Incremental Project Grants
INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2024-2025

In 2024/25, the University of Alberta received additional Incremental Project Grants funding of $947,494 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
International Partnerships and Research	Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	$ 192,000	Strategic guidance for the advancement of global research and innovation. Strengthen international research, particularly within the EU, 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 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 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.	**By 31-Mar-2027:** - Expand research connections and innovation opportunities - Increase number of partnerships with European institutions to pursue shared research priorities - Identify and access research funding opportunities with international partners (see Horizon Europe as an example)	**In Progress:** In support of this project we have: -Established an international funding grant development support team. -Identified and increased our knowledge of international funding opportunities (e.g. Horizon Europe, a variety of UK funding opportunities) and ability to tie opportunities to specific researchers' interest. -Participated in a number of missions to and from a number of European partner organizations, including academic institutions, research organizations, and funders. Related to this we have further pursued a number of relationships with institutions and organizations with shared research priorities. -Developed international funding opportunities resources and supports including offering one on one grant development support, funder specific tip sheets and webpages, organization of webinars and information sessions for researchers.
Research Data Storage Solution	Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	$ 500,000	Enhance reliability of the RDSS to support long-term storage needs of researchers. Improve data protection mechanisms by enhancing RAID-based redundancy and addressing potential vulnerabilities.	- Provision of on-site data storage: Researchers will have access to a local, secure storage solution for their data. - storage of large volumes of research files: The RDSS will accommodate large datasets, including videos, photos, documentation, and specialty file types. - No charge for Researchers: Researchers will receive storage space at No cost, facilitating broader access to necessary resources. - Long-term data storage: The solution is designed to provide durable, Long-term storage for research data. - RAID-based data protection: The use of RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) will safeguard data by distributing it across multiple drives, minimizing The risk of data loss due to hardware failure. - Need for enhanced data protection: There is an identified requirement to improve The data protection mechanisms for critical research data stored on RDSS. - research data integrity assurance: The system aims to ensure that critical research data remains intact and accessible.	**By 30-Jun-2025:** 1. Expand the secure fencing around the RDSS system within the UA data centre to enhance the physical security of this research resource; 2. Develop a data backup solution for the Research Data Storage Solution Service for pre-determined individual research teams who require additional data protection. 3. Expand the storage capacity of the RDSS from 2 Pb to more than 2.5 Pb which will further enhance the redundant data protection;	**Achieved:** The allocated funds allowed us to increase the usable storage capacity of the Research Data Storage Service by an additional 500 terrabytes (TB) providing more storage capacity for researchers. As a result of this increase the total current usable space in the environment is now 3.6 pedabytes (PB) with 2.7 pedabytes (PB) of that being consumed by the researchers. The Research Data Storage Service is currently utilized by approximately 425 unique researchers and their associated labs/students to store their data. The project has allowed researchers to store all of their data files in a safe, secure and managed environment.

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Linking Data Related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Indigenous Identification to Research Metrics	Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)	$ 120,000	Improved integration of databases incorporating data related to equity, diversity, and inclusion or Indigenous identification with institutional data on research success that drives research metrics.	The goal is to improve the integration of data related to self-identification (including Indigenous identification) and other demographic information, enabling more effective tracking of research success and the achievement of equity, diversity, and inclusion objectives. This project will integrate databases that combine equity, diversity, and inclusion or Indigenous identification data with institutional research metrics to drive progress in these areas.	By 30-Jun-2025: - Increased Representation of Underrepresented Researchers - Expansion of Indigenous-Led and Indigenous-Engaged Research - Enhanced Focus on Equity-Driven Research - Improved Data Integration for Demographic Tracking - Comprehensive and Inclusive Research Database - Growth in Community-Engaged Research	**Achieved:** We have developed an integrated data dashboard that allows for integration of research related data, including grant submissions and success, research revenue, and targeted success rates in major external sponsor competitions, with identification data related to EDI or Indigenous identification. Identification data is highly secure, and collected via survey of faculty. This dashboards allows an ongoing assessment of initiatives to support the success of equity-denied researchers on campus, including Indigenous researchers, a crucial contribution to designing effective research support for a diverse and inclusive research ecosystem.
Technologies to Enhance Researcher Productivity and Success	Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	$ 135,494	Develop and implement a AI enhanced comprehensive research lifecycle portal. Create resources and training programs to support researchers in the safe and efficient use of AI tools.	The main indicators for this project include: 1) Developing and launching a research lifecycle portal, with progress tracked through design, testing, and full deployment milestones. 2) Assessing researcher satisfaction with the portal, AI tools, and training, by collecting feedback on their usefulness and impact on research productivity and efficiency. 3) Ensuring the integration of ethical and safety guidelines in AI usage, by monitoring compliance across the institution. 4) Evaluating support resource use and engagement, by tracking access to documentation, FAQs, and AI-assisted discovery tools.	By 31-Mar-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 execution of this project involves several collaborators from the office of the Vice President (Research) (primary generator and manager of the digital resources housed on the research lifecycle portal) and the Digital and Creative team (responsible for developing the digital infrastructure and the website). The Digital and Creative team is also a key partner in the development of a generative answering and advanced indexing tool for the portal to facilitate search of information. The primary outcomes to date are 1. Developing the research lifecycle wireframe for proposal development and management; 2. Hosting of 4 campus wide focus groups to evaluate options for the research lifecycle site. 3. Development and preliminary testing of the generative answering and indexing (GAI) tool. The next phase will be fine-tuning the GAI with involvement of VPR and the University Library; 4. Development of an AI literacy program for researchers (providing fundamental concepts about the use of AI in research, workshops and webinars); 5. Creation of AI tools to support: proposal budgeting review; proposal review against evaluation criteria; narrative CV; EDI statements.