

Horizon Europe at UCalgary: 2026

General Introduction and Supports

External Grants Team | RSO

International Research Partnerships Team | UCalgary International

January 28, 2026



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The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The city of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation within Alberta (including Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).



Housekeeping

- **Polls**
 - We will introduce a few polls throughout the presentation. Thank you for engaging with them and providing your feedback!
- **Questions**
 - We will answer questions as we go in the chat and open up the floor for verbal questions at the end
- **Recording & Slides**
 - Attendees who registered for the session will have access to the recording and slides after following the event
- **Thank you for muting your microphones**

Our Team

UCalgary International (UCI)



Sher Husain

- Finding/Pairing Upcoming HE Funding Opportunities to PI niche expertise
- Partner Searches, Matchmaking & Development
- Initial draft to Call requirement alignment suggestions

Research Services (RSO)



Samantha McEwan & Marissa Montgomery-James

- Proposal Development Advice & Support
- Editorial & Criteria Review of grant applications
- Timelines & Submission (incl. RMS)



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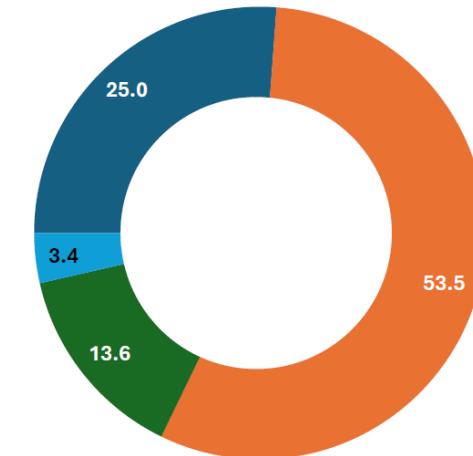
Overview

1. What is Horizon Europe?
 1. Understanding Horizon Europe Structure
 2. Pillar 1 & Pillar 2 Overview
 3. Where to Find Funding Opportunities
2. Finding Partners
3. UCalgary's iNOI and Application Process
4. Resources for Applicants



What is Horizon Europe?

- European Union's (EU) research and innovation framework funding program for 2021-2027
- Supports the creation, distribution, and advancement of science- and evidence-based solutions to the world's most important challenges.
- Canadian Government has allocated \$147M over 4 years to fund Canada's Association with Horizon Europe
- Association provides:
 - Ability to receive funding directly from the programme
 - Observer status in the Programme Committees as part of Horizon Europe Governance



Political agreement December 2020
€ billion in current prices

- Excellent Science
- Global challenges and European ind. comp.
- Innovative Europe
- Widening Part and ERA

Horizon Europe Budget:
€ 95.5 billion (2021-2027)



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What Is New In 2026?

New in Horizon Europe in 2026

- 2026-27 Work Programmes
 - Clusters 1-6
 - Missions
- New Application Templates Released
 - Updated Page Limits
 - Additions to **Form A** (Administrative Form)
 - Streamlining in **Form B** (Technical Proposal)

New at UCalgary in 2026

- Internal Notice of Intent (iNOI) remains, but has been updated:
 - Expanded to include support for Pillar I applications
 - Streamline information requested from applicants
 - Opportunity to identify support areas most meaningful to applicants
- iNOI Intakes:
 - January 30 & May 15



Horizon Europe Structure



Excellent Science

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Awards
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar 1



Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & inclusive Science
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Pillar 2



Innovative Europe

- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Pillar 3



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Horizon Europe - Pillar 1



Excellent Science

- European Research Council
 - StG/CoG/AdG Grants
 - **Synergy Grants**
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Awards (MSCA)
 - Staff Exchange
 - **Global Fellowships**

Pillar 1

- No predetermined subjects – “*bottom-up*”
- Canada is not currently Associated to Pillar 1
- However!
 - Some Pillar I Funding Opportunities are open to Canadian participation
 - Eligibility criteria depends on the program
 - May not be open for participation as a direct beneficiary (ie. cannot receive funding)
 - MSCA GF and ERC Synergy Grants have been a popular choice for UCalgary applicants



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Pillar 1 Programmes (need iNOI)

European Research Council ([ERC](#))



Starting Grants

(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 1.5 Million for 5 years



Advanced Grants

track-record of significant
research achievements
up to € 2.5 Million for 5 years



Consolidator Grants

(7-12 years after PhD)
up to €2 Million for 5 years



Synergy Grants

2-4 PI's up to €10M for 6 years
1 PI can be based outside
EU/Associated Countries

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions ([MSCA](#))

Staff Exchanges (SE)

Encourage short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of research and innovation staff through sustainable, collaborative projects in Europe (and beyond). By doing so, they enhance knowledge and skills transfer, and increase organization's research and innovation capacity

Postdoctoral (Global) Fellowships (GF)

Support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research and innovation. Researchers holding a PhD can carry out their research activities, acquire new skills and develop their careers abroad, whilst developing competencies in non-academic sectors

Doctoral Networks (DN)

Implement doctoral programmes by international partnerships of organizations from different sectors. They train highly-skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance innovation capacities and boost their employability in the long-term.

