

New International Research Networks Award 2018 Report

AWARD OVERVIEW

The New International Research Networks (NIRN) award aims to promote new collaborations between researchers from Western and their international colleagues. In an era of specialized knowledge and emerging technologies, international research collaboration can play a fundamental role. The primary goal of the NIRN program is to facilitate global research networks to achieve this high level of discovery and knowledge exchange.

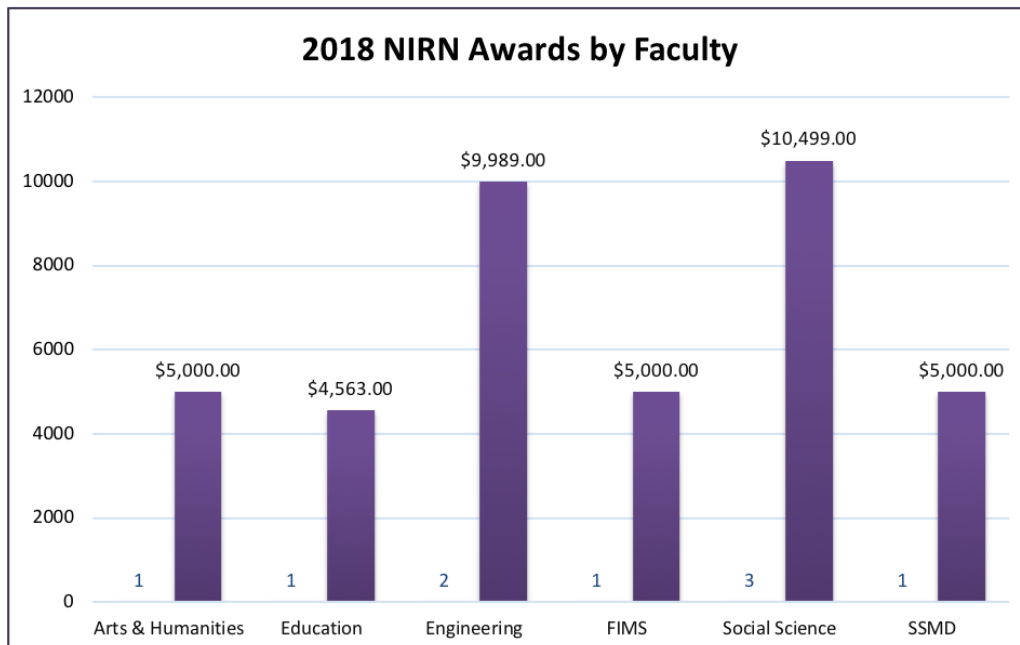
Initiated in 2017 by the Office of the Vice-President (Research), the NIRN award provides up to \$5,000 to Western Researchers for establishing new international collaborations. The award is intended to support the logistical costs incurred during the initial process of setting up a collaborative and international research project (e.g., travel, communications, small scale exploratory research, and knowledge exchange).

AWARDED RESEARCH FUNDING

The Spring 2018 NIRN competition funded **9 international research collaborations**, across a range of disciplines and locations around the world. Nineteen applications were submitted to the 2018 program with a total funding request of \$89,000. The total funding awarded from the program was \$40,051, and the average award amount was \$4,450. As a comparison, in the 2017 competition, 5 grants were awarded and the total funding was \$23,245.

