**WICKED IDEAS COMPETITION**

A Pilot Initiative by the Vice-Principal (Research) Portfolio

**DEADLINES**

- **Notice of Intent:** February 3, 2020
- **Full Applications:** March 4, 2020
- **Presentation/Pitch of Wicked Idea:** Week of March 30, 2020

The Wicked Ideas Competition is a Vice-Principal (Research) pilot initiative to fund and support research collaboration and excellence. This will be a pilot program for the 2020-21 funding period.

*Wicked Problems* are issues so complex and dependent on so many factors that it is hard to grasp what exactly the problem is, or how to tackle it. *Wicked Ideas* are needed to solve these problems, and demand the input of multiple disciplines with relevant practical expertise. This competition will fund Wicked Ideas that respond to local, national and global challenges, by supporting the formation of research teams that offer the expertise and perspectives needed to tackle these challenges.

**The Competition**

A key strategic goal of this competition is to support and strengthen opportunities for teams of researchers at Queen’s to successfully compete in the [New Frontiers in Research](#) suite of programs. To date, Queen’s has had outstanding success in the New Frontiers in Research Exploration stream, and this program will assist in positioning Queen’s researchers for success in future competitions. The parameters of the program align with the criteria for the Exploration stream:

>*To* support high risk, high reward and interdisciplinary research that is not easily supported through funding opportunities currently offered by the three agencies. It seeks to inspire projects that bring disciplines together beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches by research teams with the capacity to explore something new, which might fail but has the potential for significant impact. Exploration grants aim to have a variety of types of impacts, some of which might be social, economic, scientific, artistic or cultural.

This competition will have three streams:

1) An *Interdisciplinary Stream* where team members will be collaborators from multiple disciplines. A minimum of 10 teams will be funded within this stream in the 2020 competition.
2) A **Discipline Specific Stream** where team members can be collaborators from within a given discipline. A maximum of five teams will be funded within this stream in the 2020 competition.

3) A **Global Challenge Area Stream**, featuring *Climate Change* as a global challenge area. A minimum of two applications from the 15 of those receiving grants in Stream 1 and 2 will be awarded based on addressing *Climate Change* as a global challenge. The research areas for the Climate change challenge come from the [National Climate Change Science and Knowledge Action Plan](http://example.com) of the Federal Government.

**Teams**

The competition is open to all faculty members across all disciplines. Each team must be led by two co-investigators one of whom must be an early career researcher, defined as those who are within 10 years of their first academic appointment. In addition, the co-investigators must hold Tri-Council funding or have applied for Tri-Council funding within the last two years. This requirement does not apply to *team members*. Teams will be asked to identify whether they are applying in Stream 1 or 2, and whether they wish to be considered as part of *Climate Change Global Challenge Stream*. Different parameters are required for each stream. Faculty members are limited to applying as a co-investigator to one team; faculty can be team members on a maximum of two proposals.

*Interdisciplinary Stream*

Each team must be led by two co-investigators one of whom must be an early career researcher, defined as those who are within 10 years of their first academic appointment. The pair of co-investigators must represent a minimum of two discipline areas (i.e., Fields of Research), as defined by a highest group-level classification based on the [Canadian Research and Development Classification](http://example.com).

*Discipline Specific Stream*

Each team must be led by two co-investigators, one of whom must be an early career researcher, defined as those who are within 10 years of their first academic appointment. Co-investigators must declare the discipline area (i.e., Fields of Research), as defined by a highest group-level classification based on the [Canadian Research and Development Classification](http://example.com), and justify why this group brings disciplines together beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches.

**Funding Details**

- Up to 15 teams will be awarded $75,000 each in the first phase of the competition in spring 2020
  - A minimum of 10 teams will be funded within the *Interdisciplinary Stream*
  - A maximum of five teams will be funded within the *Discipline Specific Stream*
Two grants will be awarded based on addressing Climate Change as a global challenge.

- The 15 teams will be eligible to compete for one of an additional five (maximum) awards of $150,000 (maximum) in the 2021 Wicked Ideas Competition.
- Assessment criteria for second year funding will be provided by the teams themselves in their initial application and be based on the success of the metrics as determined by the teams.

**Application Process**

The application will include three stages:

**Notice of Intent**

Interested applicants will need to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) by February 3, 2020. The NOI will not be adjudicated, but will assist in the establishment of review panels for the full applications.

NOI applicants will receive an invitation to complete the University Equity Survey to assist with integration of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion considerations into our internal funding programs.

*Full Application (4 pages for proposal, 1 page budget (brief summary), 2 page CV for all co-investigators and team members)*

The full applications will be adjudicated based on the following criteria:

- Research excellence
- Training and development of Highly Qualified Personnel
- Knowledge Mobilization activity
- High risk, defined by elements such as:
  - defying current research paradigms;
  - proposing unique scientific directions; and/or
  - bringing new disciplines together with different perspectives to use novel approaches for solving existing problems.
- High reward, defined by elements such as:
  - the degree of impact and the size of the community affected;
  - significantly advancing current knowledge, methods and/or technologies;
  - resolving a longstanding scientific issue; and
  - transforming and/or disrupting conventional thinking.

Review panels will be established to undertake the adjudication and make recommendations to the Vice-Principal (Research) for funding. Those applications recommended for funding will move to next phase.
The full application, to be adjudicated by the appropriate multi-disciplinary/disciplinary research review panel, will request the following details:

- Applicants are to prepare a project proposal. The following will apply:
  
  o Applicants will be asked to provide an overview of the idea including why it is high risk, innovative and could lead to a breakthrough
  o Applicants will be asked to provide a description of potential knowledge mobilization outcomes, including impact on community and the development of relationships with other partners, including government, industry and the not-for profit sector
  o Applicants will be asked to propose a maximum of five metrics that will be used to evaluate success of the project in the second phase of the funding
  o Applicants will be asked to include a summary of the proposed use for the initial $75,000 in funding; there is no particular restriction on the nature of the activities except that they must conform to University policies on research eligible expenses
  o Abbreviated CV for all co-investigators and team members

The Review Panel, chaired by the Vice-Principal (Research), will be established to undertake an assessment of the proposals and propose a ranking to the Vice-Principal (Research) of those teams that should be selected for the final stage.

**Adjudication Panel**

Selected teams will be invited to present/pitch to an adjudication panel during the week of March 30, 2020. The adjudication panel will include faculty researchers, community members, industry and other partners.

A presentation template for the key areas to be addressed in the presentation will be provided, and will include the following:

- Overview of idea
  - Why your team can be successful (no CVs; need to communicate to review panel the strength of the team)
  - Why the team cannot get funding from other programs
  - Overview of team’s proposed metrics, highlighting those metrics to be used to assess their project

Applicants will be asked to present and take questions from the adjudication panel. Further details will be provided to the selected teams prior to the presentation/pitch.

Following the presentations/pitch, the Adjudication Panel will provide ranked recommendations to the Vice-Principal (Research) of the teams that should be funded. The Vice-Principal (Research) will make the final decisions.
**Successful projects:**

Successful projects will begin in May 2020 with spending to commence no later than September 2020, and be completed by May 2022. The 15 teams will be eligible to compete for one of an additional five (maximum) awards of $150,000 (maximum) in spring 2021.

Questions can be directed to research@queensu.ca.