

Schulich Infrastructure Support (SIS) Grant Fall 2024 Competition

GUIDELINES:

OVERVIEW

The Schulich Infrastructure Support Grant provides Schulich faculty with a mechanism to acquire, develop or improve shared equipment for research that they cannot obtain through other funding channels. Additionally, this program aims to catalyze and support collaborative research within the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Requested research infrastructure may be fixed non-disposable equipment, equipment enhancement attachments, fabricated equipment, equipment service contracts, extended warranties, access to biobanks or databases, or software. Proposals must be able to demonstrate multi-investigator utilization or placement in a core/shared facility.

ELIGIBILITY

Full-time faculty members in Schulich from all disciplines are eligible to submit proposals. The Principal Investigator (PI) must hold their Western primary academic appointment in Schulich. While researchers from outside of Schulich may be co-investigators, they may not be PIs. PIs that received a SIS grant in the previous cycle are not eligible to apply as a PI.

AWARD INFORMATION

The number of awards for this competition will depend upon available funds. Applicants will be notified via email of award decisions (Winter). Awards will be administered through a research account established through Research Western. The maximum award amount is \$25K. Matching funds of up to \$25K may be provided by the applicant to a maximum value of \$50K. This maximum includes all associated fees and taxes.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Funds will be available for one year. Any funds unexpended after one year will be returned to Schulich. Funds may be used only for the purchase of the requested equipment. Any changes in the proposed use of funds must be approved by the Vice Dean, Research and Innovation. Duplication of funds is not allowed.

USE OF FUNDS

The following lists eligible and ineligible items.

Items ELIGIBLE for support

Research equipment that falls in one of the following categories:

- Non-disposable equipment
- Equipment enhancement attachments
- Fabricated equipment
- Equipment-related expenses (software, service contracts, etc.)
- Computers needed to control the requested equipment, shared servers and workstations

- Non-personal computers for analysis of large datasets
- Paid access to databases
- Paid access to biobanks

Items NOT ELIGIBLE for support:

- 1) Consumables (animals, one time use/disposable products, etc...)
- 2) Personal computers/workstations (regardless of cost)
- 3) Construction and building renovations (i.e. fume hoods, permanent lab benches), including mechanical and electrical services
- 4) Consultation expenditures
- 5) Legal fees, accounting fees, patent fees

NOTE: If applicants apply for funding outside of this competition at the same time that covers the total cost of the equipment requested and they are successful with both, the applicant must only accept one award. Duplication of funding is not allowed.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel convened by the Vice Dean, Research and Innovation.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

- Merit of the research enabled by the requested equipment
- Impact on Schulich research capacity, collaboration, and competitiveness
- Impact on Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) including EDID considerations -
- Demonstrated need, urgency, and suitability
- Plans for access, maintenance, and management of infrastructure

REPORTING

In order to evaluate this internal funding program, the principal investigator will be contacted by the Schulich Research Office to complete a survey after the project period end date to learn about the outcomes resulting from this funding.

SUBMISSION

Submit your completed application (including CVs and equipment quotes) in a single PDF document to research@schulich.uwo.ca. Please note that hard copy submissions are not required. **LATE or INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE REJECTED WITHOUT CONSIDERATION.**

A ROLA is not required at the time of application.

A ROLA form will be initiated for successful applicants following adjudication of the competition. Applicants must review and submit the ROLA within one month of being notified that it has been initiated for them. If a ROLA is not submitted by the applicant within one month, the applicant forfeits the award.

Deadline: by/before 10:00 AM ET on Friday, December 13, 2024 to:
research@schulich.uwo.ca

Include in the subject line of the email: **“2024 SIS Grant – Last Name of Principal Investigator”**

For assistance, contact Lee-Ann Briere (lbriere2@uwo.ca)

Schulich Infrastructure Support Grant (SIS grant) APPLICATION FORM

PART 1: APPLICANT AND RESEARCH GRANT INFORMATION

Infrastructure Support Grant Title:

Total Amount Requested: \$

Round amount requested to the nearest dollar (must be in Canadian currency).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Principal Investigator (PI): There may be only one Principal Investigator for this submission.

Principal Investigator: _____ Email: _____

Department: _____

Signature: _____

CO-INVESTIGATOR (S):

Please add additional lines as needed.

Co-investigator	Title	Department	Signature
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DEPARTMENTAL CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:

Signature approval confirms support for this application and agreement that the terms and conditions for the Schulich Infrastructure Support grant guidelines have been met.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE: _____ **Date:** _____

PART 2: PROPOSAL

Describe the equipment proposal in detail and in terms capable of being understood by an academic from another discipline. Avoid jargon.

- **Maximum length of 2 pages, minimum size 12 Times Roman and ¾ inch (2 cm) margins.**
- **References, if necessary, may be added as an appendix.**
- **All the following items must be addressed:**
 - a) Clearly state why the equipment is essential for the research. Describe the availability of similar equipment in Schulich and provide the rationale for acquiring the equipment if necessary. Describe any need to replace or repair obsolete or failed equipment.
 - b) Provide a justification for the equipment requested, describe the significance and quality of the research it enables. Describe whether the equipment will enhance the team's ability to obtain grants or contracts?
 - c) Describe who will use this equipment and any management and/or maintenance plans that extend beyond the warranty period.
 - d) Describe plans for equitable and inclusive usage and access of the requested equipment.
 - e) Describe where the equipment will be located/housed.

PART 3: ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: CV

Include a document that lists your ORCID and max 1-page attachment (attachment is to provide information required as outlined below not found in ORCID. E.g. Grad Student Supervision or Other Trainee Supervision).

- **NOTE:** please ensure your ORCID publications section includes publications from the last 5 years and the Grant Funding section contains pending, current and past funding from last 5 years.

Please note that all submissions must include from the past 5 years: (maximum)

- **Publications**
List publications by applicant(s) (with complete bibliographic references) for the last 5 years.
- **Graduate Student Supervision**
List names of, and degrees conferred on, graduate students for whom the applicant(s) was/were chief supervisor during the last 5 years, including current students.
- **Other Trainee Supervision**
List names of all other trainees for whom the applicant(s) was/were chief supervisor during the last 5 years, including postdoctoral fellows, clinical research fellows, medical and dentistry students and undergraduates. List dates for each trainee's tenure in the laboratory.
- **Funding for Pending, Present and Past Awards**
 - a) List **all** sources of funds held in the last 5 years and those for which you have currently applied.
 - b) Include:
 - i) Name of principal investigator and co-investigators;
 - ii) Project title;
 - iii) Funding agency;
 - iv) Type of support requested (i.e. research grant, strategic grant, equipment grant, conference grant, fellowship, contract, etc.)

- v) Project period (i.e. start and end date); vi) funds requested and funds received;
- vii) Status (i.e. awarded, denied, pending).

NO other types of CV attachments will be accepted.

Please also include a CV for each co-investigator involved in this grant.

Attachment 2: Equipment Quotes

If possible, please include 2 comparable quotes for the requested equipment.

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