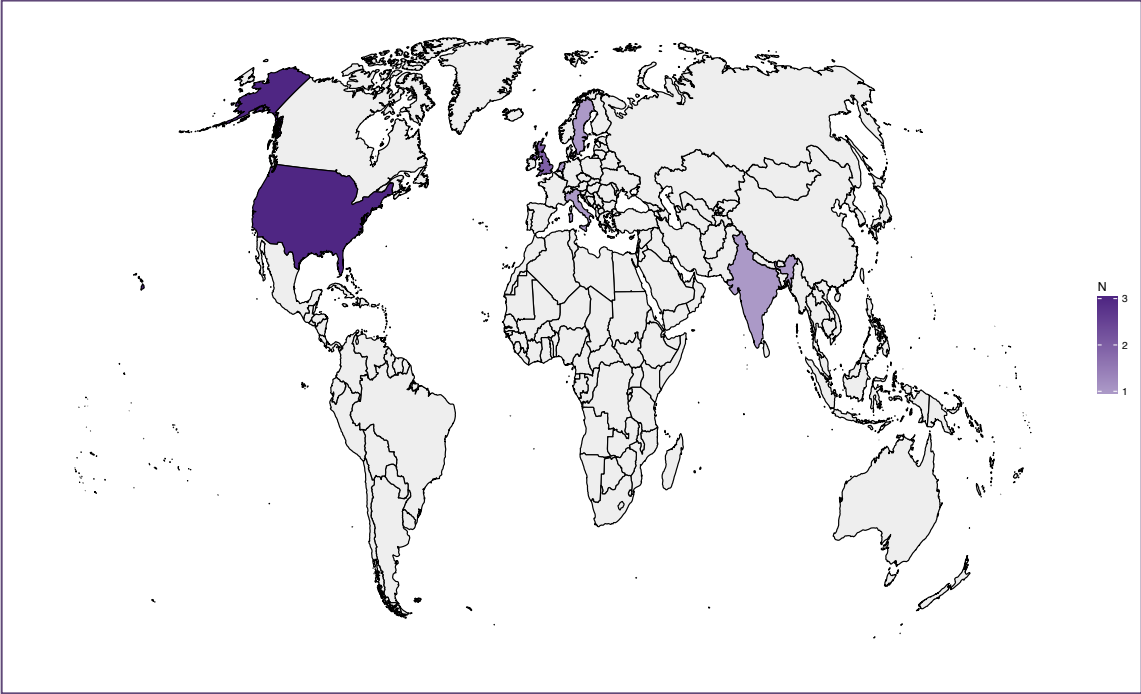
9 awards = \$40,051

NIRN awards were awarded to Western researchers in the following disciplines: Geography (1), Engineering (2), Sociology (1), FIMS (1), Education (1), Psychology (1), Medicine/Physiology-Pharmacology (1), English (1).



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS SUMMARY

The 2018 new international research networks are distributed across the following countries and organizations:



Country	Collaborator	Research Area
England	University of Greenwich	Sociology
	Winchester University, Faculty of Education, Health and Social Care, Early Years Research Centre	Education
India	University of Pondicherry	Literature
Italy	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)	Engineering
Netherlands	Dutch Institute for Fundamental Energy Research (DIFFER)	Engineering
Sweden	Stockholm Environment Institute	Geography
USA	University of California Irvine	Information & Media Studies
	University of Connecticut	Psychology
	University of Michigan	Medicine

SUMMARY OF AWARDED PROJECTS

Carol Hunsberger, Faculty of Social Science (Geography)

Project title: *Everyday politics of resource development: Regulation, resistance and rights in Canada and Sweden (\$2,879).*

International collaborator: Dr. Rasmus Kløcker Larsen, Stockholm Environment Institute (Sweden)

Research area: *Geography, environment, development and human rights*

Jin Jiang, Faculty of Engineering (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Project title: *Control and instrumentation systems of nuclear power plants and microgrids with renewable resources-based power generation (\$4,989).*

International collaborator: Dr. Mauro Cappelli, ENEA (Italy)

Research area: *Control and instrumentation systems of nuclear power plants and microgrids with renewable resources-based power generation.*

Dale Ballucci, Faculty of Social Science (Sociology)

Project title: *The policing of within-borders human trafficking: A comparative approach (\$5,000).*

International collaborator: Dr. Darrick Jolliffe, University of Greenwich (England)

Research area: Criminology, sociology, human trafficking

Matthew Stahl, Faculty of Information and Media Studies

Project title: *Occupational music-making, remuneration, and social identity: Music performance, law, and recording contracts, 1900-2000 (\$5,000).*

International collaborator: Dr. Olufunmilayo Arewa, University of California, Irvine (USA)

Research area: Law, accounting, intellectual property, music

Kathy Hibbert, Faculty of Education

Project title: *Exploring early years curricula in theory and practice (\$4,563).*

International collaborator: Dr. Amanda Norman, Winchester University (England)

Research area: *Early childhood curriculum*

Ken McRae, Faculty of Social Science (Psychology)

Project title: *Unifying phonology and semantics in spoken word recognition: A network science approach (\$2,620).*

International collaborator: Dr. James Magnuson, University of Connecticut (USA)

Research area: *Language comprehension and understanding spoken words*

Tom Appleton, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry (Medicine/Physiology-Pharmacology)

Project title: *Non-invasive joint injury models to study integration of regenerative and inflammatory mechanisms in osteoarthritis: A Western-UMich collaboration (\$5,000).*

International collaborator: Dr. Tristan Maerz, University of Michigan (USA)

Research area: *Biomedical engineering, regenerative medicine and orthopedics.*

**Nandi Bhatia, Faculty of Arts & Humanities
(English)**

Project title: *Feminist and gendered fictions:
Cross-fertilizations between Canada and
India (\$5,000).*

International collaborator: Dr. H. Kalpana,
University of Pondicherry (India)

Research area: Women's literature,
Canadian studies, and Indian literature

**Eric Johlin, Faculty of Engineering
(Mechanical & Materials)**

Project title: *Evolutionary optimization of
photocatalytic structures (\$5,000).*

International collaborator: Dr. Andrea Baldi,
DIFFER (Netherlands)

Research area: Plasmonics, catalysis,
nanophotonic optimization

Report prepared by:
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