Connecting universities with industry and community partners

Christine Macdonald

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Agenda

Why Mitacs?

Program goals

Details

Next steps
Why Mitacs?

- National research network
- 17 years in operation
- 16,000+ research projects
- 65+ academic partners
Mitacs by the Numbers

- $113M PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT
- 3100+ INDUSTRY PARTNERS
- 29000+ STUDENTS CAREER-READY
- 65+ UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

- 16000+ INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS
- 40+ RESEARCH ORGANIZATION PARTNERS
- 2900+ INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS
- 1300+ PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WORKSHOPS
Program growth

Mitacs research projects

- 2003/04: 18
- 2004/05: 30
- 2005/06: 85
- 2006/07: 170
- 2007/08: 240
- 2008/09: 675
- 2009/10: 1060
- 2010/11: 1544
- 2011/12: 1576
- 2012/13: 2109
- 2013/14: 2804
- 2014/15: 3946
- 2015/16: 4825
The Mitacs network

- Small & medium business
- Large business
- Not-for-profit organizations

- Anthropology
- Psychology
- Social work
- Computer science
- Engineering
- Economics
- Chemistry
- Geography
- Health sciences
- Forestry
- History
- Languages & linguistics
- Mathematics
- Business
- Education
- Interactive arts
- Genetics
- And more...
Building research collaborations

- Small and large-scale, multidisciplinary projects defined by industry or non-profit partner
- From $15,000 to $2M+ in funding
- Supports grad students and postdocs in all disciplines
- Non-competitive: apply any time
- Peer reviewed; quick turnaround
### Funding Model

#### Standard

- **$15,000** research grant
  - ($7,500 Partner
    - $7,500 Mitacs)
- **$10,000** minimum intern stipend
- **$5,000** other project-related expenses

#### Cluster: 6 or > internships & 3 or > interns

- **$80,000** research grant
  - ($36,000 Partners
    - $44,000 Mitacs)
- **$10,000** internship
- **$10,000** internship
- **$10,000** internship
- **$10,000** internship
- **$10,000** internship
- **$20,000** other project-related expenses
- **$10,000** internship
- **$10,000** internship
- **$10,000** internship
Scalability: build large-scale projects

- Can build bigger projects from simple 4-6 month units
- Matching starts at 1:1; stronger Mitacs leveraging available with bigger projects
- Projects can be multi-disciplinary (and multi-partner)
Partners

- Business with facilities operating in Canada
- For-profit and crown corporations
- Domestic or foreign-owned
- Utility providers, NGOs
- Eligible not-for-profits
  - Projects must demonstrate economic or productivity orientation
  - must be incorporated as a not-for-profit organization
Partners: U Waterloo Philosophy Department & PBIA

Title: Investigating the philosophy behind near-living architecture

Project scope:

Near-living architecture is an emerging style that incorporates biological features to make environments more responsive to occupants in that space. PBAI’s installations are mini ecosystems that perform biochemical reactions like osmosis.

The roots of this concept lie in hylozoism, the ancient belief that all matter has life. Research questions included what it means to be living and what applications near-living architecture might have to theories of emergence.

To define near-living architecture is important because it speaks to fundamental questions of what “living” means.
What happened next:

- Prof and intern joined a panel discussion at SSHRC Congress
- Mitacs and U Waterloo signed a MoU to embed the Accelerate program into their new Doctorate of Applied Philosophy program.

More projects are planned!

- Developing tools to assist organizations that provide decision making, life planning, and employment support for people with developmental disabilities through applications of philosophy of science and action theory
- Designing procedures for distinguishing hate literature from controversial speech to be implemented at a book publisher using philosophy-based constructions of ethics
- Creating policies for residential facilities to address issues of consent for people with severe cognitive decline through applications of theories of autonomy
Embedding Accelerate into program offerings:

- University of Toronto with the Masters of Applied Computing
- This program combines 8 months of in-class course work, and 8 months of internship, where the student work directly on exploratory research projects.
- Fast track peer review process developed
- Students also have a poster session at the end of their internship which is widely attended by students, faculty, current project partners, and new industry partners seeking a research collaboration.
Partners: York U Economics & Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

**Title:** Unions and the Macro-Economy

**Project scope:**

- This research proposes to examine the relationship between unionization in Canada and Canadian rates of employment, unemployment, and the distribution of earned income.

