



Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation (ICI) Building: Call for Expression of Interest

KEY DATES		
STAGE 1	Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)	February 15, 2023
	EOI Deadline	May 15, 2023 (12 noon)
	EOI Notification – Announce Short List	Fall 2023
STAGE 2	Launch Stage 2	Fall 2023
	Final Space Allocation Decisions – Announce Selections	Fall 2024

OBJECTIVE

This Expression of Interest (EOI) is intended to identify individuals and teams for consideration to be given space in the Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation (ICI) building.

DETAILS

Set to open in late 2025, UBC Okanagan’s ICI building will support campus-wide interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation – bringing together social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, creative fields, and professional disciplines to facilitate collaboration and enable novel solutions and approaches to complex problems. The ICI building will be a resource for the entire campus community. Space will be assigned jointly by the Office of the Vice-Principal Research and Innovation and the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal Academic.

The ICI will symbolize and cultivate UBC Okanagan’s substantive commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and partnership with the Syilx Okanagan Nation, along with being the home to Interior Salish language fluency programs and the Center for Contemporary Interior Salishan Studies. Indigeneity has been a guiding principle for this building at every stage of planning and design, with a vision to incorporate Syilx knowledge and values across research and learning programs in the building.

The ICI building will house approximately 60 faculty and their graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and staff (>350 spaces). Building spaces include formal and informal interaction and collaboration spaces, dry labs (flexible research spaces, for example: art studio, performance space, data acquisition/visualization space, etc.), wet labs with common infrastructure rooms (e.g., tissue culture rooms), and shared research facilities (i.e., Imaging and Metabolomics facilities). A range of meeting and conference rooms are strategically located throughout the building in close proximity to the research and knowledge creation spaces. Faculty, graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, and staff workspaces provide ample opportunities for building residents and guests to connect and share ideas (see website for floorplans and more details).



The ICI building is also intended to support interdisciplinary strategic hires, including joint hires between Faculties. Respondents to the call are encouraged to discuss their needs and interests with their colleagues, departments, and Faculties, to ensure the proposal aligns with strategic plans and addresses future hires in the response.

The University of British Columbia is committed to excellence in research and training activities that help foster a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive (EDI) research and training environment. Applicants are encouraged to consider EDI in ways that are meaningful and appropriate to the team and the research.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Expressions of Interest from groups are encouraged, although proposals from individual faculty are also welcome. For group applications, a minimum of one and a maximum of three Academic Leads may be identified.

The ICI should serve as the primary space for the faculty/teams selected through this call. However, not all Team Members listed on a group application must move into the ICI building. It is reasonable that some members may remain in their existing location for various reasons (e.g., specialized facilities, equipment, external to UBCO, or nonfaculty members.). At a minimum, it is expected that the Academic Leads will relocate and use the ICI building as their primary space. On the cover page, applicants are asked to indicate which faculty Team Members are interested in relocating to the ICI building.

- Individual faculty can be listed on a maximum of 3 applications (in any capacity).
- Individual faculty cannot submit more than one Expression of Interest as the Academic Lead.
- Academic Leads are expected to relocate and use the ICI building as their primary space.
- Academic Leads must be faculty members at UBC Okanagan (UBCO) with a full-time academic appointment in a tenured or tenure-track position (research or teaching).
- Individuals listed as Team Members may be internal or external to UBCO, including faculty and nonfaculty members, the community, industry, and government.
- Team Members who are interested in relocating to the ICI building must be UBCO faculty members.
- For group applications, the total number of Academic Leads and Team Members cannot exceed 10.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Individual faculty who are interested in moving into the building must receive a signature from the Dean or equivalent of their Faculty on the cover page. **The Dean's signature represents the approval of the faculty member's relocation to the ICI building. For applications with more than one faculty member from the same Faculty, one signature from the relevant Dean will suffice.**

If there are technical issues with multiple signatures on one document, an email approval will be accepted. Save the email approval(s) as a PDF and include it with the final submission.



DEADLINE: With all required signatures/approvals, the Academic Lead must send a complete application package to vprawards.ubco@ubc.ca by **May 15, 2023 (12 noon)**.

