Ministry of Research, Innovation & Science
Early Researcher Awards – Round 14

The Early Researcher Awards program helps promising, recently-appointed Ontario researchers build their research teams. Each award provides $100,000 and must be matched by an additional $50,000 from the researcher’s institution or a partner organization.

Funds can be used for salaries, benefits, and essential and reasonable travel for undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research assistants/associates, and technicians carrying out the proposed research project. Funds cannot be used for supplied, equipment, or facility operation.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 29, 2018</td>
<td>Notices of Intent (NOIs) &amp; ROLA proposal due to RD&amp;S Submit to <a href="mailto:amartin3@uwo.ca">amartin3@uwo.ca</a></td>
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<td>Friday, June 1, 2018</td>
<td>Submission of NOIs to MRIS (mandatory) by institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 26, 2018</td>
<td>First draft of proposal submitted to RD&amp;S (for those seeking peer review)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 10, 2018</td>
<td>Revised draft of proposal submitted to RD&amp;S for peer review; first draft submitted if not seeking peer review</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 24, 2018</td>
<td>Peer reviewer comments returned to applicants</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 31, 2018</td>
<td>Reference letters, ROLA proposal, and final application due to RD&amp;S Submit to <a href="mailto:amartin3@uwo.ca">amartin3@uwo.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 7, 2018</td>
<td>Submission of applications to MRIS by institution at 1 p.m.</td>
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**ELIGIBILITY**

- First terminal degree (PhD, MD, DVM) Awarded on or after July 1, 2008**
- First independent academic appointment* Beginning on or after July 1, 2013**

*The first independent academic appointment is generally defined as a position where a researcher is capable of independently publishing, supervising, and applying for funding, but can include appointments outside of academia (e.g. in industry) where the applicant is conducting independent research.

**MRIS will consider eligible interruptions including required training (e.g. residency or medical fellowships) or parental leave, as long as these are clearly detailed in the application form and the specific dates provided. Research associate positions and postdoctoral fellowships are not considered eligible interruptions.

If you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact RD&S.
APPLICATION SECTIONS

Matching letter
Original, signed form from institution and/or partner organization confirming matching support of $50,000

Application form
Completed by PI and signed by the institution

Appendix A: Budget table
Must be completed and approved by faculty research officers/ADRs

Appendix B: Proposed research
Maximum 5 pages, excluding references

Appendix C: CV
Use CV following headings in ERA guidelines

Letters of reference (3)
Must include two arm's length referees and one non-arm’s length referee (e.g. former supervisor, collaborator)

APPLICATION RESOURCES

Peer review:
RD&S will facilitate optional internal peer review from Western faculty who have served on ERA review panels. In order to participate in the peer review, applicants must submit their first application draft by June 26, and a revised draft by July 10.

RD&S support:
RD&S will provide detailed feedback on application content, CVs, etc. and can also work with your referees to develop letters of support.

Sample application:
RD&S will provide a previous, successful ERA application on request.

Resources:
An application guide, presentation slides, referee guidelines, and other resources are available on Research Development’s ERA site: http://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/external/ERA%20Process.html

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

By Tuesday, July 31, submit to RD&S:
- Completed ROLA proposal
- Electronic copy of the full application package by email to amartin3@uwo.ca
- Three original letters of reference (sent to RD&S by referees)

RD&S will:
- Review application for completeness
- Assemble package & prepare hard copy of application
- Obtain institutional signature
- Submit application to MRIS prior to deadline (shipping date: 1 p.m., August 7)

WESTERN ERA CONTACTS

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