

International Blueprint Travel and Project Grants (Internal) Information Session

**Tuesday December 14, 2021
1:00 – 2:00pm**

**Le Li, Senior International Specialist
Megan Fillatre, International Research Specialist
Harvey Hill, International Research Specialist**

Land Acknowledgement

“I acknowledge that I live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another. I also acknowledge the Indigenous lands and relationships of our partners from across Canada and around the world.”

The International Office Mandate

- Provide support to the USask campus community to engage in international research, funding opportunities, global community service and sustainable development projects, with the aim to build collaborative partnerships around the world.
- Foster, create and coordinate research and partnership initiatives in support of the university's **International Blueprint for Action 2025**.
- UN Sustainable Development Goals advocacy

International Office Team

Meghna Ramaswamy
Director, International Office



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International Blueprint for Action 2025

Four Pillars

01

Internationalizing
Learning
Experiences

02

Diversifying our
University
Community

03

Strengthening our
Global Impact
through
Discovery

04

Growing our Global
Citizenship and
International
Community Service

Internal Grants for International Engagement

International Travel Grants: One (1) competition per fiscal year; ~2-year window with minimum number of travel days/hours required for each program	
Global Ambassador Program (Incoming)	<i>USask faculty and Staff, up to \$5,000</i>
Global Ambassador Program (Outgoing)	<i>USask faculty and Staff, up to \$5,000</i>
Internationalization Fund	<i>USask faculty and Staff, up to \$2,500</i>
International Travel Award	<i>USask faculty and Staff, up to \$2,500</i>
International Project Grants: One (1) competition per fiscal year; ~2-year project duration	
Global Innovation Fund for New Partnership	<i>USask faculty and global partners \$10,000 - \$50,000</i>
International Research Partnership Fund for Existing Partnership	<i>USask faculty and global partners \$5,000 - \$25,000</i>
Global Community Service Fund: New Partnership	<i>USask faculty and global partners \$10,000 - \$50,000</i>
Global Community Service Fund: Existing Partnership	<i>USask faculty and global partners \$5,000 - \$25,000</i>

*All internal grants are posted on the International Office Internal Funding page, and through other USask channels: <https://internationaloffice.usask.ca/internal-funding.php>

**All internal grants are funded by the USask International Blueprint for Action 2025 (IB 2025 [link](#))

Travel Grants

International Travel Grants:

~2-year window with minimum number of travel days/hours required for each program
(travel as early as April 1, 2022 – end date August 31, 2024)

Global Ambassador Program (Incoming)

USask faculty or staff - \$5,000

Global Ambassador Program (Outgoing)

USask faculty or staff - \$5,000

Internationalization Fund

USask faculty or staff - \$2,500

International Travel Fund

USask faculty or staff - \$2,500

Travel Grants

- Eligibility:
 - USask faculty; staff who are members of ASPA, CUPE 1975, CUPE 3287; or exempt staff.
 - Applicants with a term appointment must have a minimum of two years remaining at the start of the travel grant.
 - Eligibility is limited to one travel grant per applicant, per fiscal year. An application to the Global Ambassador Program (Outgoing) does not preclude the applicant's eligibility as a nominator for the Global Ambassador Program (Incoming).
 - Professor Emeriti are eligible to apply with 'succession plan'
 - All other eligibility and requirements outlined in the CFP.
- Application Deadline in UnivRS*: **February 18, 2022 @ 4pm CST**

Travel Grants

Eligible Expenses:

- **Software and hardware**, web development and maintenance, information technology support and maintenance, telecommunications, and web hosting or virtual production costs for the implementation of the project (maximum \$800).
- **Materials and supplies** directly contributing to the partnership development project (maximum \$800).
- **Hourly compensation for staff/student assistants** (maximum 40% of the total requested budget).
- **Project related travel** - International airfare (economy), airport taxes, visas, medical insurance, vaccination, ground transportation, local accommodation, and per-diems for meals.

All expenses must be in accordance with the USask travel policy and per diem rates:

<https://wiki.usask.ca/display/public/CPKB/Travel+Expense+Guidelines>

In-Person, Virtual, or Combination of in-person and virtual activities

- Global Ambassador Programs: 56 hours / 8 days, excluding travel time.
- International Travel Fund and Internationalization Fund: 35 hours / 5 days, excluding travel time.

