



Incremental Project Grants

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2023-2024

In 2023/24, the University of Alberta received Incremental Project Grants funding of \$3,678,526 and has allocated the funding to the following projects:

Project Description	Priority area(s)	Allocated Amount	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Targeted Outcomes	Outcomes Reported at end of the year
Technology Transfer Services	Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 938,620	A stronger and more valuable IP portfolio that can be commercialized by university inventors and other industry partners; increased profile and reputation of university innovations. Researchers being more aware of benefits of pursuing IP.	Number of patents disclosed, filed and issued on university technology innovations; number of licensing deals executed for university IP; licensing revenue;	By 31-March-2025: More Canadian IP developed and retained in Canada, leading to economic benefits in the form of new products and services that enter the economy; new high quality jobs; greater economic development and positive social impacts.	In Progress: Work on identifying more patentable research results. Filed higher quality provisional patent filings. The funding also enables us to protect more technologies than we were previously. We estimate that of the 80 patent filings made last year, approximately 30 are due to the funding of this project. In addition, the staff we have hired using this funding has enabled us to process more than 700 agreements. We also saw an increase in the number of invention disclosures which is directly attributable to this funding.
Startup support	Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 114,617	More university-based spinoff companies with greater viability and investment into those companies; increased commercialization activity; increased industry partnerships;	Number and quality of ventures created and revenue invested/attracted; number of industry partnerships.	By 31-March-2025: More AB based high growth startups created that can attract investors and bring new products to the market	In Progress: As a result of this funding, we were able to provide direct startup support to a large number of startups and researchers considering startups from the UofA. We also clarified the process for revenue sharing from any IP created by UofA inventors. We have also seen an increase in the value of industry partnerships (approximately 35%) over the previous year. We were also able to provide direct support to companies who are seeking to partner with the University of Alberta and are continuing to clarify pathways for companies to collaborate with our researchers.
Innovation Portal	Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 30,000	People with similar interests will have an opportunity to find each other in a self-serve manner.	We will be able to track interactions and we should see a steady increase in use once it is up and running.	By 31-March-2025: Greater success in pairing researchers with projects and allowing companies to have a primary portal for starting discussions regarding collaborations with our researchers	In Progress: The portal is active and being used in a limited way as additional content is being populated. Events and news are the major posts to date, but we are starting to see some industry engagement on the portal. We have partnered with the Innovation Fund as well as our Enterprise office to take a coordinated approach to outside inquiries about how to partner with researchers at the University of Alberta. Our ultimate goal for this project is to have a single "door" for those who don't already have a connection into the University of Alberta.

