



The Eminence Program – CLUSTER-BUILDING GRANT

<u>Notice of Intent Deadline</u>	<u>Full Application Deadline</u>	<u>Notice of Award</u>	<u>Funding Start Date</u>
August 10, 2022	September 16, 2022	Early November 2022	Nov 1, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Fostering interdisciplinary research excellence and collaboration is a central priority in [UBC’s strategic plans](#). The UBC Okanagan Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation (VPRI) has established the Eminence Program to provide funding to support the formation and growth of **interdisciplinary¹ research excellence clusters** at UBC Okanagan. Researchers from all disciplines are invited to apply for funding.

An interdisciplinary research excellence cluster is defined as a network of researchers spanning multiple disciplines at UBC who form and nurture interdisciplinary teams that foster partnerships and collaborations, develop new research questions/directions/themes in research creation, address key societal and cultural problems, and work together to solve challenges that transcend traditional boundaries.

GOALS OF THE EMINENCE PROGRAM

The Eminence Program is an opportunity for UBC Okanagan researchers to explore collaborations and methodologies that transcend traditional, departmental, or institutional boundaries and address complex issues in ways that a single person or discipline cannot accomplish on their own.

Clusters funded through the Eminence Program are expected to explore the opportunity to advance purposeful, coordinated approaches and perform high-impact work.

At UBC Okanagan, we expect our Eminence-funded Clusters to:

- Support interdisciplinary groups of researchers and partners
- Advance UBC Okanagan’s research capacity by generating new external funding
- Leverage partnerships and create local, national, and global connections
- Demonstrate creativity, resilience, and shared risk-taking to explore new opportunities and catalyze outputs
- Mobilize knowledge and make research accessible to appropriate stakeholders

¹ UBC Okanagan follows the Tri-council approach which recognizes that the terms “multidisciplinary,” “transdisciplinary,” and “interdisciplinary” have different connotations and their usage across and between research disciplines can vary. For this competition, “interdisciplinary” is used as an umbrella term to refer to all three concepts inclusively.



- Address UBC strategic priorities and commitments with meaningful and appropriate reflections on:
 - Reconciliation, decolonization, and indigenization, as described in the UBC [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#);
 - Equity, diversity, and inclusion, as described in the UBC [Inclusion Action Plan](#); and,
 - Regional impact and social-economic development, as described in the UBCO Strategic Plan [Aspire](#)

AWARD DETAILS

New for 2022, the VPRI is offering **Cluster-Building Grants**. These are intended to provide teams of faculty with the means to support engagement activities (e.g. workshops, meetings, seminar series, pilot studies) designed to enable the development of Eminence Cluster applications. This pilot program will provide successful applicants with up to \$5,000 for Cluster-Building Activities.

ELIGIBILITY

Cluster-Building teams may have between four to ten Members, including Lead(s). Clusters-Building teams may have a maximum of two Cluster-Building Leads. In cases where two leads are named, a single Administrative Lead must be identified. Individual faculty can lead a maximum of one Cluster-Building team and can participate in a maximum of two Clusters / Cluster-Building teams.

Cluster-Building Lead(s) must be faculty at UBC Okanagan with a full-time academic appointment in the tenured or tenure-track research stream. A Cluster-Building Lead is expected to have a well-established research program with demonstrated leadership and/or interdisciplinary experience.

Cluster-Building Members may include faculty holding full-time academic appointments at UBC's Okanagan campus, Point Grey campus, or other Canadian post-secondary institutions. Note that while proposals can involve faculty from other organizations, the primary aim of the Eminence Program is to cluster talent within the UBC Okanagan campus.

New for 2022, applicants are invited to identify up to 6 Cluster-Building Collaborators, where applicable. Collaborators represent key contributors to the project who are not faculty. They can be individuals or groups from industry, academia, government, the public, alumni, community groups, non-profits, donors, undergraduate students, graduate students, research staff, student clubs, etc.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Templates and forms can be found on the [VPRI Internal Funding webpage](#).