Reporting

- Final report (Timesheet, Narrative Report, Photos)

Project Grants

International Project Grants:

~2 years project duration (April 1, 2022 – August 31, 2024)

Global Innovation Fund

New Partnership
\$10,000 - \$50,000

International Research Partnership Fund

Existing Partnership
\$5,000 - \$25,000

Global Community Service Fund

New Partnership
\$10,000 - \$50,000

Global Community Service Fund

Existing Partnership
\$5,000 - \$25,000

Project Grants

Eligibility:

- Projects must be **led by tenured or tenure-track faculty members at the USask** and **co-led by a faculty member at an accredited international institution or community partner**.
- USask faculty members with term appointments, students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, adjunct professors, and visiting faculty members are NOT eligible to be project co-leads, but can be co-investigators or collaborators.
- All other eligibility and requirements outlined in the CFP.

Application Deadline in UnivRS*: **February 28, 2022 @ 4pm CST**

Project Grants

Eligible Expenses and conditions:

- Direct costs of research, scholarly, and artistic work including materials and supplies, partnership development, and knowledge mobilization.
- Project related international airfare (economy), airport taxes, visas, medical insurance, vaccination, ground transportation, local accommodation, and per-diems for meals.
- Up to 20% of the awarded amount can be transferred to the international co-lead. Sufficient justification needed.
- **Does not cover:** Institutional Costs of Research (indirect costs/overhead); subcontract costs or honoraria payment for any project applicants.
- Not meant to support students' full degree training; however, it can cover costs to hire student trainee(s) or other research staff to carry out part of the project activities.

All expenses must be in accordance with the USask travel policy and per diem rates:

<https://wiki.usask.ca/display/public/CPKB/Travel+Expense+Guidelines>

Reporting

- Interim report and Final report (Timesheet, Narrative Report, Photos)

Tips & Recommendations – Internal Grants

- Extended beyond the benefit of an individual researcher (potentially departmental, college/school, or institutional in scope)
- Truly international in scope. International partners are major players (not just an “add-on”), and the proposed research will have international impact
- There is clear potential for sustainability of the international partnership beyond the current collaboration
- In alignment with specific program parameters for that specific stream of funding. Selection criteria is well outlined in CFPs.
- Logistically and financially feasible

Some Factors to Consider

- ***Project Design***

- Ethics
- Feasibility
- Context
- Team composition

- ***Health and Safety***

- Personal safety
- Health safety
- Civil situation

Some Factors to Consider (Continued)

- ***Planning***

- Plan A to Plan “G”
- Preparation
- Contingency

- ***Logistics***

- Transportation
- Communication
- Accommodation
- Food and water

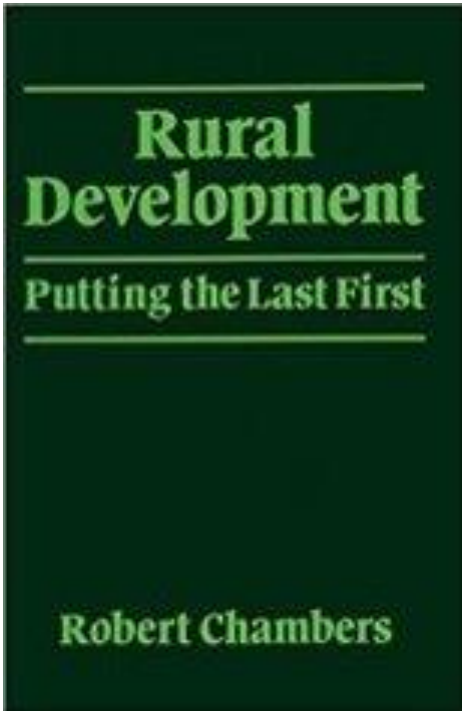
Project Design "Plan A to Plan G"

- You are an expert in your field.
- The point of this discussion is not to tell you how to design your research.
- It is to raise issues you may want to consider in your research planning when working in low to middle income countries.

Ethics and Sensitivity

- Are you introducing a new technology or process requiring foreign exchange to be sustainable?
- Could your research increase risk of violence, food or financial insecurity?
- Is it culturally sensitive? Does it risk isolating a demographic from the rest of society?