Horizon Europe budget: EUR 95.5 billion

MSCA budget: EUR 6.6 billion



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Horizon Europe - Pillar 2



Pillar 2 - Global Challenges

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & inclusive Science
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

- Canada is Associated to Pillar 2
- This Pillar is organized under 6 ‘Clusters’
 - Missions & Institutionalized Partnerships
 - Work Programmes
 - Destinations
 - Call topics
- Average Horizon Europe grant is between **4.2M – 4.5M Euros**
- Pillar 2 is NOT “curiosity driven”
 - Call for proposals
 - Deliverables driven – “*top down*”

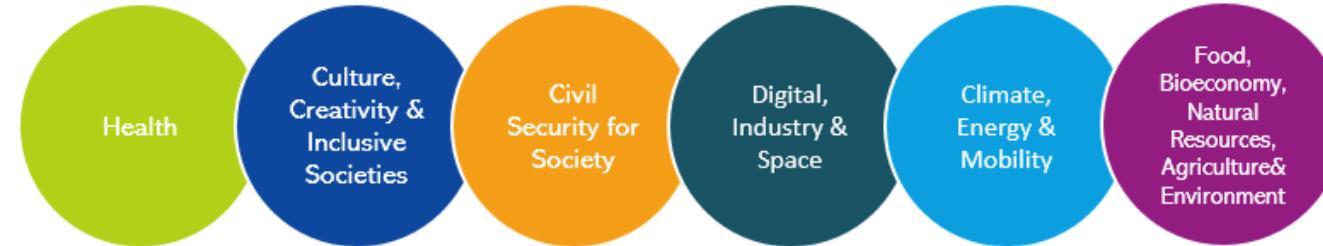


Pillar 2: Where to Start?

2025-27
Strategic Plan

Climate Change → Biodiversity Loss → Pollution → Digital Transformation → Health Threats → Aging Population

2026-27 Work Programmes
(6 Clusters)



Destinations
(5 – 7 per Cluster)

Call Topics
(300+)



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Pillar 2: What is being funded?

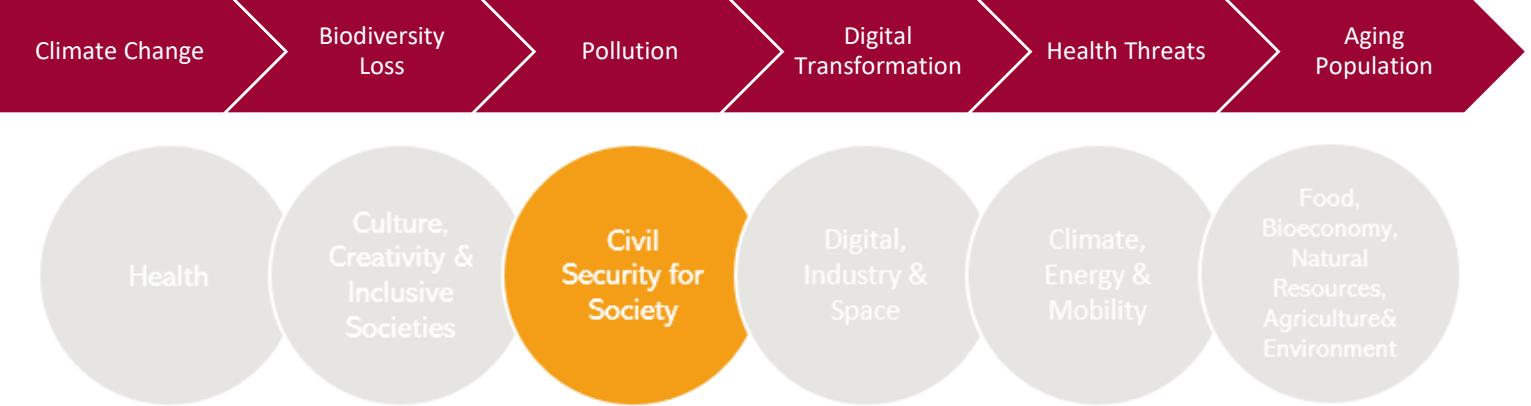
2025-27

Strategic Plan

2026-27 Work Programmes
(6 Clusters)

Destinations
(5 – 7 per Cluster)

Call Topics
(300+)



Pillar 2: Where to Start? What is being funded?

