

Big Idea Grant Program - Guidelines

(aussi disponible en français)

Applications due March 26, 2023, at 11.59 pm EST

What is it?

The Big Idea Grant (BIG) program supports novel, blue sky research ideas in their early stages. The program is looking for ideas that are forward-thinking and high risk / high reward and **falling outside of currently funded collaborations** and existing extramural research funding programs in Canada or abroad.

How does it work?

University of Ottawa researchers with regular, full-time tenured or tenure-track positions, or based at an affiliated research institute and holding an academic appointment with the University of Ottawa, are eligible to apply. All BIG projects must be aligned with the University's [Strategic Areas of Research](#) and one or more of the sub areas. Selected projects will receive funding to offset the cost of dedicating a currently enrolled University of Ottawa doctoral student to work on the project. The maximum award value is \$20,000. Researchers are strongly encouraged to provide additional financial support.

What are we looking for?

Big Ideas – can come from any discipline. Proposed projects must be innovative and should significantly push the boundaries of current state-of-the-art in a given field. Big Idea projects can be used to test new ideas and concepts that may be highly valued in the next five to ten years. Proposed Big Ideas should also consider what realistic outcomes of the project are attainable, e.g. publications and/or funding from major funders.

Students – a full-time University of Ottawa doctoral student with above-average credentials and high potential who can dedicate time to the proposed project on a part-time basis.

International – one or more international collaborators must be involved in the project through intellectual input and/or in-kind support. This can come in various forms such as providing data, samples, analysis, mentorship and supervision, literature review, etc.

Timeframe – the proposed Big Idea project should be completed within 12 months (no later than 30 April 2024); varying timeframes between one and 12 months are permissible as appropriate for the project scope.

Application

Researchers are invited to apply to the BIG program using a concept note approach outlined in the form.

Reporting

A short mid-term presentation and a final presentation by the doctoral student to the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, with participation from Faculty partners and/or the Office of the Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, will be required.

Eligible expenses and use of funds

- The BIG award is to reimburse the assigned doctoral student for their work on the project. Although a budget is not required as part of the application, any anticipated expenses beyond the doctoral student's salary should be noted and justified.
- This program cannot be combined with any other OVPRI or IREX ongoing programmes. Students who hold a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship or a Canadian PhD scholarship are not eligible. Other held scholarships should be noted in the application form.
- Funds obtained for the assigned doctoral student may not be used to pay for another student, nor can the funds be used for other projects, publications, equipment etc.
- The BIG project and the assigned doctoral student will only be awarded once, and the awards are non-renewable.

Contact

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