Finding a Balance Between Research Ideals and Research Application



- I drove too many miles in Northern Zambia on bad roads putting research trials in rural areas.
- Why? To try and bring the research to those needing it based on a research philosophy espoused by Robert Chambers.
- The challenge is to find a balance between realistic applied research and logistical feasibility.

Finding the Balance Can Be Rewarding

- Tembo, B., Sibiya, J., Tongoona, P., Melis, R., & Mukanga, M. (2016). Farmers Perceptions of Rain-Fed Wheat Production Constraints, Varietal Preferences and their Implication to Rain-fed Wheat Breeding in Zambia. *Journal of Agriculture and Crops*, 2(12), 131- 139.

Increasing your Chances Your Research Will Be Sustainable

- Have you identified how this research will enhance your in-country co-leads/collaborator(s)' research programs and students?
- Relationship building is important to secure buy in, successful co-design of projects, ensure cultural sensitivity, and increase the probability of your efforts being sustainable.

Team Composition

- If your research requires Government clearances or work in villages, you need to take time to build those relationships.
- Your international co-leads can help identify what relationships matter and how to establish them.

Examples of such relationships can include:

- a) Local and national Government officials,
- b) University officials, and
- c) Village leaders.

You May Find Other Groups May Also Be Able to Assist Build Relationships

- a) Canadian embassy/high commission officials,
- b) Mission communities, and
- c) Other aid groups are possible entities that might be able to help facilitate relationship building.

You can't plan for all contingencies

- The point I am making is try and design your project to be robust.
- Robust enough that you have alternative data sources and methods to support your efforts in case some you plan to utilize are not available.
- For instance, are there ways you can build in redundancy in case one trial or survey site is lost or not available?

Health And Safety

- It is easy to make illnesses in tropical countries seem very daunting due to their rarity in Canada and differences in access to medical care.
- It is equally critical you take precautions as tropical illnesses can be debilitating and severely impact your ability to conduct research or learn.
- It is important not to become so fearful that you overcompensate.

Health and Safety

Chronic Illnesses in the Tropics (Not Comprehensive)

Malaria: [Malaria - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic](#)

Bilharzia (Schistosomiasis): [CDC - Schistosomiasis - Prevention & Control](#)

Hepatitis: <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/hepatitis>

Chagas Disease (Latin America): [CDC - Chagas Disease](#)

African Sleeping Sickness: [Trypanosomiasis, human African \(sleeping sickness\) \(who.int\)](#)

Other Diseases: [Tropical diseases — Causes, Symptoms, Treatment and Prevention of tropical diseases \(nmihi.com\)](#)

Avoiding Schistosomiasis

- Boil or filter water, parasites in impure water can burrow into your lips or mouth,
- Don't swim or wash in fresh water - swim in the sea or chlorinated pools.
- Useful Links: Healthcare abroad, Travel health, Travel vaccinations, Fit for Travel: schistosomiasis, GOV. UK: foreign travel advice, Travel Health Pro: schistosomiasis, WHO: schistosomiasis
- [how to avoid getting bilharzia – Bing](#)
- [Topical application of DEET for schistosomiasis](#), Kalyanasundaram Ramaswamy, Yi-Xun He, Buz Salafsky, Takeshi Shibuya, Trends Parasitol. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2009 Nov 2. Published in final edited form as: Trends Parasitol. 2003 Dec; 19(12): 551–555.

Safety

- Factors to consider, civil unrest, terrorism, separatist movements, violent crime, rape, theft, etc.
- Global Affairs Canada can help gauge the potential for disruption of your research.
- Your local research colleagues can identify safe areas for research or field trips.
- Low-key approach is usually a good strategy.

Health Insurance

- A serious injury, might be adequately treated in-country, some countries don't have adequate medical treatment facilities.
- Your travel medical insurance should have an emergency evacuation option to get you or your students to appropriate medical facilities if needed.
- Regardless of local medical infrastructure travel medical insurance is critical.

Please Don't Take Away the Wrong Message

- Our goal is to give you factors to consider when designing and preparing your project or trip.
- The purpose is not to give the impression that this an impossible or unrewarding activity.
- The rewards of such projects, can be high, both academically and personally.

We look forward to working with you

Please contact us at:

international.office@usask.ca

It would be our International Office team's pleasure to assist with
your international endeavors!

Q&A

