



Innovation Fund – Strategic Grants – Letter of Intent Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. *Who is eligible for these awards?*
 - a. The Principal or Co-Principal applicant has a full time appointment at SickKids, UHN, or UofT (including any UofT affiliated academic health sciences centre, hospital or research centre.)
NB: This allows for a Co-Principal applicant to be from outside the UofT system.
 - b. The proposed project involves collaboration with at least 2 of 3 Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research partner organizations: SickKids, UHN, UofT.
 - c. Team members may include national or international collaborators, including national and / or international Co-Principal applicants – see 1a above.
 - d. An individual may be Principal applicant or Co-Principal applicant on only one LOI; they may also be a co-applicant on other LOIs for this competition.
2. *Is there a limit to the number of principal applicants allowed on one LOI/application?*

There is no limit on the number of principal applicants allowed on one LOI/application. For successful applications, funds will be provided to one principal applicant only. Applications will need to identify the “lead” principal applicant, who must hold a full-time appointment at one of the Centre’s partner organizations (SickKids, UHN, UofT).
3. *Do I require collaborators from all three Ted Rogers Centre partners (ie SickKids, UHN, UofT)?*

No. Projects are to involve collaboration with at least 2 of the 3 Ted Rogers partners. The UofT partner can be from across the UofT system including TBEP, TAHSN centres etc.
4. *Do I need to define a specific innovation project as part of my LOI/application?*

Yes, your project should address and result in a specific innovation. For example, creation of a network to conduct projects or research would be unlikely to be deemed sufficient.
5. *Is matching funding required, and if so, are there specific guidelines with regards to matching funding?*

Matching funding is not required, (ie it is not a prescribed necessity), but it is a weighted evaluation criteria. If your proposal includes matching funding, the “match” must be *bona fide*, ie actual resources dedicated to the proposed project and relevant to the proposed project and vice versa (the proposed innovation is of relevance/importance to the program providing matching funds).

6. *Our proposal includes matching funding. Is matching funding recorded in section I.1 * This project has received funding from another source or section IV.3 of the LOI form?*
For matching funding, complete section 1.4 (pg 1) and section IV.3 (pg 8).
Section I.1, last question (*This project has received funding from another source Yes/No; [pg 1]), was intended to help identify overlapping funding.
7. *As Principal applicant, do I need to include my CV?*
Yes, please include your CIHR Common CV (last 5 years only) or NIH biosketch (last 5 years only) with your LOI.
8. *Are co-applicants' CV's required?*
Yes, please include a CIHR Common CV (last 5 years only) or NIH biosketch (last 5 years only) for each co-applicant.
9. *Are letters of support required or permitted?*
These are required at the full application stage to demonstrate matching funds commitments and collaborative support. They are optional at the LOI stage.
10. *My proposed project, which aligns with the identified topic areas, is currently funded, but the funding is inadequate/expiring. Is this project eligible?*
Yes. Existing funding must be detailed. Overlap with existing support will be a factor considered in the review process. Please note that other peer-reviewed funding (e.g. Tri-council funding) cannot be shown as matching dollars. Existing Ted Rogers Centre funding or other existing non-peer reviewed funding can be shown as matching.
11. *As a Principal Applicant I do not have an appointment at UofT, but at another university. My collaborators do have appointments at UofT, would I be eligible?*
You are eligible to be a Co-Principal applicant—you will require a Co-Principal applicant from within the UofT system. You are also welcome to be a co-applicant or a collaborator.
12. *How many grants will be provided?*
The number of awards will depend on the quality of submissions received. Funding of up to 2 strategic grants (\$1 million each) is anticipated for this competition.
13. *Who will review the LOIs and applications?*
Both stages (LOIs and applications) will be reviewed and adjudicated by an external (i.e. outside UofT) panel of investigators constituted to ensure adequate expertise for the full breadth of submissions received.
14. *Are additional attachments or materials, apart from that identified in the LOI allowed?*
No. You are welcome to attach the optional pages; 1 page each for i) figures/data; ii) project citation list; iii) matching funds description; matching funds commitment letter(s) appended—see LOI application section IV.1-3, pages 6-8.

15. How will I know my LOI was approved and I can apply for the grant?

All applicants who submit an LOI will be notified as to whether their project has been selected to move forward to the full application stage. Only selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

16. The eligibility criteria indicate 1 LOI per Principal Applicant. How many LOIs can I submit?

A Principal or Co-Principal applicant may submit only one (1) LOI for this strategic grant competition (based on eligibility criteria). However, this applicant can be a co-applicant (but not co-principal applicant) or collaborator on other LOIs.

17. The LOI application form provides space for 1 Principal applicant. Our project has 2 Co-Principal applicants.

You can record a Co-Principal applicant in the space provided for co-applicants. Please ensure that you note them as a Co-Principal applicant.

18. Who can I contact to discuss my proposal?

Dr. Mansoor Husain, Executive Director, Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research can be contacted for guidance with potential proposals. Linda Donovan, Manager, Planning & Operations can be contacted for operational questions.