2025-27

Strategic Plan

Climate Change → Biodiversity Loss → Pollution → Digital Transformation → Health Threats → Aging Population

2026-27 Work Programmes
(6 Clusters)



Destinations
(5 – 7 per Cluster)

Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism

Effective management of EU external borders

Resilient Infrastructure

Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe

Increased Cybersecurity

Strengthened Security Research & Innovation

Call Topics
(300+)

HORIZON-CL3-2025-02-CS-01
Generative AI for Cybersecurity Applications

HORIZON-CL3-2025-02-CS-02
New advanced tools & Processes for Operational Cybersecurity

HORIZON-CL3-2025-02-CS-03
Privacy Enhancing Technologies

HORIZON-CL3-2025-02-CS-04
Security of Post-Quantum primitives

HORIZON-CL3-2025-02-CS-05
Security of implementations of Post-Quantum Cryptography Algorithms



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Work Programmes (Pillar I and II)

Key to understanding:



EU Policy
Priorities



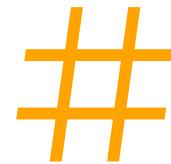
Specific Eligibility
Criteria



Max. Funding
Amount



Special
Procedures



Number of Grants
Expected



Expected Consortium
Composition

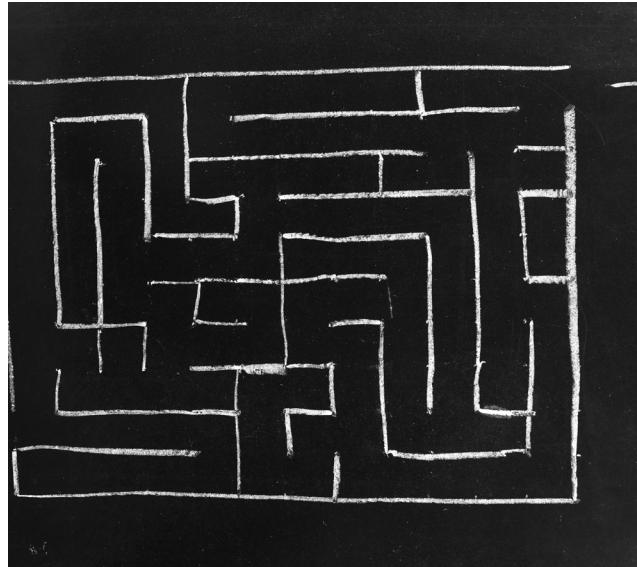


Applicable
Deadline(s)



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Bringing It All Together (Case Example 1)



Long tail keywords (developed from topic requirements)

- Adaptive AI interfaces (for) neurodiversity, physical disabilities
- Digital Humanism frameworks (for collaborative industrial robotics)

Suggested Niche Specialist Expertise

- Accessibility Researcher: specializes in “inclusive design” for persons with disabilities; beyond basic compliance → adaptive automation

Bringing It All Together (Case Example 2)...



Topic	KWs	Suggested Alignment Approach and Insights	Budgets and Projects Expected	Deadlines
AI Methodologies for Predictive Biomarkers in NCDs	AI, Healthcare innovation, Healthcare systems transformation	Potential flagship AI-health topic. Leverage Canada-based AI powerhouses (e.g. Vector) to offer predictive models for NCDs using high-quality regional health data.	Total: EUR 44.2M Project: EUR 6M–8M Expected: 6 projects	Stage 1: April 13, 2027 Stage 2: Sept 22, 2027
Outcomes for Persons with Dementia and Informal Caregivers	Mental health, Vulnerable populations, Psycho-social care	Align with Canada's National Dementia Strategy, Alberta Dementia Strategy, and Alzheimer Society. Focus on caregiver support.	Total: EUR 16M Project: EUR 3.2M Expected: 5 projects	Stage 1: May 4, 2027 Stage 2: Sept 30, 2027

Answering the Call: Building A Consortium

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in an eligible country:

- ✓ Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions;
- ✓ Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States
- ✓ Eligible non-EU countries:
 - *Countries associated to Horizon Europe (Canada from July 1st, 2024)*
 - *Low- and middle-income countries*

Consortium Composition:

- ***At least ONE independent legal entity established in an EU Member State*** &
- **At least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.**

