Ontario Research Fund - Research Excellence
Round 9 • 2017

The Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence (ORF-RE) program provides research institutions with funding to help support the operational costs of large-scale transformative research of strategic value to the province.

Application Timeline & Important Dates

- May 2, 2017: Notice of Intent Deadline (mandatory for participation in the full application)
- September 25, 2017: Full Application Deadline

Internal deadlines for review and letters of support will be available after the NOI deadline.

Eligibility

Eligible institutions include: universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions.

Application Streams

ORF-RE Round 9 consists of three application streams. Institutions must select one stream for each Notice of Intent (NOI) and application form. Applications can only be submitted to one stream. The three application streams are:

1. **General**: Open to all disciplines

2. **Disruptive technologies** in the clean technology sector

   The term ‘cleantech,’ for the purposes of this funding round, is defined as any process, product, or service that reduces environmental impacts through:

   - environmental protection activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate pollution or any other degradation of the environment;
   - resource management activities that result in a more efficient use of natural resources, thus safeguarding against their depletion; or
   - the use of goods that have been modified or adapted to be significantly less energy or resource intensive than the industry standard.

   ‘Disruptive technologies,’ for the purposes of this round, are those technologies that have the potential to transform or disrupt current societal behaviour and market by displacing it with a new emerging technology. Proposals submitted to the Disruptive Technologies stream, if relevant, should address any linkages between the proposed research and Ontario’s Climate Change Action Plan.

3. **Social sciences, arts and humanities (SSAH)**

   Open to all proposals in the arts, social sciences, and humanities. The Ministry encourages applicants to the SSAH stream to, where applicable, address the ethical, environmental, economic, legal and/or social implications of effectively integrating and adapting disruptive technologies, as defined in the program guidelines. For example: artificial intelligence and advanced software, bioengineering and genomics, advanced computing and electronics (including quantum), Internet of Things and network connectivity, and renewable resources and energy storage.
Funding amount

ORF-RE provides up to 1/3 of the total value of a project, with an additional 1/3 coming from private sector partners and the final 1/3 from the institution. The Ministry may consider a "blended" funding formula in cases where the institution and its private sector partners, in combination, make up 2/3 of the required funding. This funding flexibility would be provided based on the opportunity for success and the quality of the partnership between the applicants and their private sector (other) partners and should be clearly outlined on the application.

The minimum and maximum amounts that can be requested from ORF (inclusive of both direct projects costs and overhead) by stream are:

- General: $1 million minimum - $4 million maximum (direct costs + overhead)
- Disruptive Technologies: $1 million minimum - $4 million maximum (direct costs + overhead)
- Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities: $200,000 minimum - $1 million maximum (direct costs + overhead)

Partner contributions received on or after September 25, 2016 may be eligible, however funds may not be spent before the project start date (earliest possible March 14, 2017). If you have questions regarding the potential eligibility of contributions or partners, please contact Research Development.

Overhead/Indirect Costs

For Round 9 of the ORF-RE competition, the following rates for indirect costs (overhead) will apply for Western projects:

**Private sector partners: 25% overhead**

Example:
$200,000 cash contribution + 25% overhead = $250,000 total contribution needed

**ORF request: 40% overhead**

Example:
$1,000,000 direct costs for research + 40% overhead = $1,400,000 total request

Western Contacts

For questions regarding the ORF-RE program, please contact:

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Additional Information

For more information, please visit:

Research Western: [http://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/external/orf_re.html](http://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/external/orf_re.html)

Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science: [https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-research-fund-research-excellence](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-research-fund-research-excellence)