The JELF program is designed to help universities attract and retain the very best of today and tomorrow’s researchers at a time of intense international competition. To this end, the JELF program enables a select number of an institution’s excellent researchers to undertake leading-edge research by providing them with the foundational research infrastructure required to be or become leaders in their field. In turn, this enables institutions to remain internationally competitive in areas of research and technology development, aligned with their strategic priorities. The fund also offers institutions the opportunity to create competitive research support packages in the form of infrastructure and a portion of the operating and maintenance costs, coupled with direct research costs from partner organizations.

In accordance with University policy, the JELF programs will be directed towards supporting the following priorities:

1. The recruitment of leading research faculty to undertake cutting-edge research in areas identified as priorities by the Faculties and the University's Strategic Research Plan.

2. Enhancement of research infrastructure to retain researchers recognized in international leaders in priority areas of research as identified by the Faculties and the University’s Strategic Research Plan. It will be up to the applicant's Dean and/or Associate Dean Research to make the case to the Core Planning Group that retention is a legitimate issue.

**JELF APPLICATION STREAMS**

**JELF – Unaffiliated**

The JELF (unaffiliated) stream allows institutions to provide individuals or groups of researchers (up to three) with research infrastructure necessary to conduct their research program. The JELF application must be centered on the research needs of one to three researchers but the sharing of infrastructure is encouraged provided that the candidate(s) has (have) sufficient access to carry out the proposed research program.

In order to maximize the impact of the JELF as a key strategic tool to build and enhance research capacity, JELF guidelines have been broadened to include the acquisition, the upgrading or the replacement of aging workhorses. Note that the research must be innovative and leading-edge even if the instrumentation requested is basic.

**JELF – Partnerships**

A JELF application can also be coupled with the Canada Research Chairs program, the Canada Excellence Research Chairs program, the NSERC Industrial Research Chairs program, and SSHRC Insight Grants and Partnership Grants programs.
WESTERN JELF GUIDELINES

Applications made to the CFI are institutional infrastructure requests and undergo an internal review and approval process through Western’s Core Planning Group. Candidates must consult with their Associate Dean, Research (or equivalent) prior to preparing an application.

In addition to the criteria outlined in the CFI's program guidelines, to be eligible for the JELF or JELF-Partnership streams, applicants must meet the following requirements.

The applicant shall:

- Be recognized as a leader in their field or, for early career researchers, show promise of becoming a research leader, as demonstrated through training and experience, impact of research, and creativity.
- Currently hold, or have held in the recent past, peer reviewed external funding.

The applicant's research shall:

- Be in an area of strategic importance to Western as identified in the Strategic Research Plan or be in an emerging priority area
- Be innovative
- Be of benefit to Canada

The requested infrastructure shall:

- Be essential to the innovative research program of the applicant
- Significantly enhance the HQP training environment at Western
- Be located in a core facility where appropriate
- Be available to other qualified researchers at Western as appropriate

JELF and JELF-Partnership applications should not normally exceed a CFI request of $200,000 (total eligible cost of $500,000). Applications of exceptional merit which exceed this limit may be considered with the approval of the applicant’s Associate Dean, Research and the Vice-President, Research.

In accordance with JELF guidelines, proposals may be to request infrastructure to support a single researcher or a small group of researchers, or may be for critical infrastructure that serves larger groups of researchers, which includes upgrading or replacement of “workhorse” equipment. The research infrastructure request should be centred on the research needs of one to three researchers, and the research must be innovative and leading edge even if the instrumentation requested is basic.

If the first submission to any of the JELF programs is unsuccessful, applicants will be allowed one re-submission. If unsuccessful after the second attempt, the applicant will be unable to submit for a third time.

These JELF Guidelines will be reviewed by the Core Planning Group every two years, or as deemed necessary.
CFI JELF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The CFI evaluates JELF proposals against six criteria which define the fund’s mandate.

1. Research or Technology Development

*Criterion standard:* The proposed research or technology development is of high quality and originality, and meets international standards. It will create knowledge or develop technology leading to innovation.

2. Researcher(s)

*Criterion standard:* Compared to researchers at the same stage in their career, the candidate(s) demonstrate(s) excellence and leadership. The candidate(s) has/have the necessary expertise and relevant collaborations in place to successfully conduct the research or technology development program proposed.

3. Need for the infrastructure and budget justification

*Criterion standard:* The infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research or technology development program. In cases where the infrastructure will not be fully used by the candidate(s), the institution has developed plans to maximize the utilization within and/or outside the institution.

4. Training of highly qualified personnel (HQP)

*Criterion standard:* The infrastructure requested will create or enrich an environment promoting the attraction of high-quality trainees. This environment will help impart new high-level skills to highly qualified personnel and adequately prepare them for research and other careers.

5. Benefits to Canadians

*Criterion standard:* The research or technology development program has the potential to lead to tangible benefits for society, health, the economy and/or the environment. There are measures in place to transfer the research results and outputs of the technology development to potential end users in a timely manner.

6. Institutional commitment and sustainability

*Criterion standard:* The institution has made, and will continue to make, tangible and significant commitments in support of this area of strategic priority leading to the attraction and/or retention of key personnel. The proposed infrastructure will be effectively operated and maintained for its useful life.