

## GRANT PROGRAM

### 1. What is the Wellness@Work Grant Program?

The Wellness@Work Grant Program encourages faculty and staff across all campuses and research stations at the University of Guelph, including Guelph–Humber, to help promote wellness in their workplace through the implementation of a tailored health-promoting program, approach, or idea in their workplace.

### 2. How can I apply for a grant?

The application form is a fillable Qualtrics form that is to be submitted digitally. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on May 14, 2026.

### 3. How much money can I apply for?

Departments/groups can apply for a seed grant (up to a maximum of \$3000, one time) for their initiative. The number of grants available will be dependent on the number of applications received and the amount distributed for each successful grant.

All expenses must first be approved during the evaluation process. The application form includes maximum amounts for some approved costs. Successful applicants must submit their expenses for reimbursement and will only receive the pre-approved amount they spend.

#### **Funding areas with maximum funding allocating include:**

- Arboretum Activity/Workshop (\$500)
- Art and Create Expression (\$500)
- Bike Share (\$1000)
- Community Garden (\$2000)
- Cross-Campus Collaboration (\$3000)
- Employee Wellness Retreat (\$3000)
- Inclusive Wellbeing (\$3000)
- Learning and Development Training (\$2000)
- Mental Health Training (\$3000)
- Nutrition and Healthy Eating (\$2500)
- Team Health Challenge (\$2500)
- Yoga or Fitness Classes (\$1000)
- Innovative New Idea (\$3000)

### 4. How does the Guelph–Humber funding stream work?

For the 2026–2027 Wellness@Work Grant application period, the University of Guelph–Humber (Guelph–Humber) has allocated funds for grant initiatives that are planned and implemented at Guelph–Humber’s campus in Toronto. With this funding, Wellness@Work will have a specific stream of the grant program available to those who work at Guelph–

Humber and are submitting a grant application. Applicants will be subject to the same application and evaluation process as the rest of the grant program. When applicants are completing their grant application and select "University of Guelph–Humber" as the location, they will automatically be put into the Guelph–Humber stream of funding for the Wellness@Work Grant Program. There will be a separate information session taking place at [noon on April 16, 2026](#) for those applying for Guelph–Humber grant initiatives.

### **5. What are the criteria for applying?**

Submissions must fit within one or more of the following three elements of the Wellness@Work Initiative:

- physical well-being;
- psychological well-being; and/or
- social well-being

The key areas that will be assessed and scored for each application are:

- Program or initiative description
- Program alignment with Wellness@Work Initiative elements (physical/psychological/social well-being). University of Guelph–Humber applications will look for alignment with the advancement of wellness within the Guelph–Humber community.
- Needs assessment
- Health benefits
- Evaluation of outcomes
- Sustainability of initiative
- Innovation and Uniqueness
- Proposed budget

### **6. What types of costs will be approved?**

Successful grant recipients will be notified of their approved expenses at the start of the program. Although not an extensive list, some approved costs may include:

- \*Prizes, Incentives or Trophies (not to exceed \$400)
- Food and catering (not to exceed \$850)
- Promotional materials (not to exceed \$100)
- Small equipment purchases that will remain within the department/group (not to exceed \$400)
  - o Includes pedometers (excludes fitbits/smartwatches, etc.)
- Room rental fees
- Instructor, speaker or facilitator fees
- Workshop costs
- Kick off or wrap up event

\* Gift cards are considered a taxable benefit and must be reported to Human Resources.

### 7. What types of costs are not going to be approved?

Costs that will **not** be approved for a Wellness@Work grant include and are not limited to:

- Operational expenses
- Hiring of faculty/staff/student to coordinate or support the program
- Primary research costs
- Renovations, furniture, artwork or special equipment purchases.
- The purchase of stereo or electronic equipment
- The purchase of fitbits/smartwatches
- Individual monetary reimbursements for gym memberships/fitness classes/assessments
- Charitable donations in either an employee's name or the department/group's name
- Alcohol or any illicit substances

### 8. When is the application deadline?

All applications are due by 5pm on May 14, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted nor reviewed.

### 9. How can I learn more?

Please review the application form for further details on the [Grant Program Webpage](#).

If you have a Wellness@Work Champion in your department/group, feel free to reach out to them to discuss your idea or questions.

One virtual information session will be held for participants to attend to learn more and ask questions.

- [April 14, 2026, 1:30pm – 2:30pm](#) for all UofG (proposed initiatives for Guelph Campus, Ridgeway, and Research station)
- [April 16, 2026, 12:00pm–1:00pm](#) for University of Guelph–Humber employees

You may contact Wellness@Work Advisor, Isidora Nežić via email at [nezici@uoguelph.ca](mailto:nezici@uoguelph.ca) if you need additional support or clarification with the grant application.

For Guelph–Humber related questions, please contact Sara Rumsey, Manager of Planning and Strategic Initiatives at [sara.rumsey@guelphhumber.ca](mailto:sara.rumsey@guelphhumber.ca)

## WELLNESS@WORK

### 1. What is Wellness@Work?

In 2017, the Wellness@Work initiative was launched at the University of Guelph with a vision for a thriving workforce, organization and community. The initiative is an opportunity to comprehensively understand the University of Guelph's existing support and assistance to employees, to strengthen our supports, and to implement new initiatives to create a truly healthy workplace across all campuses and research stations. Our commitment is to the "whole" person, not just as an employer, but as a responsible workplace.

**Mission:** Supporting the well-being of the whole person for all University of Guelph staff and faculty through a comprehensive, integrated, evidence-informed workplace health promotion<sup>1</sup> strategy.

**Vision:** A thriving workforce, organization, and community.

### 2. What framework is used for the Wellness@Work initiative?

The University supports the World Health Organization's definition of health that states that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the

absence of disease or infirmity." The University's customized program for faculty and staff is based the three interconnected elements of health:

- Physical Well-being
- Psychological Well-being
- Social Well-being



Wellness@Work focuses on supporting University employee's health and well-being on an individual, interpersonal, and institutional level collaborating where possible across the organization to establish collective impact and systemic improvement.

<sup>1</sup> Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and its determinants and thereby improve their health. It requires a positive, proactive approach, moving "beyond a focus on individual behaviour towards a wide range of social and environmental interventions."

### **3. Is there a policy to support this work?**

A Healthy Workplace Policy was developed that applies to all faculty and staff at the University of Guelph, including Guelph-Humber, Ridgetown, research stations, and approved University field sites.

The University of Guelph encourages all employees to participate in Wellness@Work programming and initiatives and welcomes staff and faculty feedback to guide the Healthy Workplace Plan and programming.

Read the full policy: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/wellnessatwork/about/healthy-workplace-policy>

### **4. How does Wellness@Work link to the University's strategic framework?**

The initiative has a set of four guiding principles that provide a foundation for the work and link to the University of Guelph's strategic framework Principle 5: Support faculty and staff success.

Wellness@Work's Guiding Principles:

#### **I. The Whole Person.**

The University of Guelph comprehensively supports and prioritizes the well-being of the whole person.

#### **II. Shared Responsibility.**

The University of Guelph and all employees share responsibility for supporting the well-being of the whole person and providing a vibrant workplace that is inclusive and respectful, where everyone is valued.

#### **III. Appreciation & Recognition.**

All areas of the University of Guelph appreciate and recognize the invaluable strengths, unique capabilities, knowledge, and passions of faculty and staff, which they carry into their work and the University community.

#### **IV. Carefulness & Person-Centered.**

The University of Guelph executes carefulness and diligence in developing and implementing evidence-based healthy workplace plans that are representative of the experiences and needs of faculty and staff.

### **5. What is the Okanagan Charter?**

**Vision:** *Health promoting universities and colleges transform the health and sustainability of our current and future societies, strengthen communities and contribute to the wellbeing of people, places and the planet.*

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the University of Guelph formally adopted the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges.

The international Charter was an outcome of the 2015 International Conference on Health Promoting Universities and Colleges held at UBC's Okanagan campus in Kelowna, BC and co-hosted by Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses. The Charter development process engaged researchers, practitioners, administrators, students and policy makers from 45 countries. At the Conference, with the support of a writing team, 380 delegates critiqued and refined the Charter in a design lab and development sessions.

The Charter has two calls to action:

1. Embed health into all aspects of campus culture, across the administration, the academic mandate and operations.
2. Lead health promotion action and collaboration locally and globally.

### **6. Who are Wellness@Work Champions?**

The Wellness@Work Champions program was launched in September 2017, with an open recruitment for any faculty or staff who were interested in being involved. Currently, the Champions program has expanded to include over 90 employees at the University, who are eager to help create a healthy work environment for all.

Champions come from a variety of different departments and locations and receive regular communications from the Wellness@Work Advisor. They actively promote upcoming events and programs, distribute resources and information, encourage colleagues to participate or share their feedback, and are enthusiastic ambassadors for Wellness@Work.

### **7. Who is organizing regular wellness events that I've heard about?**

The Wellness@Work Programming Committee, a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee, helps to plan, implement and evaluate regular wellness activities and events for faculty and staff. If you have any idea to share, feel free to send it along to [wellnessatwork@uoguelph.ca](mailto:wellnessatwork@uoguelph.ca).

### **8. What programs, events and resources are available for me?**

View the Wellness@Work website for a full list of programs, upcoming events and relevant resources for faculty and staff: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/wellnessatwork/>. The website links to information from Learning and Development, Occupational Health and Wellness, Athletics Fitness and Recreation and more for one convenient spot to find important wellness information.