A complete application package contains the following submission requirements and complies with the specified page limitations:

1. Cover Page (use the template provided)

- a. Name, Faculty, and title of Academic Leads
- b. Name, Faculty (or organization), and title or role of Team Members
- c. Indication of which faculty Team Members are interested in moving into the ICI building
- d. Indication of the approximate number of highly-qualified personnel (e.g., trainees, post-doctoral fellowships, technicians, etc.) that the individual/group anticipates housing in the ICI building at one time
- e. Indication of the types of spaces the individual/team will need (including future hires)
 - wet labs
 - dry labs (flexible research spaces, for example: art studio, performance space, data acquisition/visualization space, etc.)
 - shared research facilities (metabolomics, imaging)
 - meeting/interview rooms
 - conference/seminar rooms
 - offices
 - workstations
 - makerspace and finishing space
 - other
- f. Signatures from the Dean for all faculty members who are interested in moving into the building

2. Free-form Proposal (2-pages, maximum) - to address Selection Criteria 1 and 2

- a. **Interdisciplinary Research** (~1 page) - Summarize the interdisciplinary research interests of the individual/team. As part of this response:
 - Describe the **vision** of the proposed interdisciplinary research
 - Describe how the proposed research **aligns** with specific research strengths and/or strategic priorities at UBCO and/or the constituent Faculties
 - Describe plans to **engage** collaborators and/or community partners in the research, including Indigenous partnerships, if applicable. Confirm if the status of the partnerships is established or aspirational.
- b. **Interdisciplinary Culture** (~0.5 page) - Describe how the respondent/team will contribute to the interdisciplinary vision of the ICI building and interdisciplinary culture at UBCO. As part of this response:
 - Describe opportunities that will be available for Team Members, other faculty, staff, students, knowledge users, and/or the general community as appropriate, to understand and engage in the proposed research (e.g., training in interdisciplinarity, capacity building, knowledge mobilization, etc.) if you are located in the ICI building.



- Describe the potential impacts on interdisciplinary culture at UBCO as a result of the proposed contributions
 - c. **Vision for Use of Space** (~0.5 page) – Describe your vision for the space; how will the proposed interdisciplinary research and collaborations be supported by the spaces in the building? The response should align with the spaces indicated on the cover page and represent the needs of future hires.
3. **Capabilities of the Individual / Team (use the template provided) - to address Selection Criteria 3**
- a. **Expertise and Experience** (~1 page) - Describe the disciplinary and interdisciplinary expertise and experience offered by the individual/team and the suitability of the individual/team to undertake the proposed research and achieve the vision of the proposal. Include reference to future hires, if applicable.
 - b. **Evidence:** List up to 8 outputs/activities (e.g., events, publications, grants, performances, reports, co-supervision, new partnerships) in the last 5 years, and include one sentence about the relevance of each output/activity to the proposed interdisciplinary research, and/or the individual/team members listed on the cover page.

Free-form proposals must use standard formatting (0.5-inch margins, a minimum of 11-point font using Calibri, Arial, Time New Roman, or Garamond, and single-spaced). References, images, tables, and figures are included in the page limit.

Applicants should avoid technical jargon and limit the use of acronyms.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Specific decision-making criteria to be considered during the adjudication of the EOIs are listed below (each criterion is weighted equally):

- **1. Merit of the Proposed Research**
 - Quality and potential impact of proposed interdisciplinary research activities
 - The extent to which the proposed research is in alignment with the overall research strengths and strategic priorities of the campus and/or constituent Faculties
 - Clear engagement plans with the campus community (e.g., students, staff, faculty) and the broader community, including Indigenous partners, if applicable
- **2. Contribution and Commitments to Interdisciplinary Vision and Culture**
 - Clear plans for the individual/team to influence and impact the interdisciplinary culture at UBCO by working in the ICI building
 - Space requirements are appropriate in relation to proposed research and activities
- **3. Capability of Individuals and Team**
 - The extent to which the individual/team offers the appropriate disciplinary and interdisciplinary experience and expertise required to undertake the proposed research (taking career stage and future hires into account)
 - Evidence of past contributions, current successes, and/or planned activities and the extent to which this demonstrates a strong foundation for the proposed trajectory



REVIEW PROCESS

The EOI review committee will consist of UBCO Faculty Deans plus a minimum of 2 external interdisciplinary experts. A delegate in place of the Dean may be assigned with the expectation the delegate represents the views of the Faculty and not the views of the individual delegate. The review committee will develop recommendations for the VPRI and Provost. The VPRI and Provost will consider these recommendations and announce the shortlist of interested faculty and research groups in the Fall of 2023. The shortlist will be invited to proceed to Stage 2.

Success at Stage 1 does not guarantee the allocation of space in the ICI building. The Stage 2 process will likely result in some successful Stage 1 applicants not being accommodated in the ICI.

During Stage 2, additional information on research programs, and the size, number, and types of spaces needed will be collected. Researchers will be organized into “neighborhoods” based on shared research interests and key collaborative linkages where colocation has a campus-wide benefit. Final space assignments will be announced in the Fall of 2024.

PROGRAM CONTACT

For any questions regarding this program, please contact: Nicole Bennett, Internal Programs Manager, Office of the Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation nicole.bennett@ubc.ca (250) 807-8408.