Water Research LOI's and Funding Process

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Civil & Environmental Engineering

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Vision

The vision of WRC is to become an internationally-recognized centre for multidisciplinary water research:

We can do that by breaking up the silos and barriers between teams/disciplines!!

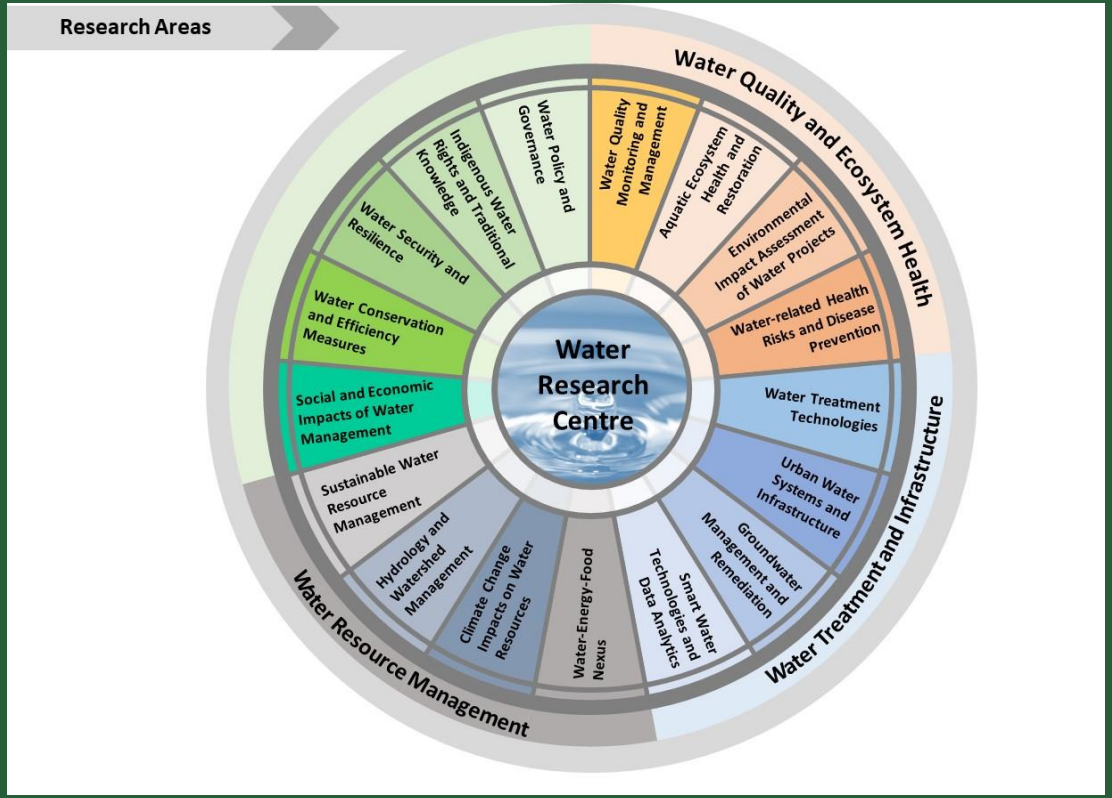
Purpose

- Provide integrated solutions to pressing water-related challenges.
- Act as a driving force for water research, both locally at the University of Alberta, provincially, nationally and globally.
- Foster partnerships with national and international institutions, governments and academia to advance both fundamental and applied knwledge.
- Cultivate a robust water-related network by connecting regional and global experts and practitioners with academics from various disciplines.
- Maximize the impact of research outcomes through effective knowledge and technology transfer activities.
- Provide invaluable training opportunities for students, postdoctoral fellows, and water professionals.

Approach

- The WRC will adapt a comprehensive approach that spans the entirety of the water sector, covering a diverse range of critical areas.
- From water supply and hydrology to water demand and utilization, from water quantity and quality management to issues of water conservation and protection of receiving environment and water sheds and finally water treatment and wastewater treatment and reuse, the WRC will leave no aspect of water-related aspects unexplored.
- As researchers, we will answer the questions raised by our funding partners.
- The WRC aims to advance understanding, drive innovation, and shape the future of water research and management on a global scale.

Research Areas



Drawing upon the expertise of faculty members from our three colleges (College of Health Sciences, the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities), the WRC benefits from a diverse and multidisciplinary research cohort.