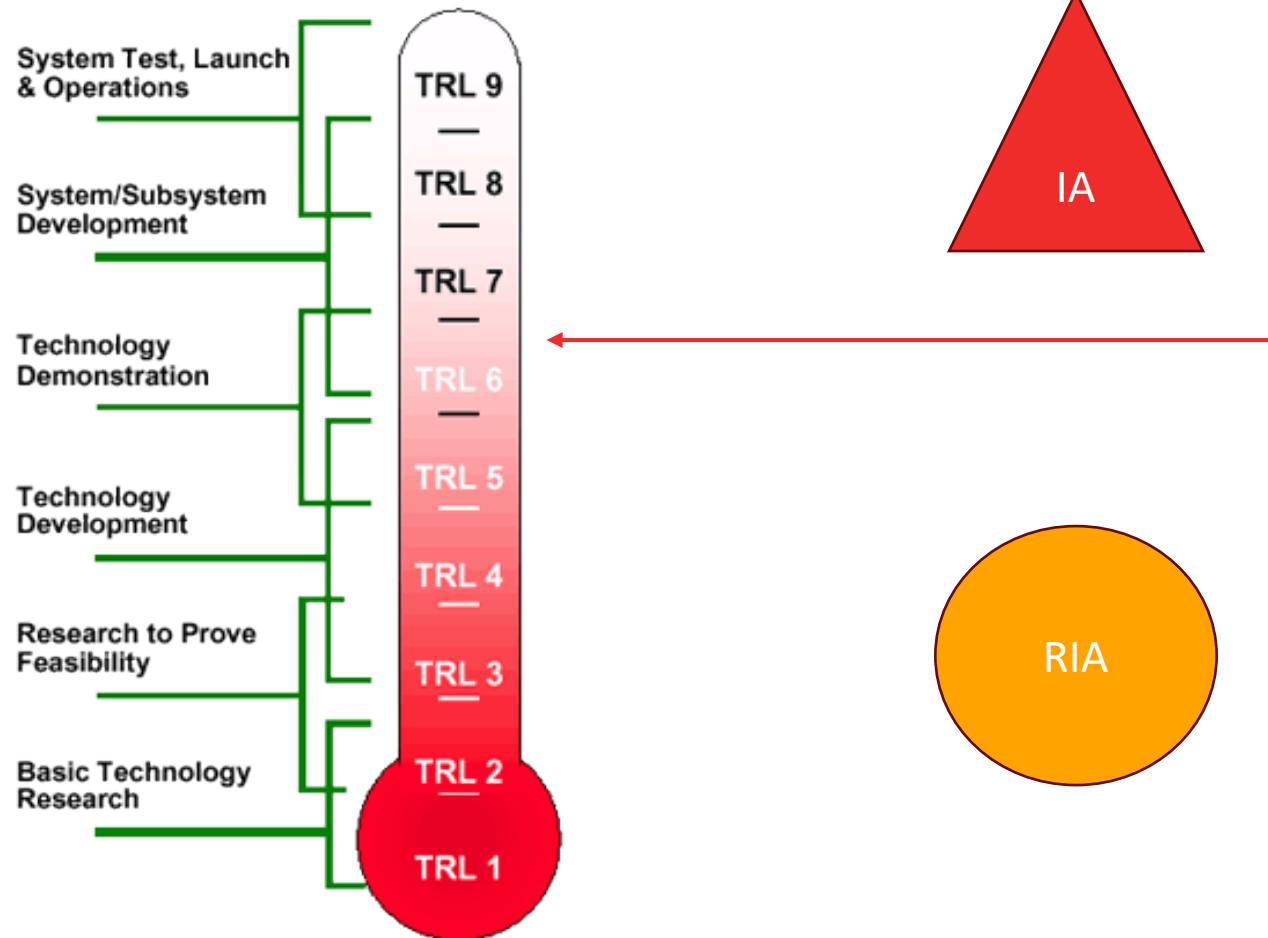


Member Eligibility

- Top down: a (targeted) solution contribution to the given problem(s)
- R & I activities
- **Eligible Consortia members can be:**
 - Companies
 - Knowledge institutes/centres
 - Universities
 - End-users
 - NGOs
 - Gov't Organizations
 - ...



