

2024-25 RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

Expenditure Category	Output	Performance Objectives	Indicator	Target Outcome	Reported Outcome
Research facilities	Projected: 2.1 % of RSF grant invested to support the maintenance of research facilities.	Support remote research facilities.	Maintain access to the facility.	Maintain or increase the number of researchers accessing the facility in 2024/25 as compared to 2023/24	Actual: 11.0% of the RSF invested. Achieved: Supported the operations of the Westcastle Field Station. 17 researchers used the facility, staying a total of 327 nights. Liquid nitrogen support maintained for researchers in the Science Commons facility, including the NMR facility and X-ray machine. Researchers used 30,053 litres of liquid nitrogen.
		Provide research operating equipment support by funding a portion of the liquid nitrogen materials and supplies cost.	Number of researchers who benefit from the purchase of liquid nitrogen used to support research equipment	Maintain or increase the volume of liquid nitrogen used to support research activities.	
Research Resources	Projected: 12.2% of RSF grant invested to support electronic databases in support of research activities.	Provide access to research resources for faculty and staff such as databases and electronic journals.	Provide access to Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN).	Maintain access to the CRKN.	Actual: 3.6% of the RSF invested. Achieved: CRKN subscription maintained.
Management and administration of the institution's research enterprise	Projected: 41.0% of RSF grant invested in administrative supports for uLethbridge's research community.	Provide research administrative support for pre- and post-award activities.	Transition of paper-based research administration processes to electronic platforms.	Implement a research management system. Maintain or increase the number of grant applications submitted in 2024/25 as compared to 2023/24.	Achieved: 32.2% of the RSF invested. Achieved: uLethbridge has contracted an external vendor to implement a research management system. Staff in the Office of Research and Innovation Services (ORIS), Information Technology, and Financial Services are working with the vendor to onboard the platform.

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					It is anticipated to be complete in fall 2025. The number of grant applications increased 18% (202 applications in 2024/25 v. 171 applications in 2023/24).
Regulatory requirements and accreditation	Projected: 40.3% of RSF grant invested to maintain compliance with regulatory standards.	Continued vigilance and oversight of regulatory requirements.	Provide animal husbandry support in the aquatic and rodent research facilities.	Maintain or increase the number of research ethics protocols, annual reviews, and amendments processed in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24. Maintain CCAC accreditation and Certificate of Good Animal Practice Maintain or increase the number of researchers and students completing the animal research ethics training courses and/or students trained in hand-on animal handling.	Actual: 49.9% of the RSF invested. Achieved: 527 ethics approvals (141 animal, 386 human participant). This includes new protocols, renewals, and amendments. Maintained compliance with the following regulatory standards: • CCAC Good Animal Practice Certificate • Continued good standing with Controlled Goods Program and PHAC pathogens and toxins license. • Institutional Cannabis License renewed. Facilitated animal care training: • 57 people completed the University's animal research ethics course. • 40 general ethics information sessions were delivered. Additionally, the Animal Care Services staff supported the training needs of researchers using the vivarium and aquatic

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					research facility (ARF). Courses offered included: • Vivarium orientation (52 people) • ARF orientation (11 people) • Rat (31 people) and mouse (13 people) handling • Bio-methodology (20 people) • Surgical & Post-op care assistant (5 people) • Surgery (2 people) • Euthanasia/perfusion safety training (12 people). • Growth chamber / autoclave training (9 people)
Intellectual Property	Projected: 4.4% of RSF grant invested to increase research partnerships and commercialization activities.	Continued support by Office of Research and Innovation Services for administration of agreements and partnerships with industry and support for the creation of spin-off companies.	Improved services and opportunities offered to researchers to build partnerships with external stakeholders	Increase or maintain research collaborations and partnerships with industry. Development of templates and other supports to facilitate commercialization activities.	Actual: 3.3% of the RSF invested. Achieved: Sponsored research revenue from business/industry remained relatively consistent (\$1,677,000 in FY2024/25 v. \$1,734,000 in FY2023/24). Developed templates to standardize agreements for nondisclosure, interinstitutional partnerships, and fee-for-service (research services).

RESEARCH SECURITY

Project title	Output	Performance Objectives	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Reported Outcome
Development of best practices for risk mitigation in international research partnerships	Projected: 100% of RSF Research Security grant invested to develop processes and guidelines to mitigate risk.	Assist in meeting risk assessment requirements.	Aid in identifying, assessing, and mitigating research security risks.	Defined risk assessment process. Development of templates to facilitate the risk assessment. Build capacity through engagement with other post-secondary institutions.	Actual: 100% of the RSF invested. Achieved: Hired a consultant to review ULeithbridge research security practices. The process improvement recommendations included a procedure for visiting researchers, which ORIS is now developing in collaborations with Faculty/Schools, and relevant administrative units. Subscribed to a risk analytics platform to help identify risks. It enables the University to conduct due diligence on collaborators and funding sources, uncover hidden networks, and ensure alignment with national security guidelines. Supported research security training for staff in the Office of Research and Innovation Services, who attended workshops at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary.