

2023 REALISE Seed Grant (pilot)

FAQ

General questions

Does the 2023 REALISE Seed Grant (pilot) replace the MRCF?

No, the 2023 REALISE Seed Grant (pilot) is not replacing the MRCF (Multidisciplinary Research Catalyst Fund) as that is a separate internal funding opportunity.

Can the 2023 REALISE Seed Grant (pilot) be used as co-funding/matching in external grant applications?

Yes. This would be encouraged, as long as the expenses remain eligible under the seed grant guidelines.

I want to apply. Who is the main point of contact?

Project Officer, Strategic Initiatives (Caroline Flocari) in OVPRI/CORIS is available to provide support, on request, to teams to develop their applications, identify potential team members, and review collaboration plans and budgets. We also encourage all applicants to reach out to their Faculty Research Facilitator(s).

How are outputs defined in Year 1?

In Year 1, outputs can be related to collaboration or communication costs (e.g.: organizing workshops, updating the team's or lab's website), preliminary research costs (e.g.: developing research materials) and/or go towards outputs that will trickle into Year 2 (e.g.: publication, grant development)

When will the award recipients be notified or the results announced?

The selection process will be taking place during fall 2023. Results of the competition should be announced by mid-November 2023.

When is the anticipated start date for awarded grants? When will the funds be released?

The start date will be December 1, 2023. REALISE seed grant funds will be placed in a new research account, which will be opened by Research Financial Services in accordance with their normal workflows and processing times, but only after successful recipients complete the cuResearch approval form.

There is a lot of disciplinary diversity within Faculties. Why doesn't this count as multidisciplinary under the eligibility/selection criteria for this grant?

The objective of the 2023 REALISE Seed Grant (pilot) is to initiate inter-Faculty, multidisciplinary research collaborations.

What is meant by interdisciplinary?

Interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary in this context means the project & team have to involve more than one Faculty & the project will contribute to inter-Faculty collaboration. For example, the co-directors must be from two different Faculties.

If you have more than one member from the same Faculty, you would need additional members from at least one other Faculty, or one of the co-directors to be from another Faculty, in order to be eligible.

What sort of support can CORIS provide during the application process?

CORIS encourages prospective applicants to inform their Faculty Research Facilitators of their intention to apply and to work with them as needed during the application process.

CORIS is available to answer questions about the 2023 REALISE Seed Grant, assist with recruitment of team members from different Faculties, and to review draft applications.

Please contact caroline Flocari (CarolineFlocari@cunet.carleton.ca) should you wish to receive support from CORIS.

Team eligibility

What's the difference between co-directors and team members (e.g.: differences in their role, time commitment)?

Co-directors share the intellectual leadership of the project. They are responsible for planning and conducting activities under the REALISE Seed Grant, and for liaising with CORIS/OVPRI for both support and reporting. One of the two co-Directors will need to be appointed by the team as the fund holder for the purposes of administering the seed grant, if awarded.

Team members should plan to play a significant role and/or make a significant contribution to the proposed collaboration, whether that'd be through their particular expertise, by adding to the team's disciplinary diversity, etc. Each team is free to determine the role and level of time commitments for each team member that is most appropriate to their particular collaboration. We do not ask for this information on the application form.

Can team members be at the instructor rank?

No, instructors aren't eligible as team members.

Can team members be of professorial rank but on contract? Can ECRs be of professorial rank but on contract?

Co-directors cannot be term / on contract, but other team member(s) can be on contract and still be eligible as long as their appointment is for the duration of the seed grant.

Can team members be faculty members at other Canadian institutions (not Carleton)?

As funds cannot be transferred to other institutions, faculty members from other institutions cannot be co-directors or listed team members. While faculty members from outside of Carleton are excluded from being on the team (and thus, should not be listed on the application), they can participate in the project.

What counts as “new to collaborating with each other”?

The REALISE Seed Grant aims to be as inclusive as possible. The following would qualify as “new collaborations”:

- If co-directors or team members have *unsuccessful* grant applications, they are eligible. They had an intention to collaborate, but the collaboration did not come to fruition, and it would therefore be considered “new” in this context.
- If co-directors or team members have been speakers on the same panel, etc. during a conference and have co-supervised students together, they are eligible.

What is considered an existing collaboration?

Co-authorship of publications & serving as team members *successful* grant applications (internal and external) would be considered existing collaborations as these are the desired outcomes of this grant.

We’ve collaborated together before, how can we become eligible for this funding?

If all individuals on the team have published together or held a successful grant together, they would be *ineligible*, but they would be *eligible* if they added additional team members that they haven't collaborated with existing team members before to reach the threshold of 50% of the team being new to collaborating with each other.

Team composition can be adjusted or expanded to ensure eligibility. For example, in the case outlined above, the team would need to be bigger to include new collaborators and therefore be eligible.

Can a faculty member join more than one project (e.g. as a team lead in one and as a member in another)?

Yes, a faculty member can join more than one project, though they can only serve as Co-Director of one application.

How do you assess the following eligibility criteria for teams with an odd number of members: “at least half (50%) are new to collaborating with each other”?

For teams with an odd number of members, the 50% will be rounded down.

What is the definition of Early Career Researcher? (how is the six years determined?)

The definition of Early Career Researcher under the 2023 REALISE Seed Grant (pilot) is “six (6) years from date of their first tenure-track job, but can be extended due to career interruptions or special circumstances”. The six years is determined based on the application deadline, i.e.: 6 years from September 29, 2023.

How is Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) factored in the eligibility and adjudication criteria for this grant?

We considered equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the REALISE Seed Grant by designing the program to be as low burden, open and inclusive as possible, understanding that different types of research have different requirements. We also recognize that faculty members from equity-deserving groups face additional barriers and CORIS is committed to providing support for teams developing the proposals. Please contact Caroline Flocari (CarolineFlocari@cunet.carleton.ca) should you wish to receive support from CORIS.

While not a formal adjudication or eligibility criteria, applicants are encouraged to integrate EDI considerations into their team composition and their collaboration plan. Based on the outcomes from the pilot, we will evaluate whether to formally include EDI considerations as a part of the eligibility and/or adjudication criteria for any future calls.

Funding & eligible expenses questions

Is the funding for 1 or 2 years given the automatic, no-cost extension?

Funding from this grant is meant to fund 1 year of activities (Year 1), though outputs might trickle into Year 2.

Are course releases eligible expenses?

No, a course release is not an eligible expense under this seed grant.

Can the research support staff hired to work on this project be existing staff?

Yes, co-directors can use existing research support staff to work on this project. There is no need to recruit new students, but co-directors can do so if they choose.