- The problem to be explored is the way in which the institutional environment (such as laws governing collective bargaining rights) has shaped the effect of unionization on the Canadian macro-economy and consequently affected the employment and income opportunities of working Canadians.
Partners: York U Sociology/Law and CLEO

Title: The Evolving Legal Services Research Project

Project scope:

How can public legal education and information help Canadians get justice in our legal system? With the demand for publicly-funded or low-cost legal services far exceeding the supply, public legal education and information (PLEI) is filling an increasingly larger role in meeting the legal needs of people with modest means.

This research will provide Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) with insights into the effectiveness of PLEI in helping low- and modest-income people address their legal problems.
Partners: U of Toronto and Girls E-Mentorship (GEM)

Title: Social Impact Analysis and Program Evaluation of GEM Mentorship Program

Project scope:

- GEM’s program is a socially innovative approach linking high school aged girls with successful professional leaders in the employment sector, to support the development of positive attitudes and future career attainment.

- Using mixed methods, this project develops key outcome measures assessing the effectiveness of the GEM program, along with providing a general assessment of the overall economic and social impact the organization has in its local area.
Creating R&D leaders

- Postdocs translate research into long-term business value for the partner
- Professional management training
- Build a research leader for your lab
- Two-year fellowship for postdoctoral fellows
- Research collaboration with for-profit or not-for-profit sector partner
- Open to any discipline
- Competitive applications
International opportunities

- Research collaborations for senior undergraduate and graduate students in Canada and abroad
- Bringing the world’s brightest students to Canada
- Overseas research opportunities for students in Canada in academia or industry
Two-way research mobility

Research Internship, Graduate Fellowship, Research Award

Research Award, Partnership Award
Globalink Research Award

- Bilateral research collaborations for senior undergraduate and graduate students with universities abroad
- International collaborations
- Opportunities with Mitacs partner countries
- 12 – 24 weeks
- $5K – $10K in funding
Globalink Research Award
Postcard Blog

Postcard from India: McGill student takes research to India
Graduate student Carl Hughes is in India, helping health officials track the spread of hepatitis using smart phone technology.

Postcard from Brazil: UBC undergrad takes her research to Curitiba
UBC undergraduate student Eugenia Kwok is doing animal welfare research in Brazil through the Mitacs Globalink Research Award.

Postcard from Vietnam: UBC student investigates impact of fishing on wild seahorses
Allison Stocks has traveled to Phu Quoc island with Mitacs Globalink for research into the vulnerability of seahorse populations.

Postcard from China: McGill student takes her research to the Tibetan plateau
McGill University undergrad Rosalinda Chen is in China, researching environmentally friendly solutions to household air pollution.
Globalink Partnership Award

- Research collaborations between international companies and grad students, faculty at Canadian universities
- 16 – 24 weeks, 75% abroad, 25% - home university
- All disciplines, no application deadlines
- Any country except USA
Professional development exclusively for researchers

- Taught by industry professionals
- For graduate students and postdocs
- Transferable skills increase employability
- No charge to participants
- Workshops include leadership, management, communications, relationship building, entrepreneurialism
Mitacs Step Professional Learning Package

- **A customized curriculum**
  - Build a package or design one with Mitacs
  - 16 workshops to choose from

- **Professional development brought to you**
  - Workshops hosted on site

- **A trusted source**
  - Facilitators are leaders in their fields
  - Mitacs works closely with universities and research groups
Pilot: Canadian Science Policy Fellowship

- Collaboration between Canadian universities and public sector
- Fosters evidence-based policy-making within federal government
- Faculty members or postdocs at Canadian universities

- 12 month project, $65K - $75K in funding
Our Funding Partners
Next steps

Contact me to discuss research goals:

Christine Macdonald
cmacdonald@mitacs.ca
Mobile: 647-221-5709

Kristin Spong, PhD
kspong@mitacs.ca
Mobile: 613-217-8703

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