



Exeter–UBCO Sustainability & Resilience Partnership

UBC Okanagan is partnering with the University of Exeter to encourage and expand academic research, education and exchange between the two world-class institutions. The new Exeter-UBCO Sustainability and Resilience Partnership is a three-year strategic pilot that expands on formal agreements and joint funding mechanisms between the two universities dating back to 2017. Both UBC Okanagan and Exeter are home to world-leading academics taking interdisciplinary approaches to tackling the major challenges of our age. This pilot aims to generate exceptional research and teaching and connect our talented researchers, educators and higher education professionals in efforts to solve problems unique to each school’s regional contexts.

The approach recognizes the excellent foundations and existing linkages shared between Exeter and UBC Okanagan faculty, and strategically funds and supports collaborative interdisciplinary research, education and exchange between the two universities through three shared thematic areas of focus:

1. **Adaptation to climate and ecological change:** Bringing together expertise and policymakers to explore solutions to the climate crisis and build resilience in our communities.
2. **Innovative health initiatives:** Encouraging interdisciplinary approaches that impact positively on human health and performance, focusing on the needs of our regional communities.
3. **Enhancing social justice:** Combining the unique perspectives of UBCO and Exeter faculty and staff to lead progress toward creating a fairer, socially just and inclusive society.

Under the pilot, funding for research, education and exchange is available through six internal funding opportunities funded jointly by Exeter and UBC Okanagan, and run collaboratively by UBC Okanagan’s Office of the VPRI, the Office of the Provost and the College of Graduate Studies.

Program Overview

Program	Award Value (CAD)	Awards / Year
Initiator	\$7,000	8
Catalyst	\$27,500	2
Visiting Academic	\$14,000	2
Visiting Professional Staff	\$7,000	2
Visiting Research Student Fellowship (PhD)	\$14,000	2
Global Classrooms	\$4,500	1 joint project

Annual Totals

UBCO – \$95,000 / year | Exeter – £55,000 / year (~\$95,000 CAD)
Total funding for 3 years: **\$570,000 CAD**

Results to Date – 2 of 3 cycles completed

Competition Cycle	Awards	Total CAD
Cycle 1 (2024)	15	\$153,393
Cycle 2 (2025)	16	\$148,399
Total	31	\$301,792

Website: <https://research.ok.ubc.ca/exeter-ubco-sustainability-and-resilience-partnership/>



Competition Cycle 1

Total = 15 awards, CAD \$153,393

Program	Project title	Lead(s)	Award value in CAD
Catalyst	Impact of oral ketone ingestion on skeletal muscle protein metabolism	Hashim Islam (UBCO and Alistair Monteyne (UoE)	\$25,000
	Connecting Through Movement: The Social and Environmental Practices of the Lecoq Diaspora	Denise Kenney (UBCO) and Michael Pearce (UoE)	\$25,000
	Social Determinants of Cardiovascular Aging - Catalysing the development of an ERC Synergy application	Robert Shave (UBCO) and Lauren Brent (UoE)	\$27,270
Initiator	Enhancing Climate Resiliency of Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution	Nicolas Peleato (UBCO) and Garry Coding (UoE)	\$7,000
	Towards an interdisciplinary understanding of resource consumption at university buildings in UK and Canada.	Aleksandra Dulic (UBCO) and Baris Yuce (UoE)	\$7,000
Professional Staff Exchange	Building a translation practice and toolkit to support UBCO-Exeter research teams write across disciplines, funding agencies, and institutions more efficiently and effectively	Brianna Wells (UBCO)	\$6,000
	Building upon existing relationship with directorship of Exeter's Environmental Sustainability Institute	Natalie Rodriguez (UBCO)	\$6,633
	Building a translation practice and toolkit to support UBCO-Exeter research teams write across disciplines, funding agencies, and institutions more efficiently and effectively	Chloe Onoufriou (UoE)	\$5,400
	Develop Knowledge Exchange and Partnership building with Exeter AI research delegation	Steph Selway (UoE)	\$5,400
Visiting Research Student Fellowship	Indigenous knowledge about water and ways of thinking with water shape self-organised conservation practices in the Gitdisdzu Lugyek (Kitsa Bay) Marine Protected Area	Clara Kleininger-Wanik (UoE)	\$6,800
	Circular Economy in the Agri-Food Sector: A Comparative Analysis of Policy and Organizational Change	Omorinola Akeredolu Ale (UoE)	\$5,900
	Mathematical analysis of the linear instabilities of the hydrodynamic model of the plasma-Lithium interface	Velizar Kirkow (UoE)	\$7,000
	Point-of-care rapid detection system development	Justin Farrell (UBCO)	\$7,000
	Britain and British Columbia's Farmed Salmon Meat Markets –The Unsustainable Problem of Factory Farmed Protein	Eva Kasprzycka (UBCO)	\$7,000
	Role of the policy environments for disability-inclusive municipal and community-led climate action	Robin Metcalfe (UBCO)	\$4,990
Total			\$153,393



