

BCIT Internal Funding for Scholarly Activities ... and how to get it!

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Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Specific Funds
 - Institute Research Fund (IRF)
 - Instructional Development Grants:
 - Instructional Enhancement Grant (IEG)
 - Special Interest Grant (SIG)
 - TREK Grant
 - Learning and Teaching Innovation Grant (LTI)
 - International Mobility Fund (IMF)
3. How to fund your scholarly activity
4. Summary

Introduction

- **Committees** want to support your scholarly activities
- Find your first point of contact –
Committee **members are from the Schools**
- Understand the **purpose** of each fund
- Check funding **websites** for deadline, eligibility, and selection criteria
- **Follow the** (application) **instructions**
- Make sure to **get approvals and signatures** from your departments, managers, etc
- **Combine funding** from multiple sources – there is crossover between the funds

2024 Projects

1. Forest Fires Prevention using Robotics and Computer Vision
2. Connecting Research, Education, and Clinical Practice: The Role of Nursing & Allied Health Clinician Scientists
3. Understanding the Impact of the Specialty Nursing Clinical Evaluation Approach
4. Case Study: A profile of women and gender-diverse individuals in trades programs at BCIT
5. Optimizing Energy Hub Resiliency: A Holistic and Robust Approach via Advanced Digital Twin Modeling and Seamless Integration

Specific Funds

- Institute Research Fund (IRF)
- Instructional Development Grants (IEG, SIG, TREK)
- Learning and Teaching Innovation Grants (LTI)
- International Mobility Fund (IMF)

Institute Research Funds (IRF)

- **What is your research question?**
- **How will you answer it?**

3 levels of IRF funding:

Phase 0

- \$2,000 for students for initial / background work on a faculty research project
- No deadline

Phase 1

- Up to \$25,000 per year for up to 3 years.
- 1 round of funding per year.
- \$ mostly for release time, to pay students
- Collaboration, student participation important

Phase 2 & 3

- Up to \$100,000 over 3 or 2 years.
- To develop world class researchers

IRF – Key Information

- Applications go to **School Research Committees** (6 Schools, plus Services & Support), who select applications to present to Institute Research Committee.
- Quality of research plan, feasibility, strategic fit with School and BCIT are **key criteria**.
- Student participation, partnerships within BCIT, other funding support are **very desirable**.
- **Employee release** time and **student funding** are key uses of funds. Equipment is not (<10%). **Travel** to present research results is okay.
- **Reporting** is determined by School.

Instructional Development Grants

- **learning and teaching related** activities (instructional enhancement),
 - **learning and teaching related** workshops delivered to BCIT employees (special interest),
 - for participants and presenters at **learning and teaching related** conferences (TREK).
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- A lot of flexibility, range of activities, funding available.

Instructional Development Grants

Instructional Enhancement Grants (IEG)

- Grants to fund educational initiatives that enhance teaching and learning at BCIT.
- Up to \$10,000
- Next deadline: funding has been spent
- Example:
 - Holly Munn, Business Communications, SoCAS
 - Project: Instructor's Graphic Toolkit and Communications Support
 - Develop an instructional graphic toolkit that supports PTS/FTS instructors in the delivery of their course and course material. Toolkit will provide templates that are clear, professional, in-line with both BCIT preferred BOPPPS model and external branding. Will include template for PP, handouts and exams.

Instructional Development Grants

Special Interest Grants (SIG)

- Grants to fund workshops initiated at the department level for BCIT instructors (FSA and BCGEU) and staff, which will enhance teaching and learning.
- May be spent on speaker fees, travel/accommodation and/or workshop materials.
- Up to \$2,500
- Next deadline: anytime, Sep to May
- Still funding available for year until March 31, 2025

Instructional Development Grants

TREK Grants

- Grants to increase opportunities for permanent faculty members (FSA and BCGEU) to attend conferences that ***specifically enhance teaching and support student learning***.
- There is a maximum TREK Grant amount of \$1,000 for attendees, \$1,500 for poster sessions and \$2,000 for presenters per fiscal year, per individual.
- Next deadline: January 2025. Funding still available.

Learning and Teaching Innovation Grant

- Grants for applied initiatives aimed at enhancing the student experience through alignment to the pillars of the Learning and Teaching Framework (LTF).
- Projects will reflect the spirit of a polytechnic “learning-by-doing” methodology.
- Funding up to \$10,000, paid on project completion
- Call for proposals each spring; if there are funds left another call in the fall.

International Mobility Fund (IMF)

- Two rounds of applications (Spring, Fall)
- Maximum \$5000 per application
- \$10,000 each fiscal year, \$5000 each round of funding to 8 areas:
 - Six schools
 - Applied Research
 - Learning & Teaching Centre

Criteria:

- One year FTE, faculty members (FSA & BCGEU)
- Travel costs/expenses required for teaching or research undertaken internationally
- The duration of the IMF activity can not exceed six months
- Fiscal year funding

Sample Successful IMF Application

- **Spring 2024**
Ania Aibin, School of Health Sciences

To present a research paper at the prestigious IEEE International Conference on Computing, Networking and Communications in the United States. This collaborative research with students from the Northeastern University and faculty from the BCIT Computing department is aimed at developing an AI-based the framework for creating optimized nurse schedules to reduce emotional and physical fatigue of the nurses. The research project will provide an opportunity for Ania to engage in scholarly activities, foster collaboration among the post-secondary institutions and explore solutions to nursing scheduling challenges.

Other things to know (hot tips!)

- Projects involving human subjects may need **research ethics approval** – allow time
- **Feasibility of success** – realistic timeline, equipment/people/space is available, collaborators collaborating,
- **Read the instructions** (again)
- Work with your **School representatives** to ensure success
- Innovation, collaboration, student participation, strategic alignment (Department/School/BCIT) are all good.
- **Get signoffs and approvals!** Make sure everyone who needs to know, knows.

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Thank you

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