PHASE 1 - NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY

The Cluster-Building Lead must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) by submitting the NOI Form to vprawards.ubco@ubc.ca by **August 10, 2022, at 4:00 PM**. Faculty sign-off from the Dean or Associate



Dean of Research is required for the Lead and Co-Lead (if applicable) for the NOI. An RPIF is not required at this stage.

The NOI is non-competitive and will be used to plan the review panel. NOIs (titles and membership) will be shared with ADRs and Deans. The Office of the VPRI may encourage teams to consolidate.

PHASE 2 – FULL APPLICATION

Full application packages must be emailed to yprawards.ubco@ubc.ca by **September 16, 2022, at 4:00 PM**. Sign-off from the Department Head and the Dean for the Lead and Co-Lead (if applicable) is required for the full application. An RPIF is not required at this stage.

Cluster-Building applicants are invited to submit a proposal that describes how the one year of Eminence funding will be deployed to explore and develop interdisciplinary themes and relationships.

Applications will consist of a single PDF document that includes the following (in order):

- Cover page (use form provided)
- A free-form proposal addressing the evaluation criteria (2-pages maximum)
 - Applicants must explain how UBC’s strategic priorities and commitments are integrated into appropriate aspects of the proposal. If not applicable, briefly explain why.
- A short-form CV for each Cluster-Building Member (2-pages maximum, each)
 - Short-form CV guidelines: Name, Education, Professional Appointments, and a relevant selection of Awards, Honors, Invited Talks (last 10 years), Grants presently held, and Publications (last 5 years).

Proposals must be written using a 12-point black font, single line spacing, using standard, 1” margins on an 8.5” x 11” page layout. Figures and tables are included in page limits.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applicants need to address how UBC’s strategic priorities and commitments identified in the Indigenous Strategic Plan, the Inclusion Action Plan, and the Aspire Strategic Plan, are appropriately considered and integrated into aspects of the Cluster such as the research theme, research design, research process, the team, the environment, the operations, the budget, etc. If it is not applicable, briefly explain why.

Please address each criterion (equally weighted):

- The proposed research theme(s) that the team will explore and its potential for impact
- The expertise provided by Cluster Members and Collaborators, how they will contribute, and how they will benefit
- The activities necessary to explore potential collaborations and theme(s)
- The anticipated goals and outcomes
- An explanation of how the budget will be used



ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENSES

Expenses must comply with [UBC Business Expenses](#) rules and [TAGFA guidelines](#).

Eligible expenses include Cluster-Building Activities only, such as:

- Cluster meetings, workshops, and/or conferences
- Community and stakeholder engagement costs
- Travel for Cluster Members and Cluster Collaborators
- Pilot studies and associated research supplies

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

An interdisciplinary review panel will make recommendations for funding based on the evaluation criteria. Final funding decisions are made by the Vice-Principal of Research & Innovation (VPRI), UBC Okanagan.

Note that while the review panel members are established researchers with varied areas of expertise, applicants cannot rely on the committee being knowledgeable in the applicant's specialized area of research and are encouraged to use non-technical language understandable to researchers in other fields.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Term of the Grant: The term of the grant is one year. Cluster-Building Lead(s) may be required to attend touchpoint meetings with the VPRI Office throughout the funding period.

Financial Terms: Upon receipt of an award letter, the Cluster-Building Administrative Lead must submit an RPIF to ORS for the grant to be established. The Cluster-Building Administrative Lead will be responsible for financial oversight of the grant. All eligible expenditures must be incurred prior to the end of the award term after which time any unspent funds will be returned to the VPRI.

Reporting: The Cluster-Building Administrative Lead will provide a brief report to summarize the activities and outcomes. A template will be provided.

PROGRAM CONTACT

For any questions or concerns regarding this program, please contact:

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