



PhD CoLab pilot

Call for Letters of Intent

The Office of the Dean and Vice-Provost of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies invites faculty member and PhD student teams to submit a proposal for the [PhD CoLab Pilot Initiative](#).

The PhD CoLab pilot provides guidance and awards up to \$100,000 to support inter/transdisciplinary teams of UBC PhD students, faculty members, and others as appropriate, to work together on the co-production of new knowledge and/or applications to address complex questions or problems. It is expected that the PhD students will collaborate with one another directly, along with faculty and others in a team environment, to design, conduct and produce outputs from the scholarly work. The inclusion of collaborators from non-academic sectors is highly encouraged.

The collaborative work should be designed to meet both the students' academic learning needs and, as relevant, broader societal or stakeholder objectives. It should serve as a primary component of the PhD students' research programs, and the resulting collaborative chapters, papers, artifacts, and other outputs may form much of the students' dissertations, while also being of value to the partners and more broadly.

In addition to promoting UBC research on important issues, the purpose of the pilot is to incentivize and enrich PhD student learning in collaborative, transdisciplinary approaches to research and scholarship.

For the pilot, there are two types of awards available:

- “Large” (up to \$100K) – three or more students, possibly in multi-year collaborative projects
- “Small” (up to \$30K) – two or three students, possibly in shorter-term collaborative projects

Two or more faculty members must act as primary applicants, but all identified team members, including students and non-academic partners, are required to affirm their commitment. Students may also be recruited and/or identified after a successful application is granted.

Teams are invited and encouraged to apply with the following considerations:

1. Each team must have at least two faculty members and two PhD students, drawing from at least two academic disciplines.
2. The proposed work should prioritize PhD student learning and development as collaborative, inter/transdisciplinary scholars as a primary objective
3. The proposed work should be designed to comprise at least part of the students' dissertations. Co-created outputs may be included in each student's dissertation.
4. Funds can be used to support student stipends, research expenses (broadly defined), and/or dissemination/mobilization activities. Teams may use the funds over a period of 2 years ('small' awards) or 4 years ('large' awards). Renewals will be considered after the first year of the pilot.



The first step of applications is to submit a Letter of Intent to the attention of Dr. Jenny Phelps, Assistant Vice-Provost, Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies at [jenny.phelps\(at\)ubc.ca](mailto:jenny.phelps@ubc.ca). The letter should be no longer than 4 pages and should address the following:

- The proposed composition of the team, including any non-academic partners
- A high-level proposal and timeline for collaborative, inter/transdisciplinary scholarship to be undertaken by the team, with a focus on the expected PhD student collaborative work and its potential for positive impacts
- How PhD student learning and development as collaborative, inter/transdisciplinary scholars will be explicitly supported
- Potential outputs of the proposed work, especially those co-produced by students, and intended audiences/venues for these outputs
- Whether the interest is in a “small” or “large” award, a draft high-level budget, and a statement regarding how the funds would enable work that is not otherwise funded
- Any other relevant information that the adjudication committee should know.

The deadline for the letter of intent for 2023-2024 PhD CoLab pilot is 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023. Applicants will be invited to put together a full application package based on this information after a thorough review of their Letter of Intent.

For further information, contact Dr. Jenny Phelps or [visit the website](#).