

Incremental Project Grants

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2025-2026

In 2025/26, the University of Alberta will receive Incremental Project Grants funding of \$5,515,193 and has allocated the funding to the following projects:

Project Description	Priority area(s)	Allocated Amount	Institutional Performance Objective	Indicator	Targeted Outcomes
Startup support	A. Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 790,700	More university-based spinoff companies with greater viability and investment into those companies; increased commercialization activity; increased industry partnerships.	Number and quality of ventures created and revenue invested/attracted; number of industry partnerships.	Timeline: 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026 More AB based high growth startups created that can attract investors and bring new products to the market.
Streamlining REB review of multijurisdictional research ARISE enhancements	C. Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 240,000	Streamlined ethics reviews and FCOI processes will reduce workloads for Ethics Committee members, administrators as well as the researchers and their teams.	Investigate and resolve issues related to renewal workflow defect between IRISS and ARISE for psites. Automate the generation of approval and changes requested letters for new studies (certification) and amendment workflows. Configure REBX for non health integrations between UC and UA Human REB Form Revision: Research involving Indigenous peoples, EDI updates to the form, Safeguarding research integration, Research Data Management requirements, as well as updates to TCPS2. Review and confirm new AUP system requirements. Confirmation of solution available within platform to meet the requirements. Build new AUP form and testing. Review of FCOI forms and process to streamline work for researchers.	Timeline: 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2026 Single Board of Record approvals through REBX, will form part of the infrastructure to attract Industry Sponsored clinical trials to Alberta. Reduction of multiple ethics reviews across Canada will also support unfunded researchers who lack the support and infrastructure for duplicative administrative ethics applications. A streamlined application form will lead to reduced reviewer and applicant burden, better data available to the ACUC to perform their reviews and improved turnaround time from submission to approval for new Animal Use protocols. A streamlined FCOI application process will support our researchers applying for US Federal funding, while provided better compliance review processes for administrators.

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International Partnerships and Research	A. Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 373,500	To provide strategic and operational guidance that accelerates the advancement of global research and innovation at the Institution. This objective aims to strengthen international research efforts, particularly within the EU region, increase our understanding of and capacity to secure new global funding opportunities, and cultivate worldwide partnerships that enhance research, innovation, and commercialization. The goal is to increase our capacity to foster international collaborations, expand avenues for knowledge exchange, 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 research 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 staff exchanges, 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.	Timeline: 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2027 Expand research connections and innovation opportunities Increase participation in international research consortium and/or networks Increase number of partnerships with European institutions (post secondary and research organizations) to pursue shared research priorities Identify and access research funding opportunities with international partners (see Horizon Europe as an example) Increase in research revenue from international sources
Technologies to Enhance Researcher Productivity and Success	C. Information resources including digital resources open access and databases (Research Resources)	\$ 180,000	To develop and implement a comprehensive research lifecycle portal that provides a centralized, accessible platform for researchers to manage pre-award grant development, post-award research management, and knowledge mobilization. This portal will be enhanced with an AI-driven agent to assist researchers in navigating and utilizing resources effectively. Additionally, the objective includes the creation of resources and training programs to support researchers in the ethical, safe, and efficient use of AI-based tools to enhance research productivity and impact. This will involve the acquisition of software licenses, including generative AI products, and the development of tailored training to empower all researchers at the institution to leverage AI effectively in their research activities.	Development and launch of a research lifecycle portal: track the progress of the portal's development, including milestones for design, testing, and full implementation. Researcher satisfaction with the portal and AI tools and associated training: gather feedback from researchers regarding the usefulness and impact of AI tools and training on their research productivity and efficiency. Integration of ethical and safety guidelines in AI Use: track the incorporation and compliance with ethical and safety guidelines for AI tool usage in research across the institution. Support resource utilization and engagement: track the usage rates of support resources available through the portal, including documentation, FAQs, and AI-assisted resource discovery.	Timeline: 1 April 2024 - 31 March 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

