

Incremental Project Grants

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2026-2027

In 2026/27, the University of Alberta will receive Incremental Project Grants funding of \$6,267,659 and has allocated the funding to the following projects:

Project Description	Priority area(s)	Allocated Amount	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Targeted Outcomes
International Partnerships and Research	A. Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 468,750	To provide strategic and operational guidance that accelerates the advancement of global research and innovation at the Institution. This objective aims to strengthen international research efforts, particularly within the EU region, increase our understanding of and capacity to secure new global funding opportunities, and cultivate worldwide partnerships that enhance research, innovation, and commercialization. The goal is to increase our capacity to foster international collaborations, expand avenues for knowledge exchange, and maximize the Institution's global impact.	Number of international research collaborations: track the growth in partnerships with global institutions, particularly within the EU. Number of new international research partnerships: count the new collaborations formed with international entities, including universities, industry partners, and research organizations. EU-specific research initiatives: track the Number of EU-based research programs initiated or joined by the Institution. global knowledge exchange activities: count the Number of international staff exchanges, conferences, workshops, and seminars organized or participated in by the Institution. Institution's global research ranking: monitor changes in global rankings for research and innovation impact. Increase in research and innovation-related revenue and funding sources: track the diversity and Number of new funding sources accessed internationally.	Timeline: 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2027 Expand research connections and innovation opportunities Increase participation in international research consortium and/or networks Increase number of partnerships with European institutions (post secondary and research organizations) to pursue shared research priorities Identify and access research funding opportunities with international partners (see Horizon Europe as an example) Increase in research revenue from international sources
Technologies to Enhance Researcher Productivity and Success	C. Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 192,000	To develop and implement a comprehensive research lifecycle portal that provides a centralized, accessible platform for researchers to manage pre-award grant development, post-award research management, and knowledge mobilization. This portal will be enhanced with an AI-driven agent to assist researchers in navigating and utilizing resources effectively. Additionally, the objective includes the creation of resources and training programs to support researchers in the ethical, safe, and efficient use of AI-based tools to enhance research productivity and impact. This will involve the acquisition of software licenses, including generative AI products, and the development of tailored training to empower all researchers at the institution to leverage AI effectively in their research activities.	Development and launch of a research lifecycle portal and AI summarization and indexing tool: track the progress of the portal's development, including milestones for design, testing, and full implementation. Researcher satisfaction with the portal and AI tools and associated training: gather feedback from researchers regarding the usefulness and impact of AI tools and training on their research productivity and efficiency. Integration of ethical and safety guidelines in AI Use: track the incorporation and compliance with ethical and safety guidelines for AI tool usage in research across the institution. Support resource utilization and engagement: track the usage rates of support resources available through the portal, including documentation, FAQs, and AI-assisted resource discovery.	Timeline: 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2027 Gateway to trusted, institutional digital resources (including AI tools) to support the grant proposal development lifecycle and project execution Enhanced access to digital resource utilizing AI summarization and indexing technology to quickly locate resources Comprehensive AI resource integration (Ethical and Safe Use) Sustained support for research excellence through continuous updates to the portal, AI tool licenses, and training programs

Platforms to Support Indigenous Research and Innovation and Inclusive Research at the University of Alberta	D. Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)	\$ 602,000	The project will result in online platforms: one for building EDI competencies and another for ethical research partnerships with Indigenous communities. These will offer resources across a variety of media, provide pathways to training and guidance for researchers, and provide networking support for UofA researchers. In-person events, publications, data integration and reports, and digital media will promote knowledge mobilization within and beyond the UoA.	Improved integration of EDI in research practices at UofA. Improved data collection and research reporting with integration of data relevant to EDI and Indigenous identity Increased development and application of evidence-based EDI tools and resources to catalyze EDI-related research and Indigenous research. Publications and media in a variety of accessible formats for sharing best practices in Indigenous-led and Indigenous-engaged research. EDI training that is scaffolded to support researchers at all levels of comfort and familiarity with EDI processes Increased funding for research, particularly in social innovation and Indigenous-led initiatives. Annual Indigenous Research Symposia to foster collaboration. Training and dissemination events enhancing the visibility and impact of inclusive and diverse research initiatives. Enhanced collaboration with Indigenous communities in research efforts. Increase in community based research projects with equity-denied communities Reports and advocacy to organizations on Indigenous engagements.	Timeline: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2028 With the EDI CoE in place, researchers will have access to the resources and contacts they need to design and conduct research following EDI principles. Researchers at all career levels can feel supported and build their EDI competency. By building researcher EDI competencies through the CoE, the university will enable researchers to build stronger, more competitive EDI sections into their grant applications. Indigenous researchers at all career levels feel supported to grow their research impact Through resources provided in the CoE, Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers will enhance the impact of their research for their community partners. Increased Representation of Underrepresented Researchers at the UofA in grant and award competitions Expansion of Indigenous-Led and Indigenous-Engaged Research at the UofA Enhanced Focus on Equity-Driven Research Improved Data Integration for demographic tracking and research reporting Growth in Community-Engaged Research and ethical partnerships with Indigenous communities.
IP Protection	A. Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 1,090,000	A robust and sustainable IP portfolio is required to ensure development of ideas arising from research. For those technologies that are startup opportunities, we need to ensure that the IP is well protected for future commercial applications by supporting invention evaluation and patent applications. We also need to ensure that those technologies that are license opportunities are directed to the most appropriate receptors which is most often done through business development activities such as creation of startups, and supporting entrepreneurs, particularly in areas with great opportunity such as AI and social innovation.	25% increase in invention disclosures 25% increase in number of startups 25% increase in licenses and associated revenue	Timeline: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2028 A more valuable IP portfolio that anticipates future commercial activity evidenced by increased licenses and startups. The startups will be of higher quality and more likely to obtain external investment