Answering the Call: Building A Consortium II



Two main types of Actions in HE

Innovation Action → *closer to market activities*

Research & Innovation Action →
collaborative research projects tackling clearly defined challenges that can lead to the development of new knowledge or new technology

Where we help you find partners

- Your contacts 
- Trade Commissioners 
- NCPs 
- Academic and technical universities; EU & Associated countries 
- Research Organizations 
- Third country niche partners 
- Municipalities 
- Previously funded organizations 

UCalgary Connections via Horizon Europe Collaborations



Pillar II – Consolidated List We Can Share With You

Destination	Call name	Call #	Call opening (YYYY/MM/DD)	Call deadline (YYYY/MM/DD)	Total Budget (million)	Expected contribution per project	Number of projects expected to be funded	Type of Action
Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism	Improving capabilities of law enforcement to counter climate-related challenges	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-01	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 8.00	Around 4.00	2	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism	Open topic on preventing and countering the misuse of emerging technologies for criminal purposes, including issues related to lawful access to data	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-02	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 9.00	Around 4.50	2	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism	Missing persons: prevention and investigation	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-03	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 5.00	Around 5.00	1	Innovation Actions (IA)
Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism	Crime prevention approaches, online and off-line, tackling the nexus between addictions and crime	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-04	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 6.00	Around 3.00	2	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism	Enhancing the security of citizens against terrorism and lone-actor violence in confined spaces such as schools	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-05	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 9.67	Around 4.835	2	Innovation Actions (IA)
Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism	Prevention and mitigation of misuse of synthetic biology for bioterrorism purposes	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-06	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 3.00	Around 3.00	1	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Effective management of EU external borders	Advanced border surveillance and situational awareness	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-BM-01	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 12.00	Around 6.00	2	Innovation Actions (IA)
Effective management of EU external borders	Accessible and available travel facilitation	HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-BM-02	2026-05-06	2026-11-05	€ 8.00	Around 4.00	2	Innovation Actions (IA)



UCalgary Approach to Horizon Europe



1. Ensure **early connection and coordination** of applicants and institutional offices
2. Organize **institutional support/resources** relevant to each applicant
3. UCI & RSO Staff **build** and **disseminate knowledge** via support process



Internal Notice Of Intent (iNOI) Process

- Mandatory iNOI Process for applicants
 - 2 intakes in 2026
 - organized by anticipated submission deadline
 - Deadline is **12:00pm (noon)**
 - Submission to horizoneurope@ucalgary.ca
- Identify support needs for each applicant
- Provides **4-6 months** for application development support



January 30, 2026
Applies to:

- Pillar I & Pillar II applications
- Calls closing:
Feb 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026



May 15, 2026
Applies to:

- Pillar I & Pillar II applications
- Calls closing:
July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026



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iNOI Form – What to Expect

Project Information	
UCalgary PI:	
Department/Faculty:	
Email:	
UCalgary Co-Leader(s): (if applicable)	
Funding Opportunity: Please specify your area of interest within Horizon Europe: • If a specific Call Topic has been identified, please provide its full ID title [Example: HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2-01; ERC-2026-SYG] • If a Call Topic has not yet been determined, please provide information related to the opportunities you are considering. [Ex. for Pillar II , please provide the Cluster, Mission, or Destination name].	

Partners List*		
Researcher Name	Organization Name	Country

➤ Funding Opportunity

- No specific call required
- Programme, Cluster, Destination is sufficient
- RSO/UCI can assist with call alignment and suggestions for upcoming opportunities

➤ Partners list

➤ Abstract (500 words max.)

