

Major Research Awards Expression of Interest (EOI)

AWARD: Robbins-Ollivier Award for Excellence in Equity

with new Spark Change funding provided by the Office of Research

Program

Despite decades of efforts to address inequities in research and academia, systemic barriers persist. The historical underrepresentation of members of racialized minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, women, and individuals from the LGBTQ2+ community in the CRCP reflects the barriers that exist in academia and Canada's research ecosystem more broadly. These barriers often exist in research programs, institutional policies, practice and culture, and in the organizational environment.

To address the persistence of these barriers, bold and potentially game-changing measures and actions that challenge the status quo and spark change are needed.

Objectives

The objectives of the annual Robbins-Ollivier equity award are to:

- fund bold and potentially game-changing projects that will challenge the status quo, spark change and take action to address persistent systemic barriers in the research ecosystem and academia;
- recognize faculty members who contribute their time, expertise and lived experience to help address inequities in their institution, the research ecosystem and academia; and
- provide opportunities for students and trainees to contribute to this important work.

The award provides a total of \$100,000 over one year to a faculty member or a team of faculty members nominated by an eligible institution, to fund the implementation of bold and potentially game-changing projects led by the nominated individual or team that:

- contributes to the understanding of the persistence of systemic barriers in the nominating institution and/or the research ecosystem and academia more broadly; and
- identifies innovative measures that could be implemented to change the status quo and break down those barriers in the long term.

Office of Research Spark Change

The Office of Research offers three awards to support projects aligned with the Robbins-Ollivier objectives and spark change at the University of Guelph.

1. The proposal that is approved to move forward to the national Robbins-Ollivier competition will be supported with \$25,000 cash (regardless of outcome at the national competition)
2. Awards of \$12,500 will be awarded to the second and third-ranked expressions of interest to implement IEDI activities.

Instructions

The EOI makes the case for why you should be nominated for this award. Your EOI will be evaluated by the University's **Robbins-Ollivier Award committee**, which makes recommendations about nominations to the Vice President (Research).

The content provided will also form the base of your nomination documents (e.g., nomination statements, institutional nomination letters etc.) should your nomination move forward to the national competition.

It is highly recommended that you contact your College Research Manager and Associate Dean of Research to discuss your interest in the award. Your College Research Manager can also provide support in completing the EOI.

Please submit the EOI + team CVs to ailsakay@uoguelph.ca and your College Research Manager by the internal deadline.

EOI Components

A. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: 2 pages

The project description must include:

- a detailed description of the proposed project that shows how it is bold and potentially game-changing;
- the expected impacts/outcomes, in terms of changing the status quo and sparking change towards a more equitable institution and/or research or academic ecosystem;
- who will be involved in helping implement the project (e.g., faculty, students, administrators) and what their specific roles will be;
- how engagement with individuals from underrepresented groups (racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, women, individuals from the LGBTQ2+ communities) will be conducted to help inform the work; and
- how best practices in equity, including intersectionality, will be applied within the project.

See detailed selection criteria at [Robbins-Ollivier Award for Excellence in Equity: 2022, Inaugural Competition \(chairs-chaire.gc.ca\)](https://chairs-chaire.gc.ca)

B. DESCRIPTION OF LEADERSHIP (.5 pgs/team member)

- a summary of each of the nominees' overall contributions to and leadership in addressing inequities in their institution and/or the research ecosystem and academia more broadly, [in alignment with the selection criteria](#).

C. BUDGET

The Robbins-Ollivier Award provides \$100,000 of funding for a 1-year project. The VPR will provide an additional \$25K to support the internally top-ranked proposal and \$12,500 each for proposals internally ranked second and third. **Please provide a budget for a total cost of \$125,000.** For eligible expenses, see [Robbins-Ollivier Award for Excellence in Equity: 2022, Inaugural Competition \(chairs-chaire.gc.ca\)](https://chairs-chaire.gc.ca)