



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF)-Stage 3

Call for applications

CRCEF is a federal government program to **support research maintenance and ramp-up costs incurred due to COVID-19**. TRU has been allocated notional funding of \$50,000 for Stage 3. Please submit your request by November 30, 2020. TRU encourages applications from:

- Early-career researchers; and
- Researchers belonging to equity-seeking groups

Program eligibility

Stage 3 funding supports direct costs of research that have been incurred to:

- 1) maintain essential research-related commitments during the COVID-19 pandemic; and/or
- 2) support ramping-up to full research activities as physical distancing measures are eased and research activities can resume.

Only direct costs of research that are extraordinary and incremental to those already covered by existing sources of funds and have been incurred between March 15 and November 15, 2020 will be reimbursed, at up to 75%.

Extraordinary incremental costs incurred for research projects funded by either governmental or non-governmental sources are eligible for Stage 3 support. *Extraordinary incremental costs are defined as unanticipated additional costs that would not normally have been incurred in the absence of the COVID-19 pandemic and cannot be funded by existing sources of funds.*

Salaries of research personnel: The salaries of research personnel can be eligible for partial reimbursement up to 75% for the period of August 30, 2020 to November 15, 2020 provided that they meet the Stage 3 eligibility criteria.

Eligible expenses include costs associated with the following categories. Applicants must justify the need for the funds based on actual costs incurred in the eligible period.

a) Maintenance costs:

- Costs incurred within the eligible period and associated with maintaining essential research-related activities during the pandemic that are exceptional and incremental to those already covered by existing sources of funds. This includes:
 - animal and specimen care through the crisis period;
 - maintenance of equipment, software, cohorts, datasets, including warranties, licenses and service contracts;
 - technological equipment for remote access to maintain assets; and
 - safety equipment for personnel dedicated to maintenance.

b) Ramp-up costs:



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

- Costs incurred within the eligible period and associated with full ramp-up of research activities, as physical distancing measures are eased and research activities can resume. Only costs that are exceptional and incremental to those already covered by existing sources of funds will be supported. Eligible expenses include those incurred at the project level and associated with:
 - re-organizing the research environment and activities;
 - additional costs to bring the research back to its pre-pandemic level, including experiments or related to the restart of collections and datasets (e.g., population-based, environmental);
 - user fees charged by shared platforms to researchers to restart research activities (e.g., animal-care facilities, digital labs);
 - re-scheduling and restarting human and clinical trials;
 - exceptional costs to access special facilities, shared platforms and resources, knowledge transfer meetings and workshops;
 - restarting, reassembling and safety checks of equipment and facilities;
 - reacquiring lost and donated laboratory and field supplies and equipment, reagents, perishable materials, laboratory animal and other living specimens; and
 - personal protective equipment and related items for research-related personnel.

Application Process

1. Complete a “CRCEF Application Form”, and submit to research@tru.ca.
2. Submission of an application by a principal investigator is an attestation that the application meets the eligibility criteria for Stage 3 funding.
3. As part of TRU’s commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, an adjudication committee will provide Stage 3 application recommendations to the AVP, Research and Graduate Studies should the total funding request exceed available funds.
4. TRU will submit a consolidated application to the Tri-Agency on December 15. This consolidated application will include costs for maintenance and ramp-up costs within the allocated funding envelope, and any costs beyond the allocation amount.

Evaluation Criteria

In the event that funding requests for Stage 3 are higher than the allocated funding, special consideration will be given to researchers known to be most impacted by COVID-19. This includes:

- early-career researchers;
- researchers belonging to equity-seeking groups and researchers who were personally impacted by COVID-19 and/or have special needs in regard to child/family care.

Provided the research has been materially compromised by the pandemic, the following criteria could be used as part of the eligibility criteria for determining which research projects should receive CRCEF funding.

- Minimum incremental cost for a project to be considered for funding that promotes fair access to the largest number of projects.



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

- Financial impact of the pandemic in relation to the annual budget of the grant. Priority will be given to projects for which the impacts of COVID-19 are likely to have had the greatest financial impact.
- Projects that are at the beginning or in the middle of their terms, versus those that are close to their grant end date will be preferred.
- Projects with considerable financial balances on March 31, 2020 may need additional demonstration of exceptional need.

For more information: please check FAQs: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/crcef-fucrc/faq/ramp-up_costs-couts_de_reprise-eng.aspx#4