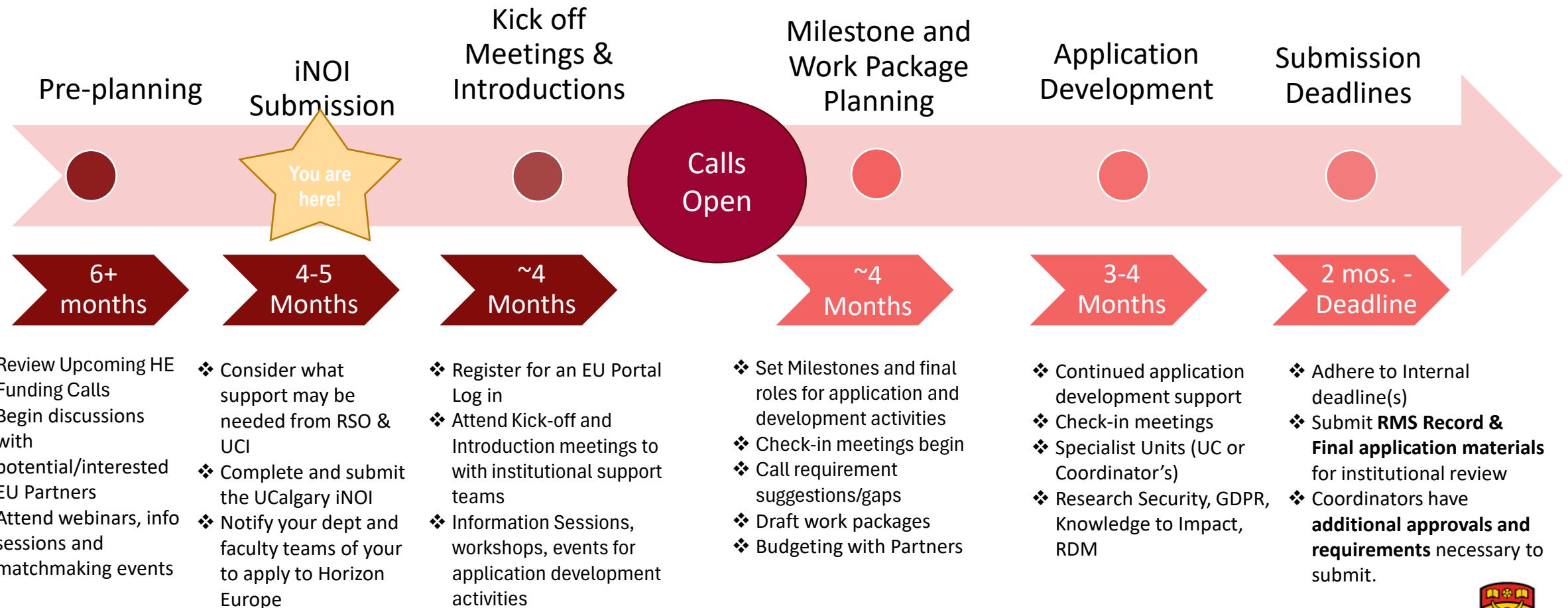
- A short overview of the proposed **research activities** and the **objectives** of the proposed work

➤ Desired support from RSO/UCI (New)

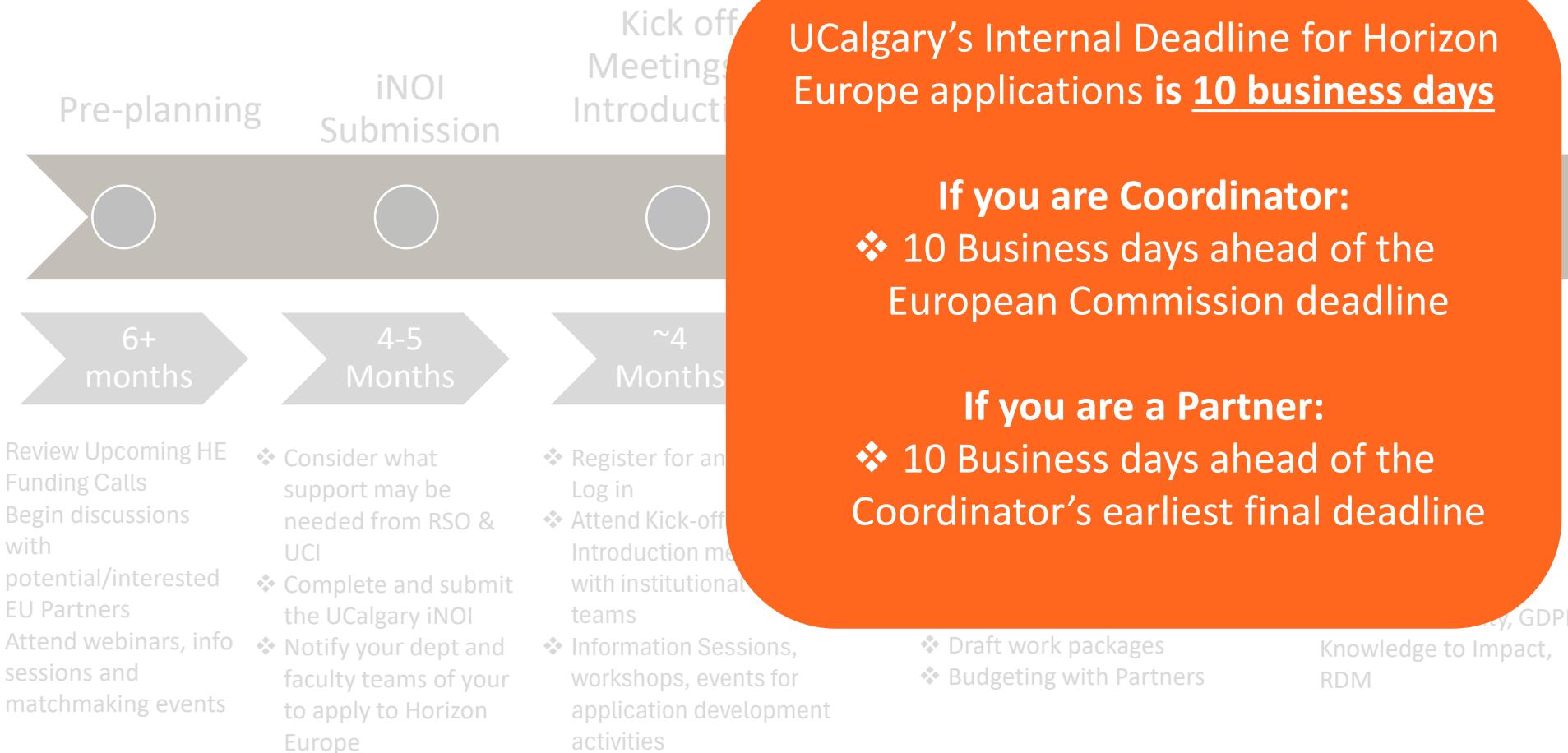
- Can identify up to three (3) priority areas



