

BREAKING BARRIERS INTERDISCIPLINARY INCENTIVE GRANT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FASS is launching a new grants programme, *Breaking Barriers*, to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship. For this competition, the Dean's Office seeks interdisciplinary grant applications from teams led by FASS researchers. As prioritized in [What's Next: The SFU Strategy](#), the research proposed by these teams should aim to deepen our understanding of the world's most pressing issues or aim to create solutions or otherwise address these problems. Teams should explain how their research advances the strategic priorities of FASS and/or the University as a whole. For a non-exhaustive list of ideas about what kinds of topics might be strategic priorities for the University, see SFU's [Strategic Research Plan](#), the President's [What's Next: The SFU Strategy](#), or propose another area of research and explain why it makes sense for FASS/SFU to develop that area of research.

Proposals should draw on research from at least two disciplines, and ideally will also involve a faculty member or members from outside FASS.

Information Sessions:

September 14, 2023, 2:30-3:30pm via Zoom
Registration is required to get access to the Zoom link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/new-fass-grants-information-session-tickets-715439668307?aff=oddtcreator>

October 12, 2023, 1:30-2:30pm via Zoom
Registration link will come out closer to the date

Notice of Intent (NOI) Due:

October 26, 2023 *Mandatory*

Interdisciplinary Mix and Mingle:

November 16, 2023

Final Proposal Due:

January 30, 2024

Award Notification:

March 2024

ELIGIBILITY

Research teams of 3-5 SFU faculty members must meet the following criteria:

- The PI – the team leader—must have a faculty appointment in FASS.
- Team members from other Faculties are encouraged but not required.
- The majority of co-applicants must be SFU faculty members, but team members outside SFU can be included if they offer expertise that is not readily available at SFU.
- Two or more units, departments, or schools must be represented. Priority will be given to projects that involve collaboration across Faculties (i.e., that involve faculty members from FASS and also from outside of FASS).
- Preference will be given to projects that foster or enhance new or existing collaborations – such as research networks or partnerships between different departments, Faculties, institutions or communities.

- Proposals for funding in the range of \$40,000 to \$100,000 are eligible, but projects that are under this range will be considered.
- Proposals must outline how this funding will be used over the granting period, starting as early as May 2023 and ending no later than August 2026.
- Proposed projects must address a pressing issue of strategic importance for FASS and/or SFU.

DELIVERABLES

Projects must produce:

- new knowledge addressing one of the world's most pressing issues. Note that the issue should be of strategic importance to FASS and/or SFU.
- a clear plan to share this new knowledge with communities of interest.
- one or more research outputs in the form most appropriate to the disciplines involved (performance, conference paper, publication, etc.)
- A plan for an individual or team external grant application (see FASS webpage for a list of potential opportunities).

REVIEW PROCESS

The Notice of Intent (NOI) will be used for screening for eligibility and feedback for teams advancing to the next stage. To assess the Final Proposal, a multidisciplinary review panel of faculty and laypersons will be established based on the NOI.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals must be written in plain language, accessible to an interdisciplinary audience, and should avoid disciplinary jargon. Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

Relevance and Strategic Importance

Proposal must define the pressing issue, and why it needs to be addressed from an interdisciplinary perspective. It answers the following questions:

- What is the pressing issue?
- Why is it pressing? Who or what does it affect?
- Why does it need to be addressed?
- Why is this issue of a strategic importance for FASS and/or SFU or BC?

Robust Interdisciplinarity

Proposal demonstrates how the project is drawing from theories, methodologies and approaches from the humanities and social sciences and/or disciplines outside of FASS (if applicable). It succinctly articulates how and why the proposed interdisciplinary approach is essential to solving the pressing issue, and relevant research from multiple disciplinary perspectives and approaches is clearly integrated. Preference will be given to projects that integrate disciplines that are not commonly combined and includes a discipline or disciplines outside of FASS. It answers the following question:

- How does the collaboration across boundaries offer new insight?

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Proposals demonstrate how EDI best practices are woven into the interdisciplinary research practice and design. Please see New Frontier in Research Fund—Best practices in equity, diversity and inclusion in research practice and design for further guidance on how to develop teams and proposals.

<https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx>

Proposal answers the following question:

- How is the team addressing potential systemic barriers and underrepresentation in the project design and practice as appropriate?

Scholarly Excellence

Proposal identifies the scholarly strengths of individual team members and demonstrates how these strengths are essential to tackling the research question.

Preference will be given to teams with at least one member from outside of FASS.

Engaged Research: Visibility and Impact

Strong proposals will have a clearly developed plan for high visibility that ensures the research is shared with a broad audience. It identifies both possible academic publications and public publications such as a policy brief, a piece in *The Conversation*, newspaper op-eds, social media, podcast, or graphic novels. Successful teams may be eligible to receive additional support from the Strategic Research Plan team in sharing their research with a broad audience over the two-year period. Strong proposals will also point to communities of interest with whom they will work to develop a communication plan.

Sustainability and long-term

There is a plan for where the research will go once the initial funding ends after two years.

- How will this project help to nurture research in this area in the long term? (i.e. new collaboration—internal or external)
- What additional support do you anticipate needing to make that happen? (i.e. Further grants)

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Notice of Intent

Teams must submit a mandatory **Notice of Intent (maximum 250 words) by October 26, 2023.**

The Notice of Intent (NOI) must be submitted by the Principal Investigator using the [online application form](#). It should include a list of team members and a 250-word overview of the research topic. Please contact Jennifer Chutter, FASS Special Projects Manager, for support with the online application form at jennifer_chutter@sfu.ca.

Online Application form: <https://forms.office.com/r/RZ0UGKP52r>

Teams who submitted an NOI will be invited to attend an Interdisciplinary Mix and Mingle to have social time to develop their final proposal. Team members and elements of the proposal may change between submission of the NOI and the Final Proposal, but the PI may not.

Final Proposal

The final proposal must be submitted by the Principal Investigator using the [online form](#) by **January 30, 2024**. Please contact Jennifer Chutter, FASS Special Projects Manager, for support with the online application form at jennifer_chutter@sfu.ca.

Budget will be governed by the usual [SFU Budget Guidelines](#) and [Travel and Business Expenses policy](#)— see [Research Personnel costs](#), [Research Travel and Subsistence](#), and the [Award Management Guidelines](#) for eligible expenses. This grant cannot be used for teaching buy outs.

The application will be submitted by uploading documents to this online application form: <https://forms.office.com/r/2NwxW7BJdh>

Final Proposal Submission Requirements

1. Online application form will require the Principal Investigator to provide the following information:
 - a. Title
 - b. Principal investigator
 - c. Co-investigators
 - d. Total budget amount
 - e. Information as to whether ethics, biohazard or animal care review is required.
 - f. The PI's attestation as to the accuracy and completeness of the information in the proposal.
2. Research proposal addressing the review criteria and including a timeline of research, (single-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-poin font, doc, docx, PDF) **4 pages maximum**.
3. CVs of all team members listing the more relevant contributions to the proposed topic and any career interruptions (**2 pages max per person**).
4. Budget Justification **2 pages maximum**.
5. Breaking Barriers Budget form.

Review Process

Proposals will be assessed by a multidisciplinary committee appointed by the Dean. Proposals must be accessible to a broad audience.

Post-award Reporting Requirements

At the end of year one, teams are expected to give a brief presentation on the work-in-progress to the other successful interdisciplinary grant holders, the Dean and Associate Deans outlining what they have accomplished in their first year of holding the grant and what they hope to accomplish in the remaining year.