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Platforms to Support Indigenous Research and Innovation and Inclusive Research at the University of Alberta	D. Equity diversity and faculty renewal (Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise)	\$ 457,000	The project will result in online platforms: one for building EDI competencies and another for ethical research partnerships with Indigenous communities. These will offer resources across a variety of media, provide pathways to training and guidance for researchers, and provide networking support for UofA researchers. In-person events, publications, data integration and reports, and digital media will promote knowledge mobilization within and beyond the UoA.	<p>Improved integration of EDI in research practices at UofA.</p> <p>Improved data collection and research reporting with integration of data relevant to EDI and Indigenous identity.</p> <p>Increased development and application of evidence-based EDI tools and resources to catalyze EDI-related research and Indigenous research.</p> <p>Publications and media in a variety of accessible formats for sharing best practices in Indigenous-led and Indigenous-engaged research.</p> <p>EDI training that is scaffolded to support researchers at all levels of comfort and familiarity with EDI processes</p> <p>Increased funding for research, particularly in social innovation and Indigenous-led initiatives.</p> <p>Annual Indigenous Research Symposia to foster collaboration.</p> <p>Training and dissemination events enhancing the visibility and impact of inclusive and diverse research initiatives.</p> <p>Enhanced collaboration with Indigenous communities in research efforts.</p> <p>Increase in community based research projects with equity-denied communities</p> <p>Reports and advocacy to organizations on Indigenous engagements.</p>	<p>Timeline: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2028</p> <p>With the EDI CoE in place, researchers will have access to the resources and contacts they need to design and conduct research following EDI principles.</p> <p>Researchers at all career levels can feel supported and build their EDI competency. By building researcher EDI competencies through the CoE, the university will enable researchers to build stronger, more competitive EDI sections into their grant applications.</p> <p>Indigenous researchers at all career levels feel supported to grow their research impact</p> <p>Through resources provided in the CoE, Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers will enhance the impact of their research for their community partners.</p> <p>Increased Representation of Underrepresented Researchers at the UofA in grant and award competitions</p> <p>Expansion of Indigenous-Led and Indigenous-Engaged Research at the UofA</p> <p>Enhanced Focus on Equity-Driven Research</p> <p>Improved Data Integration for demographic tracking and research reporting</p> <p>Growth in Community-Engaged Research and ethical partnerships with Indigenous communities.</p>

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IP Protection	A. Innovation and commercialization activities (Intellectual property and knowledge mobilization)	\$ 1,312,000	A robust and sustainable IP portfolio is required to ensure development of ideas arising from research. For those technologies that are startup opportunities, we need to ensure that the IP is well protected for future commercial applications. We also need to ensure that those technologies that are license opportunities are directed to the most appropriate receptors which is most often done through business development activities such as conferences.	25% increase in invention disclosures 25% increase in number of startups 25% increase in licenses and associated revenue	Timeline: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2028 A more valuable IP portfolio that anticipates future commercial activity evidenced by increased licenses and startups.
Strengthening Research Integrity: Compliance, Training & Efficiency	B. Facilities renewal including deferred maintenance (Research Facilities)	\$ 851,816	This project will enhance research integrity by strengthening compliance oversight, modernizing animal facility operations, and streamlining administrative workflows within the University of Alberta's Animal Care and Use Program. Researchers will benefit from improved protocol management, reduced administrative burdens, and clearer regulatory guidance, ensuring greater efficiency and support in conducting ethical research. The integration of animal facility operations and business process re-engineering will optimize resource utilization, enhance animal care, and improve long-term program sustainability. The foundation for future-focused digital solutions will be established, driving operational efficiency and reinforcing the university's commitment to high-quality, responsible research. Ultimately, these improvements will create a more transparent, ethical, and well-supported research environment that upholds the highest standards of research compliance and animal care.	successful transition of 420 AUPs to upgrades form operational consolidation of 3 unique facilities into an integrated administrative unit, resulting streamlined and consolidated business processes, improved maintenance tracking and planning to result in animal facilities that can better serve both the research community and compliant the university's robust animal care and use program. roll out of cannabis license University wide. more robust animal training program with increased capacity throughout all facilities	Timeline: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2028 Enhanced Compliance & Oversight – Strengthened regulatory adherence through improved training programs, post-approval monitoring, and protocol management. Streamlined Administrative Processes – More efficient workflows for financial transactions, procurement, and research ethics review. Improved Researcher Support – Reduced administrative burdens and clearer guidance for navigating compliance and regulatory requirements. Digital Infrastructure Development – A foundation for future integrated software solutions to support compliance, ethics, and regulated research activities. Sustainable Operational Efficiency – Long-term improvements in research integrity support, ensuring adaptability to evolving regulatory and institutional needs.

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Improvement and upgrade of institutional research space	B. Facilities renewal including deferred maintenance (Research Facilities)	\$ 1,310,177	Enhanced research environments, including modernized laboratory spaces, updated vacuum pump systems, and repaired cold rooms, supporting a variety of disciplines. Improved operational reliability for research facilities, such as emergency power distribution systems. Sustainable energy solutions, including LED lighting and greenhouse swamp cooler replacements, reducing environmental impact and operational costs. Compliance with safety and ethical standards, particularly through upgrades like the laser lab safety code program. Increased researcher satisfaction and productivity by providing functional, state-of-the-art spaces tailored to their needs.	Facility enhancements: Completion of prioritized upgrades and maintenance addressing aging infrastructure. Improved compliance: Adherence to updated regulatory, safety, and ethical standards in research facilities. Research outcomes: Increased utilization of modernized spaces, enabling high-impact research activities and collaborations. Capacity building: Improved support for large-scale research projects and alignment with institutional strategic goals.	Timeline: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 Modernized infrastructure Enhanced research capacity Sustainability initiatives Regulatory alignment