EDI Resources	Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)	\$ 103,201	Greater understanding in our research community of the key concepts and terms of EDI, assistance for researchers with the knowledge needed to work in, with, and for Indigenous communities in Alberta, respecting different sovereign nations, cultural and linguistic differences, governance structures, geographical territories, treaty relationships and non-treaty relationships and other key points.	Videos of second set of EDI terms and concepts available on VPRI EDI site by March 2024; Completion of second set of short videos of Indigenous research primer and FAQs completed by March 2024. Additional researcher resources developed by March 2024, with more workshops held to support researchers and research community. Program Officer, Indigenous Research & Initiatives hired and working with researchers, with VPIPR office and with others. New Senior Advisor, research development hired to support II + EDI grant proposals and success.	By 31-March-2025: Greater success of our researchers in incorporating EDI principles and practices into their research programs, environments and applications. Researchers who are better prepared to work in, with, and for Indigenous communities, better relations with Indigenous nations, communities and organizations. More and stronger relationships and partnerships. Greater success in external funding.	<p>In Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program Officer for Indigenous Research and Innovation recruited and onboarded. - Launched 5 videos on EDI. Second set of videos in final editing. - Published the Strategic plan for EDI and several other documents. - Videos in support of II in final editing. Guidance for ethical engagement with Indigenous communities in development. Held two major events to support and celebrate Indigenous research at the University of Alberta - Indigenous Research Symposium 2024 (200 attendees) - Partnerships for Research with Northern and Indigenous Communities (100 attendees including Indigenous leaders and community representatives from the North) - Support for ceremony in support of research development and relationship building with Indigenous communities in the North.
Research Networks Support Initiative	Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 121,834	Increase the visibility of and community for Black scholarly research accomplishments, Indigenous scholarly research engagement, etc. through the establishment of interdisciplinary networks of researchers. Increased funding capacity; support and retention of researchers and professors from equity-denied groups. Targeted supports for specific external grants to support research success across the University.	Number of active networks or hubs that require administrative or operational support. New support materials and workshops for researchers for successful grant applications and community engagement activities.	By 31-March-2026: Increased researcher-community networks; increased funding capacity; support and retention of researchers and professors from equity-denied groups. More interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary activity, leading to more large team grants with community group involvement.	<p>In Progress: Major initiative officer recruited; Increased new and active networks and hubs focused on equity denied groups including the Black-led Research Network Initiative and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub; Developed and conducted 3 workshop sessions to support the vision and goals of networks and hubs focused on equity denied groups; Developed scoping review for interdisciplinary programming and training; Conducted 4 workshops/training sessions to support interdisciplinary research leading to three New Frontiers in Research Fund-Transformation (NFRF-T) Full Application.</p>
Research Impact and Performance Assessment Initiative	Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 66,965	Increased engagement from researchers, departments (where applicable, faculties and colleges); Increased use and implementation of research impact assessments; Expanded data on research impacts within and outside of the university; Enhanced institutional contribution to the global scholarly enterprise.	Number of events and event attendees, Number of resources and tools created, number of resources and tools used by researchers across colleges, faculties and, where applicable, departments, survey results from researchers regarding usefulness and relevance of resources and tools.	By 31-March-2026: Increased data on research impact; Improved access to performance data; Enhanced ability to equitably assess research on its own merit and recognize and reward the contribution of individual researchers; Improved research; Broader range of contributions and impacts will maximize results for Canadians, international stakeholders and communities; Increased engagement with the external communities of relevance to research and innovation.	<p>Achieved: Conducted an environmental scan on institutional strengths, gaps and research impact data requirements; Conducted a scoping and literature review on research impact and performance assessment frameworks; Developed recommendations and guidelines for an institutional research impact framework in alignment with the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and with a focus on societal impacts; Developed criteria for impact assessment in alignment with Forward with Purpose: A Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation. Based on preliminary findings, resources will be developed and implemented across the colleges, faculties and departments.</p>

Support and Performance Database Development	Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 4,128	A redeployed new institutional research and innovation website including a searchable research resource/funding opportunity database and navigation tool.	Number of documentary resources; survey results from users regarding ease of platform use; access rate per month and at specific times in the year (e.g., Fall term grant development season). Increase in number of grant applications submitted. Number of visits to the institutional research and innovation website.	By 31-Mar-2024: Reduced administrative burden for our researchers. Increased grant application submissions; Improved success in securing external funding; Larger funding envelope collaborative grants	In Progress: Challenges with resource limitations on the IT and project management side did not allow to move the project to completion. Moving forward with a plan to complete this project in future years with the support of the IPG program. We have recently completed and approved a project charter and resourced committees and working groups to develop the interface. These new developments will give us the opportunity to engage our IT department and resubmit this project for IPG consideration in 2025, with clear plans and timelines for development and targeted outcomes, and the addition of artificial intelligence aided technology to enhance the researcher experience.
International Research Initiative	Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)	\$ 55,383	Expansion of our international research collaborations to include institutions from developing and emerging countries of the Global South	Number of new partnerships with institutions from emerging and developing countries, with emphasis on countries of origin of our underrepresented minority group faculty members.	By 31-March-2025: Broader international collaborations and partnerships that support our research priorities as articulated in our institutional Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation.	In Progress: Broadened our international collaborations and partnerships that support our research priorities including in the Global South. Deepened our contributions to the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). The U of A also recently joined the South Africa - Canada University Network (SACUN), providing new opportunities for collaboration in South Africa. Deepened our partnerships in India through a new strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, in the area of energy transitions. Developed an international research partner assessment framework and strategic partner tracking mechanism that could be further developed into a platform for the management and administration of institutional international partnerships.
Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation Implementation Initiative	Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)	\$ 72,006	Feedback, data, diverse perspectives on a research and innovation plan that will have impact on all institutional stakeholders, including those from five designated groups (women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+, and members of visible minorities).	Number of participants at engagement events, including data on participants who identify as members of one or more of the five designated groups.	By 31-March-2024: A robust inclusive implementation plan and tactics that addresses the needs of the institution's diverse stakeholders and support inclusion in the institution's research and innovation ecosystem.	Achieved: Developed, and piloting major initiatives in alignment with the objectives of Forward with Purpose: A Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation that address the needs of the institution's diverse stakeholders including those from equity denied groups, including the Clinical Trials Funding Expansion Initiative, the Security and Defence Growth Initiative, NFRF-T Grant Development and Strategic Support Initiative, the Social Innovation Framework, the Institutional Research Impact Framework and the Strategic Research Initiatives Fund. These initiatives are increasing grant application and success rates, sponsored research revenue, and interdisciplinary and international research collaborations; Engaged with Colleges, Faculties, Centres and Institutes in the development and alignment of their strategic plans; Initiated a key word taxonomy to track growth in areas of excellence and growth outlined in Forward with Purpose.

<p>Alfresco Contract Management System</p>	<p>Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)</p>	<p>\$ 58,642</p>	<p>The project will result in the configuration of an existing enterprise system (including identification of use cases, workflow development and system configuration). Once the system development is complete, all VPRI contracts would be identified and scanned into the system. Finally, standard operating procedures for best business practices related to contract management including Institutional archiving scheduled would be developed and communicated within the portfolio.</p>	<p>Objectives and Deliverables: Alfresco is configured to receive / store VPRI portfolio based contracts All existing VPRI portfolio contracts are identified and scanned into the system Standard operating procedures for the system are developed and communicated portfolio-wide for future contract management business process. Training sessions are offered at launch for portfolio staff who will have access to load and retrieve materials.</p>	<p>By 31-March-2024: Increased transparency and retrievability of existing contracts held within the portfolio. Reduced workload associated with management of contract renewals.</p>	<p>Achieved: Developed workflows and configured enterprise document management system (Alfresco) to receive and store legal contracts and agreements. Identified and scanned >7200 documents into the system. Developed standard operating procedures for the system and communicated them portfolio-wide to support contract management business process. Conducted training sessions for portfolio staff who will have access to load and retrieve materials. project developed and rolled out a new document management system for the Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) which has increased transparency and retrievability of existing contracts held within the portfolio, and reduced workload associated with management of contract renewals.</p>
<p>ARISE Animal Care and Use NEW AUP form update</p>	<p>Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)</p>	<p>\$ -</p>	<p>A simplified, more linear application form for Animal Use Protocols. The improved form will reduce review burden for ACUC Committee Members and administrators, improve the animal users experience with the AUP submission process.</p>	<p>Objectives and Deliverables: Review and confirm new AUP system requirements Confirmation of solution available within platform to meet the requirements Build new AUP form Testing of new AUP form with small pilot group Support for PIs to migrate existing studies to new AUP form. Updated new AUP form will ensure all business processes within animal module in ARISE have undergone consultation and process improvement since automating the application process in 2012.</p>	<p>By 31-March-2024: A streamlined application form will lead to reduced reviewer and applicant burden, better data available to the ACUC to perform their reviews and improved turnaround time from submission to approval for new Animal Use protocols.</p>	<p>In Progress: Unfortunately, due to some challenges with procureing the technical resources to dedicate to this project, the originally proposed outcomes and goals herein could not be achieved within the allowed timelines and fiscal year. Given the importance of this project to our institution and to ensure the ongoing compliance for the Animal Care and Use program, we have secured the resources to continue this work and achieve some of the originally proposed goals through a project in the 2024-25 IPG cycle.</p>