HE Key Activities Timeline



HE Key Activities Timeline



Submission Deadlines

2 mos. - Deadline

- ❖ Adhere to Internal deadline(s)
- ❖ RMS Record & Final application materials
- ❖ Coordinator's have additional requirements and approvals necessary to submit.



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HE Research Security Requirements

Requirements for application with UCalgary as a coordinator:



Security Issues Table

- Identification of potential misuse of research activities and deliverables
- Risk mitigation plan



Partner Vetting

- Research Security will vet your partners/collaborators

Research Security will support you in completing the Horizon Europe Research Security requirements.

Questions?

researchsecurity@ucalgary.ca

- Applications deemed higher risk may undergo a security screening by the European Commission. The European Commission may perform audits and security checks of funded projects.
- All HE applications with UCalgary as a coordinator require Research Security approval ***prior*** to submission.



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Key Takeaways

Pillar I

- Canadian's not eligible for direct funding in all calls
 - associated to Pillar I Canada is not currently
 - MSCA Global Fellowships (as outbound host)
 - Synergy (as non-EU partner)
- Annual opportunities with (largely) predictable timelines
- INOI required
 - Identify supports you need

Pillar II

- NOT like Tri-Agency
- “Top-Down”
 - Specified Outcomes / deliverable-driven
 - Excellence, Impact, Implementation
- INOI required
 - Identify supports you need
- Do not need a Call Topic before starting the iNOI
 - But pay attention to call deadlines!
- Coordinators have additional requirements prior to submission!



Next Steps...

- ✓ Find a Horizon Europe opportunity
 - [Horizon Europe work programmes - European Commission](#)
 - Consider also the Destinations, Strategic Plan (Pillar II opportunities)

- ✓ Build your consortium
 - Expertise needed & Roles in Proposal
 - Leverage existing networks (internal & external)
 - Contact UCI
 - [CORDIS](#) (view past Horizon Europe projects and results)

- ✓ Map out requirements of the selected opportunity
 - Identify gaps in consortium/partners expertise
 - Consider support needed from RSO and UCI teams

- ✓ Download and complete the iNOI Form
 - [Horizon Europe | Research Services | Research at UCalgary | University of Calgary](#)
 - Intakes: January 30th & May 15th



Resources



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Finding Funding Opportunities

1. Work Programmes for 2026-2027

- Final and published versions are available at [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) (Guidance & Documents tab)
- [RSO & UCI Website](#)
- Search available [Calls for Proposals](#)

2. European Research Council (ERC) Programmes

- [Starting Grants](#)
- [Consolidator Grants](#)
- [Advanced Grants](#)
- [Synergy Grants*](#)

3. Funding & Tenders Portal

- [Online Manual - Funding Tenders Opportunities](#)

4. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- Search for funding opportunities
 - [Funding - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

5. Funding & Tenders Portal

- [Online Manual - Funding Tenders Opportunities](#)

6. Looking for Partners? UCI can help!

UCIResearch@ucalgary.ca

- CORDIS: [CORDIS | European Commission](#)
- Information on past Projects and Results
- Analytics and Visualization Tools for project and proposal data, related stats



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Additional Contacts: Faculty Research Facilitators



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CSM Grant Development Office

The CSM Grant Development Office (GDO) provides strategic application development support and is the first point of contact for CSM faculty applying to major funding programs, including Horizon Europe and other international grants - from early planning through submission.

