THE EMINENCE PROGRAM
UBC OKANAGAN CAMPUS

Office of the Vice Principal
Research

Value: $20,000 to $200,000 annually for three years, per cluster

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<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Results Expected</th>
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<td>September 18, 2017 (4pm)</td>
<td>October 16, 2017</td>
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Details
The UBC Okanagan Vice Principal Research has established the Eminence competition to provide funding to develop clusters of research excellence at UBC Okanagan. For the purposes of this funding competition, a cluster of research excellence is defined as an interdisciplinary network of researchers focused on solving key challenges facing society.

The Eminence Program is specifically intended to catalyze research and knowledge creation initiatives that will be used strategically to attract further external opportunities (e.g., partnerships, grants, trainee support programs, corporate sponsorship, NGO collaborations, etc.). The Eminence Program has been designed to support clusters that leverage existing strengths and are aligned with the strategic plans of the units, faculties, campus and university.

Researchers are invited to submit a proposal that describes how 3 years of Eminence funding would be deployed to create and/or advance a cluster of research excellence in any research or knowledge creation field. Applications should clearly: (1) describe research or knowledge creation themes (2) provide objective measures of excellence, including national and international standing (3) articulate goals and (4) provide a budget justification that details how the funds will be used to achieve the expected outcomes.

Cluster definitions and expectations are provided at https://research.ok.ubc.ca/faculty-staff/eminence.html

Funding Process and Principles
A call for applications will be issued annually. After endorsement by the applicable Dean(s), an external advisory committee will review the applications and make their recommendations to the DVC, Provost, and VPR who will make final decisions on funding. Successful applications will be funded for 3 years, with the potential to renew for one additional 3 year term.

Research clusters will include a lead principal investigator from UBC Okanagan and up to 9 additional faculty. Clusters may contain faculty members from UBC Vancouver.
A range of options can be deployed to support cluster development, with specifics for the funding requests justified in the application. All applications must articulate a sustainability strategy that will address how research clusters will persist after the three year term of Eminence funding has ended.

Evaluation criteria will include:
- Excellence of the research team, as determined by impact statements, discipline-specific metrics, national and international stature, external funding levels;
- Quality of the proposal and its potential impact
- Articulation of clear and measurable goals, milestones and anticipated outcomes;
- Alignment of proposed research clusters with strategic plans of the units, faculties, campus and university;
- The extent to which proposed clusters addresses the following two cross-cutting strategic domains:
  - Regional engagement for socio-economic advancement
  - Respectful engagement with Indigenous and other local communities, taking into consideration the tenets of community-based research
  (Note: If the proposed cluster does not directly address one or both of these domains, a justification should be provided.)
- The extent to which proposed recruitments address equity and diversity issues.

Cluster packages may be supplemented through direct and in-kind support from participating faculties, but this is not a requirement.

There is no limit on the number of applications accepted from a particular thematic area and individual faculty members can participate in more than one application.

**Eligible Budget Requests:**
- Salary support for strategic faculty recruitment
- Postdoctoral stipends and/or top-ups
- Graduate stipends and/or top-ups
- Research staff salaries
- Critical research equipment (one-time, to a maximum of $25,000)
- On-site conferences, meetings, workshops
- Cluster member travel between UBCO and UBCV
- Cluster member travel to significant conferences and meetings (annual maximum of $5,000)
- Cluster member travel for field work
- Faculty or trainee recruitment visits (annual maximum of $5,000)

**Ineligible Budget Requests:**
- Furniture
- Renovations
Application Process:

Applications will consist of a single PDF document that includes the following:

- A proposal addressing the evaluation criteria (4 page maximum)
- Annual budgets for years 1-3 (1 page each year maximum) and budget justification (2 page maximum)
- UBC CVs for the lead applicant and co-applicants
- Letter of support from Dean
- Letters of support from external partners (if appropriate)

Application Submission

The application must be received by 4:00 pm on September 18, 2017.
Please submit electronically to:

vpresearch.ok@ubc.ca

Notes: Late applications are not accepted. A RPIF is NOT required.

Additional Information:

Term of the Grant: The term of the grant is for three years with funding for years two and three conditional upon receipt and approval of an annual report. No extensions will be possible with this award. All eligible expenditures must be incurred prior to the end of the award term after which time any unspent funds will be inaccessible to the grant holder.

Cluster governance: Clusters will have a single cluster leader (who may designate a delegate in case of extended absence). The cluster leader will be responsible for managing all aspects of the cluster, including financial oversight, and will provide an annual report that describes progress against milestones on October 1 of each year to the respective Dean(s) and the VPR.

Funding allotments in years 2 and 3 will require substantial completion of the goals and milestones that were indicated in the initial application, as determined by the DVC, Provost, VPR, and the external advisory panel.