

 Incremental Project Grants INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2025-2026						
In 2025/26, the University of Alberta received Incremental Project Grants funding of \$5,515,193 and has allocated the funding to the following projects:						
Project Description	Priority area(s)	Allocated Amount	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Targeted Outcomes	Outcomes Reported at end of the year
Startup support	Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 790,700	More university-based spinoff companies with greater viability and investment into those companies; increased commercialization activity; increased industry partnerships;	Number and quality of ventures created and revenue invested/attracted; number of industry partnerships.	Timeline: 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026 More AB based high growth startups created that can attract investors and bring new products to the market	Achieved: We created a total of 14 startups over the last year. This total is comprised of 9 startups established based on protected university intellectual property (IP) and 5 startups launched independently by campus researchers. We were also able to support 112 potential startups. We also hosted 21 industry events including events for Startup Week and Life Sciences week. There were more than 100 industry interactions, many of which led to research collaborations with University of Alberta researchers. We have also used the funding to increase interactions and collaborations between incubators at the University of Alberta as well as offer pitch training to a number of our startup companies. Our startup support specialist was able to meet with more than 50 University of Alberta students or researchers to discuss the potential for starting companies. Through the funding, we were also able to participate in the first Edmonton Regional Research & Commercialization Day that brought together 14 companies who identified challenges with more than 50 researchers who are now developing joint research proposals for the projects. This project is still in progress, but we anticipate that more than 10 projects will be initiated.

Streamlining REB review of multijurisdictional research ARISE enhancements	Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 240,000	Streamlined ethics reviews and FCOI processes will reduce workloads for Ethics Committee members, administrators as well as the researchers and their teams.	Investigate and resolve issues related to renewal workflow defect between IRIS and ARISE for psites. Automate the generation of approval and changes requested letters for new studies (certification) and amendment workflows. Configure REBX for non health integrations between UC and UA Human REB Form Revision: Research involving Indigenous peoples, EDI updates to the form, Safeguarding research integration, Research Data Management requirements, as well as updates to TCPS2. Review and confirm new AUP system requirements. Confirmation of solution available within platform to meet the requirements. Build new AUP form and testing. Review of FCOI forms and process to streamline work for researchers.	Timeline: 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026 Single Board of Record approvals through REBX, will form part of the infrastructure to attract Industry Sponsored clinical trials to Alberta. Reduction of multiple ethics reviews across Canada will also support unfunded researchers who lack the support and infrastructure for duplicative administrative ethics applications. A streamlined application form will lead to reduced reviewer and applicant burden, better data available to the ACUC to perform their reviews and improved turnaround time from submission to approval for new Animal Use protocols. A streamlined FCOI application process will support our researchers applying for US Federal funding, while provided better compliance review processes for administrators.	Achieved: REB Exchange: All proposed REB Exchange deliverables have been completed. This included investigating and resolving the renewal workflow defect between IRIS and ARISE for participating sites; automating the generation of approval and changes-requested letters for new study certification and amendment workflows; supporting technical consulting work for the University of British Columbia integration; and configuring REBX to support non-health research ethics integrations between the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta, including REB 1, REB 2 and CFREB. A quality assurance and testing environment that accounts for REB Exchange functionality was also configured in collaboration with the University of Calgary. These changes have improved system functionality, reduced manual administrative work and expanded the capacity for reciprocal ethics review between participating institutions. Human REB Application Form Revision: The Human REB application form has remained relatively stable since 2012. A comprehensive revision is required to reflect evolving requirements and best practices related to research involving Indigenous Peoples, equity, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding research, research data management and updates to the TCPS 2. This work was postponed to 2026 because the scope and complexity of the AUP 2.0 redevelopment were substantially greater than anticipated and required significant staff and technical resources. The Human REB form revision remains a priority and will proceed following completion of the most resource-intensive AUP 2.0 implementation and migration activities. Animal Use Protocol 2.0: The AUP 2.0 redevelopment was completed and launched to the research community in May 2026. Work included reviewing and confirming system requirements, determining that the ARISE platform could support the required functionality, building the new AUP form, testing it with a pilot group and providing support to principal investigators transitioning to the new form. The project also included consultation and process improvement across the animal ethics module. The new form represents the first comprehensive review and redesign of the animal ethics application and associated business processes since the application was automated in 2012. The team is now supporting the migration of all existing AUPs to the new form. Financial Conflict of Interest: The Financial Conflict of Interest forms and associated processes were reviewed, and revisions have been completed. The updated forms improve clarity, streamline the disclosure process and reduce unnecessary administrative burden for researchers while continuing to collect the information required.
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International Partnerships and Research	Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 373,500	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	In Progress: Developed a comprehensive understanding of the Horizon Europe framework (and other international funding opportunities) by actively engaging in targeted professional development and international networking. This included participation in workshops delivered by ISED, European Commission, European-Canadian Centre for Innovation and Research, and EU National Contact Point networks, as well as attendance at major conferences such as International Network of Research Management Societies and AESIS. Further expanded our international funding opportunities resources and supports including offering one on one grant development support, help with consortium building, call analysis, a budgeting tool, funder specific tip sheets and webpages, supporting match making pitches, organization of webinars and information sessions for researchers. Developed targeted (e.g. country/topic specific) lists of international funding calls to support strategic partnerships. Built connections with research administrators at other Canadian and European institutions including ones in the UK, Germany, France, Czechia, Singapore, and others. Administered 3 international seed grant programs with funds jointly provided by the University of Alberta and the international partner institution. Submitted a record number of grant proposals to a number of international funding opportunities including NFRF-International, Mitacs Globalinks, and Horizon Europe (across all pillars).
Technologies to Enhance Researcher Productivity and Success	Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 180,000	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: 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 Centralized and single point of access to research institutional resources (pre-award grant development, post-award management, and knowledge mobilization) Enhanced resource discovery utilizing the AI-driven agent 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	In Progress: The research lifecycle portal development is available in draft form. It's publication is pending review. An AI tool that summarizes information available on the site has been developed, tested, and is ready for deployment. This AI tool will be improved with conversational capabilities similar to how Google Gemini works. Several workshops and webinars have been developed and delivered on the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence in the grant proposal development lifecycle Several AI assistants have been developed and deployed for all University staff to support the grant proposal development lifecycle

Platforms to Support Indigenous Research and Innovation and Inclusive Research at the University of Alberta	Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)	\$ 457,000	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.	In Progress:Established central websites for EDI and Indigenous initiatives in research, including findable, searchable, vetted databases of web based resources at the UofA and peer institutions Developed AI-enabled tools to help researchers explore best practices in EDI, and to create a narrative CV around their research activities Aligned research data (revenue, grants) with census based EDI data to allow better assessment of progress around indicators related to supporting equity-denied researchers, including Indigenous researchers, at the UofA Held Indigenous Research symposium exploring the intersection between AI, Indigenous knowledges, and Indigenous data sovereignty Contribute to workshops and webinars supporting EDI and II initiatives throughout the year with groups internal and external to the UofA Strengthened relationships with Indigenous communities and knowledge holders, including local communities and communities in the Canadian North, to strengthen research partnerships
IP Protection	Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 1,312,000	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. 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 conferences.	- increase in invention disclosures - increase in number of startups - 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.	In Progress: During the 2025–26 fiscal year, the portfolio delivered strong commercialization results, beginning with exceeding its baseline target of launching over 10 startups by creating a total of 14 new companies, which included nine based on protected university intellectual property (IP) and five launched independently by campus researchers. Early-stage ventures structurally backed by the IPG framework demonstrated significant financial traction. To effectively manage incoming innovations, the team recorded and processed 90 invention disclosures during this period, deploying a "prospector" approach that enabled campus inventors to defer independent commercialization pathways until a thorough feasibility and prior art assessment could be conducted. Furthermore, Technology Transfer Services (TTS) provided commercialization reviews or IP section drafting for 35 funding applications—covering programs such as NSERC Idea to Innovation, Alberta Innovates NSERC Alliance, RDAR, and Canada Impact+ Research Chairs—which directly helped campus researchers secure significant funding during the fiscal period. We also filed 100 patent applications, and saw 44 issued patents.

Strengthening Research Integrity: Compliance, Training & Efficiency	Facilities renewal including deferred maintenance (Research Facilities)	\$ 851,816	This project will enhance research integrity by strengthening compliance oversight, modernizing animal facility operations, and streamlining administrative workflows within the University of Alberta's Animal Care and Use Program. Researchers will benefit from improved protocol management, reduced administrative burdens, and clearer regulatory guidance, ensuring greater efficiency and support in conducting ethical research. The integration of animal facility operations and business process re-engineering will optimize resource utilization, enhance animal care, and improve long-term program sustainability. The foundation for future-focused digital solutions will be established, driving operational efficiency and reinforcing the university's commitment to high-quality, responsible research. Ultimately, these improvements will create a more transparent, ethical, and well-supported research environment that upholds the highest standards of research compliance and animal care.	Successful transition of 420 AUPs to upgrades form Operational consolidation of 3 unique facilities into an integrated administrative unit, resulting streamlined and consolidated business processes, improved maintenance tracking and planning to result in animal facilities that can better serve both the research community and compliant the university's robust animal care and use program. Roll out of cannabis license University wide. 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. 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, and regulated research activities. Sustainable Operational Efficiency – Long-term improvements in research integrity support, ensuring adaptability to evolving regulatory and institutional needs.	In Progress: Animal Care and Use Program Enhancements We have made significant progress in modernizing the University of Alberta's Animal Care and Use Program, driving operational efficiency, expanding capacity, and strengthening compliance across all core indicators. Protocol Management & System Modernization (AUP 2.0): AUP 2.0 was successfully soft-launched in March 2026 and fully launched in May 2026, initiating the transition of 420 Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) to the upgraded platform. The new system introduces a novel, experiment-based approach to creating, submitting, and reviewing protocols. Early feedback from the research community highlights a well-developed form with a noticeable reduction in administrative redundancy. The platform incorporates current Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) requirements while strategically positioning the university to seamlessly implement Category of Welfare Impact (COWI), Animal Welfare Assessments, and advanced animal reporting requirements in the future. Operational Consolidation & Compliance: We continue to advance the operational consolidation of 3 unique facilities into a single, integrated administrative unit (NCAS consolidation). This includes ongoing facility and compliance gap analyses and targeted risk reductions. This integration has streamlined business processes, improved maintenance tracking, and enhanced long-term planning, resulting in animal facilities that better serve the research community while upholding a robust, compliant program. Institutional Cannabis License Rollout: The University-wide institutional cannabis license has been successfully rolled out, with additional approved spaces integrated under the license. One Principal Investigator (PI) is transitioning their individual license under the institutional umbrella, significantly reducing compliance and administrative risk. A second PI is poised to leverage the institutional license to launch a high-impact, investigator-initiated clinical trial. Robust Animal Training Program: Training availability has doubled in capacity across all facilities. This expansion has dramatically reduced wait times for PIs and research staff, ensuring faster access to mandatory training while fostering a more robust, highly skilled research environment.
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Improvement and upgrade of institutional research space	Facilities renewal including deferred maintenance (Research Facilities)	\$ 1,310,177	Enhanced research environments, including modernized laboratory spaces, updated vacuum pump systems, and repaired cold rooms, supporting a variety of disciplines. Improved operational reliability for research facilities, such as emergency power distribution systems. Sustainable energy solutions, including LED lighting and greenhouse swamp cooler replacements, reducing environmental impact and operational costs. Compliance with safety and ethical standards, particularly through upgrades like the laser lab safety code program. Increased researcher satisfaction and productivity by providing functional, state-of-the-art spaces tailored to their needs.	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 2025 - 31 March 2026 Modernized infrastructure Enhanced research capacity Sustainability initiatives Regulatory alignment	Achieved: The IPG Program has funded multiple key projects to support the ongoing research activities by upgrading and maintaining the existing research infrastructure resulting in meeting regulatory compliance and securing efficient research space that fully supports the faculty and researchers. The completion of several critical projects such as the replacement of the the vacuum pump system in ECERF, autoclave renewal in Augustana Campus, and upgrading the operational functionality of the animal cage wash in Heritage Medical Research centre (HMRC) has delivered a significant operational improvement by lowering future maintenance cost and reducing the facilities' deferred maintenance. Similarly, the design and planning phases to replace the aging vacuum pump system in Agriculture/Forestry Facility is currently in progress and expected to be completed before the end of FY26/27. With the recommendation of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), the renovation of the outdated existing infrastructure to support the robotic milking system in the animal facility of the F73 Cow Dairy Barn has been completed. This facility is now equipped with modern equipment and technology to mitigate operational downtime and reducing maintenance related losses. The continuous Laser Safety Initiative program to ensure all safety features to all the laboratories with Class 3B and 4 lasers across campus are met. This includes window coverings, laser interlocks and emergency shut-off buttons, and laser in-use signs. In FY25/26, a total of 12 laboratories were successfully upgraded to meet all compliance standards and institutional qualifications. The IPG program has enhanced the institutional operation by modernizing vital research spaces and reducing the facility deferred maintenance backlog.
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