Strengthening Research Integrity: Compliance, Training & Efficiency	B. Facilities renewal including deferred maintenance (Research Facilities)	\$ 1,610,666	This project will enhance research integrity compliance processes by: 1. Compliance Modernization & Risk Mitigation: standardize and digitalize oversight for Human REB, Animal Care, FCOI, and Cannabis licensing. Key efforts include harmonizing SOPs, implementing a centralized intake for RSI allegations, and ensuring institutional readiness for REB and CCAC accreditation through strengthened post-approval monitoring and audit-ready reporting. 2. Integrated Animal Care & Operational Sustainability: optimize animal facility operations by consolidating resources and improving the synergy between facility management and compliance systems. This involves a comprehensive evaluation of veterinary staffing—specifically focusing on surge capacity and clinical demand—to ensure resource stewardship and protocol review efficiency meet CCAC standards. 3. Capacity, Leadership & Process Engineering: enhance institutional expertise through expanded training for researchers and chairs while providing dedicated support to ensure high-quality review. We will drive administrative efficiency by re-engineering business processes and deploying digital solutions to streamline the entire protocol lifecycle, from intake to reporting.	Successful transition of 420 AUPs to upgraded form, updated human ethics form, consolidated SOP repository accesible to researchers and facility administrators and veterinarians. Refinements and continued efficiencies within operationally consolidated NCAS facilities Exploration of AI to drive efficiencies in REB review, additional REB chair resources to support accelerated clinical trial start up More robust animal training program with increased capacity throughout all facilities	Timeline: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2028 Enhanced Compliance & Oversight: strengthened regulatory adherence through improved training programs, post-approval monitoring, and protocol management for human and animal ethics. Streamlined Administrative Processes: more efficient workflows for financial transactions, procurement, and research ethics review. Improved Researcher Support: reduced administrative burdens and clearer guidance for navigating compliance and regulatory requirements. Digital Infrastructure Development: a foundation for future integrated software solutions to support compliance, ethics, efficient business practises and analytics, and regulated research activities. Sustainable Operational Efficiency: long-term improvements in research integrity support, ensuring adaptability to evolving regulatory and institutional needs. Developing analytics to make more informed decisions, and supporting the agility of the institution to support future research.
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Major Research Initiatives Coordination Office	A. Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 804,243	To establish the Major Research Initiatives Coordination Office as the institutional hub for advancing high value action plans, defence and security research opportunities. The office will provide a standardized process for intake, triage, coordination, and governance, along with end to end support for initiatives that require cross unit alignment, disciplined execution, external engagement, and institutional oversight. This function will improve the University's readiness to respond to complex and time sensitive opportunities, clarify decision points and institutional responsibilities, and create a reliable pathway for moving initiatives from early concept through planning, approval, submission, partnership development, or implementation. Over time, the office will strengthen the University's capacity to pursue research priorities at scale, support secure and compliant collaboration, and build a more coordinated institutional presence in rapidly evolving sectors (e.g. defence).	-Number of research opportunities received, screened, and prioritized -Percentage of eligible opportunities triaged within established timelines -Number of high value initiatives supported with defined project plans, governance structures, risk considerations, and assigned accountabilities -Number of cross faculty or cross unit defence related initiatives coordinated through to proposal submission, approval, partnership formation, or launch -Average cycle time from intake to key decision point, submission, or implementation -Percentage of supported initiatives that meet major milestones, deadlines, and approved scopes -Number of external defence, industry, government, or security partnerships supported through coordinated planning and institutional engagement -Stakeholder satisfaction with coordination, planning support, governance clarity, and overall process effectiveness	Timeline: 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2029 - Faster and more consistent advancement of high value research opportunities -A clear institutional pathway for the intake, prioritization, coordination, and delivery of incoming initiatives -Improved coordination across faculties, centres, institutes, and administrative units on complex files -Higher quality execution of major proposals, partnerships, and strategic initiatives -Reduced duplication, stronger accountability, and more effective use of institutional capacity -Greater readiness to respond to time sensitive external calls, partnership opportunities, and emerging national defence priorities -Increased conversion of priority opportunities into funded projects, approved initiatives, strategic partnerships, or launched programs -A stronger and more visible institutional role for the University of Alberta in Canada's defence and security research landscape
Institutional Research Infrastructure	B. Facilities renewal including deferred maintenance (Research Facilities)	\$ 1,500,000	Enhanced research environments, including modernized laboratory spaces and updated multiple vacuum pump systems, supporting a variety of disciplines. Improved operational reliability and safety for research facilities through the replacement and modification of the aging air circuit breaker. Compliance with safety and regulatory requirements prioritizing facility upgrades such as the laser lab safety code program. Increased researcher satisfaction and productivity by providing functional, state-of-the-art spaces tailored to their needs that align with the organization standards.	- Facility enhancements: Completion of prioritized upgrades and maintenance addressing aging infrastructure. - Improved compliance: Adherence to updated regulatory, safety, and ethical standards in research facilities. - Research outcomes: Increased utilization of modernized spaces, enabling high-impact research activities and collaborations. - Capacity building: Improved support for large-scale research projects and alignment with institutional strategic goals.	Timeline: 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2029 - Modernized infrastructure and reduce deferred maintenance -Improve research compliance and operational reliability -Sustainability initiatives -Regulatory alignment