**University of Saskatchewan**

**International Research and Partnerships Office**

**International Flagship Partnership Research Grants (IFPRG)**

**University of Saskatchewan and Beijing Institute of Technology**

**Joint Call for Proposals**

Application Deadline – January 6, 2020

**Background:**

Since 2015, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and the Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) have provided funds to support the development of research collaborations between USask researchers and colleagues at BIT, our Flagship Partner Institution in China.

It is expected this funding will enhance the capacity of researchers at the USask and BIT to jointly pursue and leverage external research funding.

The International Flagship Partnership Research Grants (IFPRG) Program is intended to support**:**

1. activities to initiate / enhance BIT- USask research collaboration, *and*
2. to develop funding proposals for international research involving BIT - USask groups/consortia.

The IFPRG Program is co-funded by the USask and BIT on a 1:1 matching basis. The funding will support collaboration activities, external research grant preparation and submission, and travel related expenses. Proposals should identify and detail proposed international research funding applications as outcomes of the IFRPG grant/collaboration.

**The International Research and Partnerships Office would be pleased to assist in identifying research collaborators and please contact** **international.office@usask.ca as soon as possible to request match-making assistance.**

**Program Parameters:**

* Projects must be co-led by full-time faculty members at the USask and BIT in line with University Policy on Eligibility to Apply for, Hold and Administer Research Funding. In regard to USask faculty with term appointments, the term of appointment must remain valid for the duration of the project. Graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, research associates, adjunct professors, and visiting faculty are NOT eligible to be project co-leads but can be co-investigators or collaborators.
* Other institutions may participate in BIT - USask consortia but cash/in-kind contributions are expected.
* Project co-leads at the USask and BIT are required to develop an application collaboratively and submit the application to the respective administrative office at their home institution no later than January 6, 2020.
* Faculty members currently leading an International Flagship Partnership Research Grant are not eligible for this competition.
* Funding level: Each USask research team in natural sciences/engineering/health sciences can request up to $20,000 CAD and in social sciences/humanities can request up to $12,000 CAD for a joint application. The BIT partner team in natural sciences/engineering/health sciences can request up to 100,000 RMB and in social sciences/humanities can request up to 60,000 RMB for the joint project from BIT.
* Number of projects expected to be funded: one (1)
* This fund may cover direct costs of research, including materials, partnership development, and knowledge mobilization. Project related event coordination and proposal development expenses, international airfare (economy), airport taxes, visas, medical insurance, vaccination, ground transportation, local accommodation, and per-diems for meals can also be covered by this fund.
* Budget requests must be reasonable and justified. The adjudication committee reserves the right to work with applicants to make adjustments to the project activity and financial plan.
* The duration of the project is two (2) years. The start date of project fund will be March 1st, 2020 and all activities and financial transactions including submission of final narrative and financial reports must be completed by April 1, 2022.
* An interim progress report must be submitted to the International Research and Partnerships Office at international.office@usask.ca no later than April 1, 2021. The final narrative report must be submitted to the International Research and Partnerships Office at international.office@usask.ca no later than April 1, 2022 and clearly indicate collaboration outcomes (e.g. joint proposals have been submitted to external funding agencies). Reporting templates will be provided by the International Research and Partnerships Office.
* Two-way travel is encouraged. The USask project leads are required to spend at least one week at BIT to allow for substantive partnership development to take place.
* To comply with applicable policies, BIT contributed funds are to be expended for project activities in China, and USask funds are to be used to support project activities in Canada. Any funds not spent within the project period will be retained and reallocated by the respective International Research and Partnerships Office (i.e., unexpended BIT funds revert to BIT and unexpended USask funds revert to the USask). Any over expenditures or unauthorized expenditures will be the sole responsibility of the project leads.
* Successful USask applicants will be obligated to participate in a short Project Management Orientation Meeting delivered by the International Research Specialist.
* While the competition is open to all disciplines, preference is given for projects that address BIT areas of excellence, USask signature research areas, and/or government priorities.

USask signature research areas:

<https://vpresearch.usask.ca/about-us/signature-areas-of-research.php>

BIT academic units and research areas:

<http://english.bit.edu.cn/academics/SchoolsDepartments/index.htm>

Canadian government priorities:

-[CIHR](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51508.html)

-[NSERC](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Reports-Rapports/plans-plans_eng.asp)

-[SSHRC](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/strategic_plans-plans_strategiques-eng.aspx)

**Eligible Expenses:**

* Travel expenses for project leads and core team members to meet with collaborators and other group communication expenses (ex: long distance, teleconferencing, working meetings)
* Expenses for organizing the workshop
* Direct costs of research
* Proposal development expenses

**Activities and costs that are not eligible are:**

* equipment costs
* salaries and honoraria of applicants
* activities not directed at establishing specific collaborations
* other expenses that are deemed ineligible by the joint review committee

**Evaluation Criteria:**

1. Contribution to BIT-USask/government priority areas and long-term collaboration potential (25%)
2. Quality and experience of the team (expertise, complementarity) (25%)
3. Outcomes of the collaboration (scholarly capacity development leading to scientific advancement, potential for technology development, policy formulation, knowledge translation and dissemination, additional joint initiatives, etc.) (25%)
4. Implementation of project activities (feasibility, workplan, milestones, budget) (25%)

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Application Deadline: January 6, 2020 by 5:00 PM CST.**

**USask researchers** must send applications as **a single PDF** (including the application and all supporting documentation) to the International Research and Partnerships Office at international.office@usask.ca with the subject line “BIT-USask Flagship Program Application”.

**BIT researchers** shall send applications to Mr. Chenggang Bao in the Academy of Science and Technology at bcg@bit.edu.cn.

**EVALUATION AND SELECTION COMMITTEE:**

A joint review committee will be formed to review all complete, eligible proposals received by the deadline. The committee will be co-chaired by a representative of both the USask and BIT and consist of two to three additional members from each institution with the requisite expertise to review submitted proposals.

The Joint Review Committees will review the applications using the guidelines listed above. Decisions will be made by consensus of the Committees. All applicants will be notified of funding decisions.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

USask researchers please direct questions or comments to International Research Specialists Le Li or Megan Fillatre at international.office@usask.ca.

BIT researchers please direct questions or comments to Research Officer Chenggang Bao at bcg@bit.edu.cn.

**IFPRG Application Form**

**1. Proposal Title:**

**2. Start date:**

**End date:**

(**Please note** the project fund start date is March 1, 2020 and the project must be completed on or before April 1, 2022.)

**3. Lead Researchers** *(add additional rows as needed)*:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name** | **Position** | **Academic unit** | **USask Signature Areas/** **National Priorities** |
| **USask Lead** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **BIT**  **Lead** |  |  |  |  |
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**4. Project Description (all documents to be single-spaced, minimum 12 pt font; note that pages beyond specified limits will be disregarded)**

**A. Research Program and Collaboration:**

1. **The Research** *(****2******pages maximum****)* **-**  *provide a brief description of the collaborative research topic, methodology, key challenges/problems the research addresses, expected results, and how the research is innovative and important.*
2. **The Research Team** *(****2******pages maximum****)***-**  *briefly**state the key areas of expertise of each of the researchers, the complementary nature and the value added as a result of their collaboration on this project.*
3. **Existing Connections/Collaborations** *(****1******page maximum****) - identify past or existing connections with the researchers and/or their institution.*

**B. Expected Outcomes of the Research and the Collaboration (2 pages maximum):**

1. State expected scientific advances, technology development, policy formulation, scholarship, or innovation, etc.;
2. Indicate international research funding applications anticipated as a result of this grant/collaboration;
3. Describe how the research project will enhance the partnership between the University of Saskatchewan and Beijing Institute of Technology and indicate your strategy for sustaining and scaling up the proposed collaboration.

**5. Activity Plan:** Please complete the table below and indicate milestones/activities with dates/duration (add or remove rows as needed)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Milestone** | **Dates/Duration (months)** |
| **Milestone 1:** |  |
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| **Milestone 2:** |  |
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| **Milestone 3:** |  |
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**6. USask Team Budget\*** *(add additional rows as needed):*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity /Expense** | **Cost ($)** | **Funding requested from IFPRG ($)** | **Funding from other sources (indicate the amount, source, and status (confirmed/**  **pending))** |
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| **TOTAL COST** |  |  |  |

\*The grants offered by the USask must align with the USask travel policy and expense guidelines.

(<http://www.usask.ca/fsd/resources/guidelines/travel_expense_guidelines.php>)

**Budget Justification** (please include detailed notes in this section or provide an extra 1 page budget justification.)

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**7. Signatures**

The USask Project lead is required to sign this application form to indicate s/he has agreed to the role and commitment to the proposed project.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name** | **Signature** | **Date** |
| **USask**  **Lead** |  |  |  |

**8. Curriculum Vitae**

A*ttach a* ***1-2 page CV or biography*** *for each of the* ***principal investigators****. Include only recent activities i.e., within the last 5 years). CVs/biographies that exceed 2 pages in length will not be accepted.*

**9. Signed letter of support on institutional letterhead****from BIT**

If the BIT project team provides cash and/or in-kind contributions, please indicate in this letter.

**10. A completed and signed Conflict of Interest Disclosure form**

<https://internationaloffice.usask.ca/conflict-of-interest.php>

**11. Endorsement** **from the USask lead applicant’s Department Head or Associate Dean Research:**

|  |
| --- |
| Project title:  The above mentioned application has received endorsement from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  (unit)  Please indicate if the following statement applies to your unit, and if applicable, provide brief information:   * This proposed project fits with the departmental and/or college priorities:   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   * This proposed project receives the departmental and/or college cash contributions:   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Department Head/Associate Dean Research/Vice Dean/Executive Director signature  Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |