

Faculty Supported CIHR Bridge Funding

Terms of Reference

Updated: July 2026

Background

Bridge funding requests are adjudicated by the Office of Research (OoR) in FoMD and will be evaluated by an internal committee composed of: Director of Research and Innovation and Vice Deans of Research (biomedical and/or clinical). These TOR relate to requests for bridge funding for highly rated but unsuccessful CIHR Project Grant applications.

Eligibility & Funding Principles

- A. The recipient of this support must be the nominated principal applicant, and hold a primary academic faculty appointment within FoMD at the University of Alberta that permits applying for and holding research funding as per the [University's Eligibility to Apply for and Hold Research Funding Policy](#).
- B. Only highly ranked non-funded applications (a CIHR Percent Rank of 75% or higher) are eligible.
- C. Any amount approved is dependent on dollar value requested to a maximum of \$50,000, OoR funding availability, and demonstrated financial need. The OoR will verify current research funds of applicants.
- D. The awardee cannot already hold another CIHR Project or Foundation grant (or equivalent CIHR grant as principal applicant). Other operating grant funding (e.g. NSERC, Heart and Stroke Foundation, etc.) can be held.
- E. Applicants must demonstrate that their CIHR application has been internally reviewed via the [FoMD CIHR internal peer review process](#) or another equivalent rigorous process.
- F. Nominated principal applicants who are members of FoMD institutes should first apply for support from the Institute (if they provide bridge funding).
- G. Priority will be given to applicants who have not held faculty bridge funding in the last four years.

Request Requirements

Applications for bridge funding must include the following materials:

- A. A complete copy of the CIHR Project Grant application as submitted to CIHR for the competition under consideration, including all sections and attachments contained in the submitted application package. A revised version of the application should not be submitted.
- B. The CIHR Notice of Recommendation, committee reviews, and Scientific Officer notes.
- C. A brief letter, not exceeding one page, outlining:
 - The project's alignment with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Strategic Plan and the University of Alberta Strategic Plan;
 - How the bridge funding would support continued progress toward the project's research objectives; and
 - The amount of bridge funding requested, to a maximum of \$50,000.
- D. A brief budget outlining the proposed use of the requested funds.
- E. A short description of the internal review process completed for the CIHR application.
- F. Where applicable, confirmation that institute-level bridge funding has been requested or is not available.

Eligible Expenses and Accessing Funds

- The OoR will send funding decision notifications in writing, via email or letter.
- The funds are to be used at the discretion of the grantee to support their research activities.
- Funds are to be used for any CIHR-eligible project grant expense and potentially to address reviewer comments to help increase the probability that the subsequent CIHR project grant application will be funded.
- Funds are to be fully used within one year of award date (no extension will be issued).
- The awardee will be required to acknowledge the FoMD in any publications, presentations, etc. resulting from the research supported by the award.
- The successful applicant or relevant financial administrator will need a new RES in PeopleSoft financials to access funds, with OoR's Finance Partner (andrea.smart@ualberta.ca) as the source of funding contact

Contact Information

Questions? Contact: vdradmin@ualberta.ca