Competition Cycle 2

Total = 16 awards, CAD \$148,399

Program	Project title	Leads	Award value in CAD
Catalyst	Impact of exogenous ketones on BHB and amino acid dynamics across human muscle	Hashim Islam (UBCO) and Alistair Monteyne (UoE)	\$29,589
	Is it more appropriate to use low- than high-frequency stimulation during a clinical neuromuscular electrical stimulation paradigm?	Chris McNeil (UBCO) and Marlou Dirks (UoE)	\$20,020
Initiator	Global Approaches to Transdisciplinary Learning in Higher Education	Kedrick James (UBCO) and Matthew Isherwood (UoE)	\$6,456
	Exeter-UBCO Community Health Initiatives	Miho Asano (UBCO) and Helen Dawes (UoE)	\$7,472
	Developing a collaborative Kernewek landscape map initiative	Michael Evans (UBCO) and Joanie Willett (UoE)	\$7,472
	Climate Hope AI: Amplifying Resilience through Positive Climate Narratives in the UK and Canada	Ifeoma Adaji (UBCO) and Marcos Antonio de Oliveira (UoE)	\$7,472
Visiting Academic	Establish research collaborations with a primary focus on energy storage and advanced materials	Jian Liu (UBCO), Kiana Amini (UBCO), Zhenyi Zhang (UoE), and Xiaohong Li (UoE)	\$6,900
	Impacts of exogenous ketone supplements as a novel glucose lowering treatment for individuals living with type 2 diabetes	Jon Little (UBCO) and Francis Stephens (UoE)	\$6,900
Professional Staff Exchange	To develop a joint research and conservation program between UoE Botanic Garden and UBCO Plant Growth Facility, focused on the ex-situ conservation of the IUCN Endangered Whitebark Pine (<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>)	Anthony Cockell (UoE)	\$5,700
	Exploring and strengthening collaboration between Exeter and UBCO in Bioeconomy topics	Puja Thiel (UoE)	\$7,450
Visiting Research Student Fellowship	Gaoth an ceann oirnn/Wind Against Us: Arts-Methods for Celtic Language Revitalization	Erin Scott (UBCO)	\$7,000
	Integrating genomics, transcriptomics, and physiology to assess climate vulnerability and inform adaptive management of kokanee salmon	Anna Jacquemart (UBCO)	\$7,000
	Migration Governance in Peril	Saher Ahmed (UBCO)	\$7,000
	Equity-Aware Ridesharing for Disaster Evacuation using a Hybrid Simulation Framework	Marziye Seif (UBCO)	\$7,000
	Narrating the climate crisis: Insights from linguistic and conceptual analyses of British and Canadian online media	Estefania Tamayo Pineda (UoE)	\$7,450
	Impacts of Large Wood on Fluvial Carbon Fluxes: Testing a Satellite Imagery Approach on the Bonaparte River	Nathan Strathdee (UoE)	\$7,450
Total			\$148,399