for a student or postdoctoral trainee

(b) Criteria to be used by the adjudication committee (it is not expected that a successful application will meet all of these criteria, but stronger applications will meet more of them):

• Quality of the proposed project (40%)
  - originality and feasibility of the proposed research or creative activity
  - feasibility of the plan to use the outcome of the project to generate either a proposal for external funding or some form of knowledge mobilization
  - potential of the project to lead to longer-term collaborative activity among team members

• Expected impact (30%)
  - potential to advance one or more of the signature areas of the UVic Health Initiative
  - expected impact of the completed project at local, national, and international scales
  - possible applications of the work to a clinical setting, a community, or a new technology

• Strength of the collaborative team (30%)
  - degree to which the proposed team members bring complementary expertise to the research or creative project
  - record of past achievements of team members
  - diversity of the team, including early-career faculty and members with different backgrounds and from underrepresented groups
  - inclusion of team members from multiple Faculties
  - inclusion of an external partner on the team
The lead applicant for any successful application is required to provide a final report that describes the impact of the work to the office of the Vice-President Research no later than September 1, 2022. Any extensions to this deadline must be approved by the VPR in writing.

**Budget preparation**

Examples of eligible and ineligible expenses are provided here. More extensive guidance regarding allowable expenditures can be found in the newly issued [Tri-Agency Guidelines](#).

- **Eligible expenses:**
  - Salaries
  - Supplies and operating expenses
  - Equipment and related infrastructure
  - Research travel
  - Child care expenses as allowed under Tri-Agency guidelines
  - Knowledge mobilization expenses

- **Ineligible expenses:**
  - Society membership dues or journal subscriptions
  - Entertainment
  - Spousal travel expenses (unless the spouse is a project collaborator)
  - Cell phone charges
  - Cost of teaching release

**NOTE:** For this year only, recognizing the negative impact of COVID-19 on time available for research, teaching release may be requested through the regular Internal Research and Creative Projects Grants program. This is open to all faculty who have a course load of at least 3 single-term classes and who are either applying for an internal grant or who currently hold an active tri-agency or other peer-reviewed external research grant.