<p>Streamlining REB review of multijurisdictional research ARISE enhancements</p>	<p>Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)</p>	<p>\$ 15,014</p>	<p>Streamlined multijurisdictional ethics reviews will reduce workloads for both REB Committee members and administrators as well as the researchers and their teams</p>	<p>REBX - deliverables would include: Investigate and resolve issues related to renewal workflow defect between IRISS and ARISE for psites. Automate the generation of approval and changes requested letters for new studies (certification) and amendment workflows. Technical consulting fees for UBC integration work. Configure REBX for non health integrations between UC and UA (REB 1 and REB 2 and CFREB integration). Configure QA/test environment to account for Exchange - in collaboration with the University of Calgary Human REB Form Revision: The Human REB application form has been relatively stable since 2012. Revisions to several sections of the application form such in accordance with best practices in areas as follows are required: Research involving Indigenous peoples, EDI updates to the form, Safeguarding research integration, Research Data Management requirements, as well as updates to TCPS2.</p>	<p>By 31-March-2024: Single Board of Record approvals through REBX, will form part of the infrastructure to attract Industry Sponsored clinical trials to Alberta. Reduction of multiple ethics reviews across Canada will also support unfunded researchers who lack the support and infrastructure for duplicative administrative ethics applications.</p>	<p>In Progress: Streamlined multijurisdictional ethics reviews has reduced workload for both REB Committee members and administrators as well as the researchers and their teams. Specifically, we have resolved IT issues affecting the workflow for renewal of multijurisdictional ethics applications in REBX, automated generation of approval and change request letters for new studies (still underway with expected completion in Dec 2024), fully integrated the University of British Columbia in to REBX and configured REBX for non-health related multijurisdictional studies. A QA / test environment was rolled out in January 2024. Work to revise the electronic ethics management system to address updates in TCPS2 will begin in Jan 2025.</p>
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<p>Animal Care and Use Compliance and Accreditation</p>	<p>Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)</p>	<p>\$ 1,174,830</p>	<p>Dedicated personnel to fulfill key compliance and operational roles will allow the Research Integrity Support portfolio to prepare the University for its CCAC assessment, resulting in fewer major and/or minor recommendations and will result in a successful accreditation. The compliance veterinarian: a) will serve to relieve some operational duties currently assumed by the University Veterinarian allowing him time to focus on policy and programmatic issues; b) will sit on each of the ACUCs, reducing the burden for Facility Veterinarian/Directors and theoretically improving the overall turn around of the ACUC reviews, as veterinarian review is often a rate limiting factor; c) will support the PAM program by conducting PAM visits required in advance of the CCAC visit. The administrative resource will: a) support the the completion of key required elements of the accreditation package of documentation (ie. full review/update to all institutional SOPs); and b) provide overall support to compilation of the assessment package.</p>	<p>- CCAC package is complete and compiled by December 2023. - All Institutional SOPs are updated and approved by December 2023. - The Post Approval Monitoring program completes all required lab and facility visits in advance of CCAC assessment. - UAPPOL Animal Policy and Procedures are updated and approved by December 2023. - ACUC review turn around time decreased due to dedicated veterinarian availability for full committee reviews and sub-committee reviews.</p>	<p>By 31-March-2025: CCAC readiness achieved with minimized findings upon assessment. Required policy, procedure and SOP are all brought into compliance. Increased researcher satisfaction with the animal ethics review process in light of reduction in review timelines.</p>	<p>In Progress: CCAC assessment readiness was achieved through the required preparation of all assessment package materials, review and update of institutional SOPs, policies and procedures, and conduct of pre-assessment inspections. To ensure compliance with updated Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) standards, as part of the preparation for the assessment, we identified and addressed critical infrastructure needs within our animal research facilities. Undertook essential maintenance necessary to meet regulatory and accreditation standards and in line with IPG eligibility criteria. This strategic reallocation of resources underscores our commitment to regulatory compliance, enhanced animal welfare, and sustained operational excellence within our Animal Service Units.</p>
<p>Facilities and Operations Support</p>	<p>Facilities renewal including deferred maintenance (Research Facilities)</p>	<p>\$ 923,286</p>	<p>Increased research capacity. Create modern and functional research laboratory and core-facilities capacity to support research groups.</p>	<p>Modernized research laboratory space that are accessible to researchers and trainees.</p>	<p>By 31-March-2024: Improved workplace conditions for researchers and their teams. Increase efficiency and capacity of research space. Completion of the work within the fiscal year.</p>	<p>Achieved: The funding has supported work on improving workplace conditions for researchers and their teams. The achieved upgrades and maintenance of existing research infrastructure and core facilities resulted in a modernized and consequently more efficient research space and environment. Design, planning and construction activities have been completed to achieve these goals. Furthermore, the completion of this work has resulted in reduction in risk to research by reducing deferred maintenance in research related building systems, as well as updating facilities to support modern research modalities and equipment, as well as ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.</p>