Research Areas

- Water Quality Monitoring and Management
- Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Restoration
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Water Projects
- Water-Related Health Risks and Disease Prevention

- Sustainable Water Resource Management
- Hydrology and Watershed Management
- Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus

- Water Treatment Technologies and Processes
- Urban Water Systems and Infrastructure:
- Groundwater Management and Remediation
- Smart Water Technologies and Data Analytics

- Water Policy and Governance
- Indigenous Water Rights and Traditional Knowledge
- Water Security and Resilience
- Water Conservation and Efficiency Measures
- Social and Economic Impacts of Water Management

Goals

- The WRC will create a unified umbrella to increase support for existing and future water-related research initiatives at the University of Alberta.
- The strength and impact of WRC will lie in its ability to facilitate knowledge exchange by establishing more interdisciplinary links among disciplines and at the intersections between the WRC's various areas of expertise and those of other colleges and faculties at the University of Alberta, as well as by establishing new collaborations both nationally and internationally.
- The WRC will provide the advantage of industry participation, funding, and exploitation of research, further enhancing the reputation of the WRC and that of Alberta as a leader in this area.

Outcomes

- Establishment of new partnerships and reinforcement of existing collaborations with national and international institutions, governments, and academia.
- Facilitation of enhanced knowledge exchange between academia and the water industry.
- Development of a robust water-related network, fostering connections between regional and global water experts, practitioners, and stakeholders.
- Maximization of research benefits through effective knowledge and technology transfer activities. Enhancement of training opportunities and support for the next generation of water leaders. Through mentorship, hands-on experience.

LOIs & Full Proposals Submission Process

LOI Process

1. Proponent Submits a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the WRC
2. LOI Review Conducted by the WRC Scientific Advisory Committee
3. WRC Management Committee Review and Approval of LOIs
4. Complete Full Proposal (with support from WRC)
5. Submit Full Proposal
6. Set-Up of Contracts/Agreements with Funding Agencies

01

Proponent Submits a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the WRC.

- EPCOR and Alberta Innovates have identified areas of research that they are interested in supporting with funding. You will find current opportunities posted on our Call for LOIs page.

- LOIs will be submitted by emails to bongaro@ualberta.ca (until the WRC website is fully functional).

02

LOI Review Conducted by the WRC Scientific Advisory Committee

- The WRC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) will meet a few times a year as necessary or at least after every call for LOIs.
- SAC will evaluate each LOI and make recommendations to the WRC Management Committee (MC) for their review and approval.

03

WRC Management Committee Review and Approval

- The WRC MC will review the recommendations of the SAC and approve the LOIs that will proceed to the full proposal (FP) stage.
- LOIs can move to the FP stage with support of EPCOR and/or Alberta Innovates and any other funding partner(s).
- You will receive an email communicating the decision of the WRC MC on LOIs submission and outlining the next stages.

04

Complete Full Proposal

- Successful applicants **will have 3 months to complete their full proposals** in accordance with the requirements and expectations of Alberta Innovates and/or EPCOR and any other partner(s) such as NSERC, MITACS, etc.

- **The WRC will iteratively support this process by offering guidance and feedback especially to early-career researchers** or as required by others.

05

Submit Full Proposal

- LOIs supported by Alberta Innovates will submit their full proposal (FP) through the Alberta Innovates Smart Simple portal.

- LOIs supported by EPCOR only will submit their full proposal via email bongaro@ualberta.ca (till the WRC website is fully functional).

- Information will be provided at a later stage on the format and template requirements for submitting the full proposals.

06

Set-Up of Contracts/Agreements with Funding Agencies

The successful PI(s) will need to work with the University of Alberta Research Services Office (RSO) to set-up a contract/agreement with EPCOR, Alberta Innovates and any other funding sources such as (but not limited to) NSERC, MITACS, a municipality, city, company(ies), etc.

Eligibility Note

- **Please note, in order to be eligible for WRC funding, you must be able to match the allocated WRC funds via additional funding sources (e.g. NSERC, MITACS, etc...) whenever possible. It is strongly recommended that full proposals (FPs) be submitted to NSERC, MITACS, etc. in parallel to the FPs submission to the WRC.**

- **Additionally, successful recipients will be expected to allocate 10% of their grant funding to WRC Operations/Research Administration.**

Final Notes

- **WRC is currently working on an application for NSERC CREATE for additional funding.**
- **We are developing a website for the WRC and would appreciate photos of labs and work related to water research.**
- **We are also interested in highlighting projects on the website — including past funded water related projects so we can demonstrate the types of work happening in this multidisciplinary field at the University of Alberta.**

If you have any questions at any time throughout this process, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Mohamed Gamal El-Din at mgamalel-din@ualberta.ca.

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