



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Team Start-Up Grant Program

Overview: The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies (OVRGS) Team Start-up provides short-term support for research projects that have a high potential to build new partnerships, and to attract external funding for continuation of the research. This program supports two types of projects: **Start-Up (Year 1 of funding)**, which is an open competition, and **Accelerator (Year 2 of funding)**, which is by invitation only to successful Year 1 teams.

Start-up (Year 1) funding supports the development of early stage and innovative research/creation. A Start-Up project is usually a short-term research project with the purpose of undertaking pilot studies, collecting and analyzing initial data, validating new methodologies or approaches, or developing new partnerships. The start-up funds aim at supporting initial research activities that will lead to development of research/creation projects with a high potential of securing external team funding.

Start-Up applications must clearly target one or several team funding programs administered by external sources (funding agencies, industry, foundations) for the next phase of the project. In order to qualify as a Start-up project, it is important to demonstrate the potential to attract external funding within a time frame of 1-2 years.

Value: Up to \$20,000 for Start-Up. Up to five teams will be funded, with a provision to compete for a second year of funding (Accelerator funding). Successful Year 1 teams invited to Year 2 are eligible for up to \$40,000.

Duration: 1 year.

Eligibility: All full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members are eligible to apply. Part-time faculty members may be included as team members. **A team must be composed of a minimum of 3 Concordia members**, preferably not all from the same department. Teams are required to clearly address in the application how the proposed work is collaborative and what each team member's contribution is expected to be.

Faculty members can only apply once per competition, either as the lead applicant or as a team member. A faculty member cannot simultaneously hold an Individual Seed and a Team grant (Start-Up or Accelerator, and either as PI or team member), nor can he/she submit a new application to the same program while a previously-awarded OVRGS grant is still active, or hold an external grant for the same project. **Should applicants be awarded external funds as a result of pending applications, their Team application will be considered ineligible.** Matching funds and in-kind contributions can be included in the budget but are not required. If external co-applicants are included in the application, they are required to support their activities through their own funding.

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Eligible expenses include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salaries for students, Postdoctoral fellows and other personnel directly involved in the research• Travel for field work and data collection• Supplies and small pieces of equipment, such as software or computers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel cost for dissemination of research results (conferences, etc.) are not expected to be included in the budget. It may be considered if pertinent and justified.

Research projects supported by the OVPRGS must comply with the University policies governing research.

Evaluation Criteria: As the Faculty Research Committee (FRC) may not include a member from the applicant's discipline, adjudication will be based on the information that is presented; therefore, highly-specialized technical language and/or disciplinary jargon should be avoided.

Applications are evaluated and adjudicated by the respective FRC (or their equivalent), based on the selection criteria below. The *weights* are only suggestions and may be modified by the FRC at its discretion, but must be justified in the recommendation to the OVPRGS.

1. Originality and innovation of the proposal: **(40%)**
 - Explores and tests new ideas, methods, or practices
 - Holds the potential for a breakthrough in knowledge or practice
 - Explores new methods of transferring knowledge
 - Fosters interdisciplinary research, develops new research synergies or networking opportunities
 - Significance of the proposal in building or moving forward a research question or an active body of work
2. Potential to attract external team funding within two years of receiving funding **(30%)**
3. Training and involvement of students **(20%)**
4. Timeline and feasibility of the project **(10%)**

The University Research Committee will make the final decision on funding allocations based on the: 1) Faculty rankings, 2) number of recommended projects, 3) amount requested, and 4) availability of funds. The University may declare preferences related to its developmental needs and strategic directions, and might choose to fund those projects that best fit with this description in any given year.

Competition Deadlines: Faculties will set and communicate their own internal deadlines. Competition results will normally be announced by April 1, 2020.

Application Submission Procedures: Ready to apply? Specific application requirements are found in ConRAD by accessing **Forms** and then selecting the **Apply New** button and choosing the **Team Grant Form** to complete.