Call interpretation and EU compliance	Proposal development	Budget & administrative support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpreting EU requirements, work package and deliverables• Call topic alignment and project concept positioning• Ensuring alignment with EU regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning of work packages, milestones and submission timelines• GDO tools and resources to strengthen your application• Detailed application review and feedback in early stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU-compliant budget development and justification• Coordinating with RSO/UCI teams as necessary• Coordinating consortia partner inputs and proposal materials

GDO Application Development Resources

Application development resources:

- Dedicated [Horizon Europe](#) page consisting of EU webinars, application guidance and useful weblinks
- [Project Management Toolkit](#): Planning milestones, aims & activities, governance, risks & limitations
- [Research Support Environment document](#): Comprehensive overview of research ecosystems, core facilities and infrastructure available to CSM researchers.
 - Helps applicants align their proposals with institutional and faculty's strategic plan.



Connect With Us!



Websites:

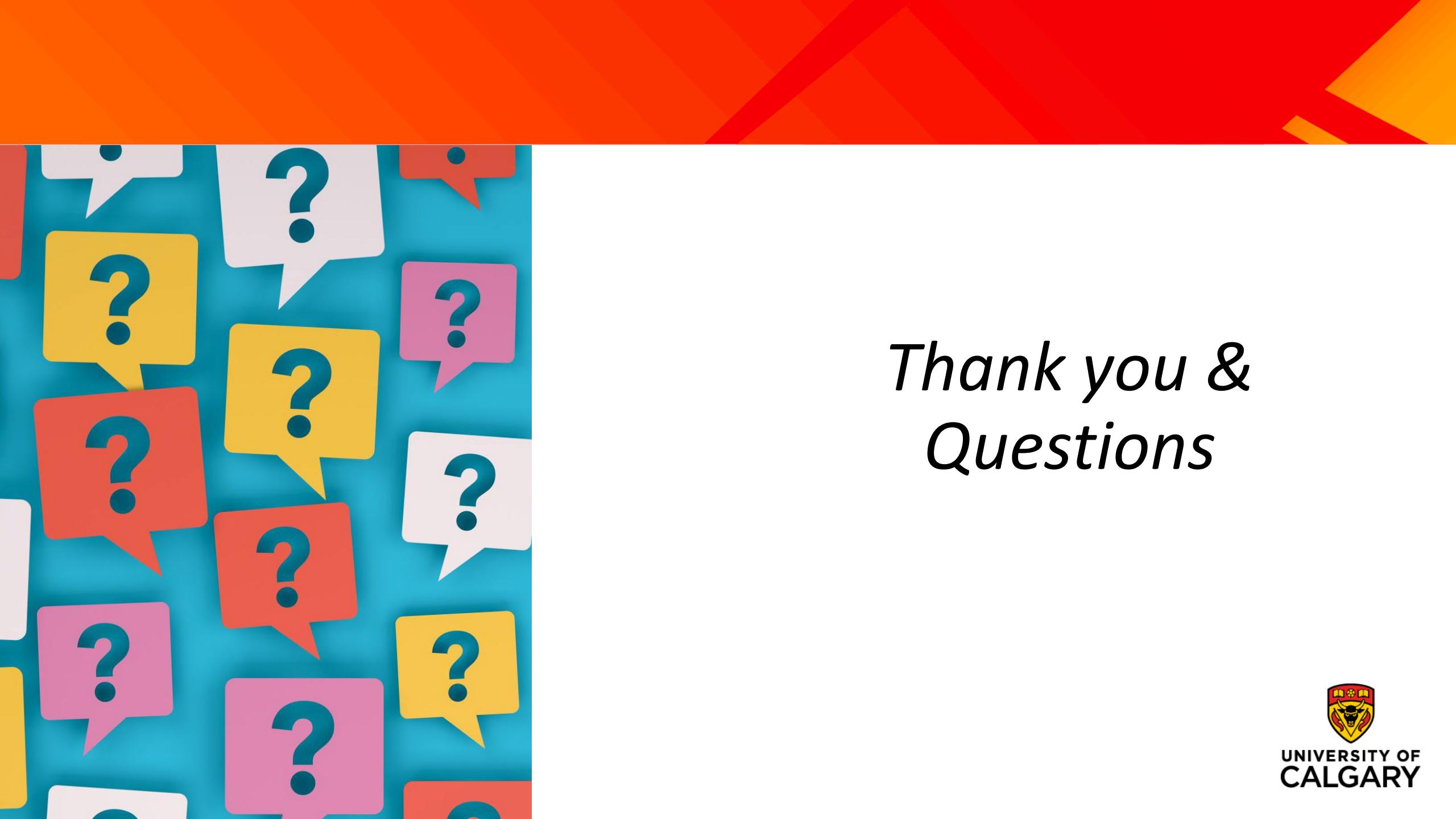
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*Thank you &
Questions*



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