



## The Eminence Program – 2018 Competition

<u>Notice of Intent Deadline</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Funding Start Date</u>
August 1, 2018 (4pm)	September 14, 2018 (4pm)	November 1, 2018

### DETAILS

The UBC Okanagan Vice-Principal Research (VPR) has established the Eminence competition to provide funding to support the development of 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 addressing key challenges facing society. Each cluster of research excellence is comprised of an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars who are leaders in their respective areas of expertise who are working together on complex issues. Clusters are expected to perform high-impact work that transcends traditional departmental or institutional boundaries, mobilizes new knowledge, and allows UBC to address societal issues.

At UBC Okanagan, we expect our research clusters to be/become:

- A recruitment tool to attract new faculty and trainees;
- Highly competitive for funding with strong potential to succeed in major funding competitions (eg. CFI, CREATE, NCE, SSHRC-PG);
- Vertically integrated with undergraduate and graduate training programs;
- Catalysts to leverage regional, provincial and/or national assets and partnerships; and
- Provincially recognized centres of research excellence with an emerging national and international profile.

The Eminence Program is designed to support clusters of research excellence that leverage existing strengths and are aligned with the strategic plans of the units, faculties, campus and university. Our campus has also committed to:

- Regional engagement for socio-economic development; and,
- Respectful engagement with Indigenous and other local communities, taking into consideration the tenets of community-based research.

Applicants will be asked to articulate how their cluster will address these two cross-cutting commitments.

### ELIGIBILITY

Clusters must include between three to ten members and a maximum of two cluster leads. In cases where two co-leads are named, a single administrative lead must be identified. Lead PI(s) must be faculty at UBC Okanagan but cluster members may include faculty from UBC's Point Grey campus. Proposals can involve faculty from other organizations but the primary aim of the Eminence Program is to cluster talent within UBC.



## NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY

Research teams must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) using the NOI template ([link to fillable PDF](#)). NOIs must be sent to [christine.humphries@ubc.ca](mailto:christine.humphries@ubc.ca) by 4:00 pm on August 1, 2018. The NOI is non-competitive and will be used internally to plan the review panel and secure expert reviewers.

## FULL APPLICATION

Researchers are invited to submit a proposal that describes how three 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 will consist of a *single PDF document* that includes the following (in order):

- Cover page ([link to fillable PDF](#)) and signatures
- A free-form proposal addressing the evaluation criteria (four pages maximum), proposals must be written using a 12-point black font, single line spacing and normal page margins;
- Annual budgets for years one through three (one page/year maximum) and budget justification (two pages maximum); Cluster budgets may be supplemented through direct and in-kind support from participating faculties and partners, but this is not a requirement for application.
- UBC or CCV CVs for the lead applicant(s) and co-applicants

Applications for this funding call must be submitted electronically to [christine.humphries@ubc.ca](mailto:christine.humphries@ubc.ca) by 4:00 pm on September 14, 2018.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Evidence of excellence in research, scholarly activity and/or artistic creation of the individual cluster members and the team as a whole, as determined by impact statements, discipline-specific metrics, national and international stature and/or external funding levels;
- Degree to which the cluster will use inter- or trans-disciplinary research approaches to address key questions facing society;
- Elaboration of clear and measurable goals, milestones and anticipated outcomes that will be achieved through the Eminence award;
- Potential of the cluster to have a transformative impact on UBC and on society;
- Potential of the Eminence award to attract further funding opportunities;
- Extent to which proposed cluster addresses UBC Okanagan's cross-cutting commitments to
  - Regional engagement for socio-economic development
  - Respectful engagement with Indigenous and other local communities, taking into consideration the tenets of community-based research
- The extent to which the cluster's membership, proposed activities and recruitment efforts reflect a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

## ADJUDICATION PROCESS

A standing panel will consider written assessments provided by expert reviewers in their review of the applications and make recommendations for funding to the Deans. The Deans will assess the proposals' alignment with the strategic research priorities of the units, faculties, campus and university and make final recommendations to the DVC, Provost and VPR. Final decisions on funding will be made by the DVC, Provost and VPR.



## AWARD DETAILS

Clusters may request funding ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000 per year. Successful applications will be funded for three years, and will be eligible to re-apply for one additional three year term.

Successful applicants will be notified in October 2018 and year one funding will be disbursed effective November 1, 2018.

Successful clusters will be required to attend a workshop with the VPR Office on November 9, 2018 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm Please hold this date and time in your calendars when submitting an application.

## ELIGIBILITY OF BUDGET REQUESTS

Eligible:

- Salary support for strategic faculty recruitment
- Postdoctoral stipends and/or top-ups
- Graduate stipends and/or top-ups
- Relocation costs for new recruits (to a maximum of \$2,500 per individual)
- Research staff salaries
- Critical research equipment (one-time, to a maximum of \$25,000)
- On-site conferences, meetings, workshops
- Cluster member travel between UBC's two campuses in Kelowna and Vancouver
- 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)

Non-eligible:

- Furniture
- Renovations
- Course releases

## 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 that assesses progress towards goals, milestones and outcomes articulated in the proposal.

All eligible expenditures must be incurred prior to the end of the award term after which time any unspent funds will be returned to the VPR. With proposer justification, a one year, no-cost extension may be granted at the end of year three at the discretion of the VPR.

**Cluster governance:** Clusters will have a single administrative 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.