

Progress on UCalgary IPG Project Objectives – 2024/25 report

Total IPG award: \$3,954,758.00

Project name	Objective(s)	Allocated amount	Progress
Industry Engagement Office Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	1. Establish relationships with companies to foster partnerships 2. Support and guide researchers to build industry connections 3. Identify key institutional partners and cultivate relationships	\$400,000	Timeline: April 2022 – March 2025 451 companies have met the Industry Engagement (Research) team since the office opened in 2022 - Of these 451 companies, about one quarter of the companies have been introduced to researchers based on interests and alignment - Of the companies introduced to researchers, more than half of the companies reached the stage of discussing specific projects with researchers - In 2024/25, Industry Engagement made five presentations to external audiences to foster collaborations and nine internal presentations to increase awareness about services available to UCalgary researchers. - In 2024/25, the Industry Engagement team attended 16 conferences to build connections to industry. We engaged more than 50 researchers directly in these events. - In 2024/25, Industry Engagement actively managed 16 institutional agreements with companies or industry organizations at various stages of development.

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Supporting Indigenous Research Priority area: Equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the content of equity, diversity and inclusion)	1. Strengthen and identify resources for university researchers, Indigenous communities, and partners to promote collaborative, reciprocal, and culturally responsive research.	\$420,000.00	Timeline: April 2023 – March 2026 In 2024–2025, the Indigenous Research Support Team (IRST) strengthened institutional capacity for Indigenous research by advancing ethical processes, expanding researcher skills, and deepening community-responsive supports. • The team delivered 106 consultations, 46 grant proposal reviews, and supported 37 ethics applications, directly improving the rigour, knowledge and excellence of Indigenous research at UCalgary. IRST also developed a grants review and feedback guide, trained RSO staff, and piloted three parallel paths ethics reviews, including two conducted in ceremony. • To build skills and resources, IRST hosted 17 events with 587+ participants, introduced new workshops and clarified honoraria processes. IRST led the community engagement for the large-scale project of TCPS2-aligned revisions to UCalgary's ethics application. • Institutionally, IRST contributed to 38 committees, five ii' taa'poh'to'p Working Circles, a national Indigenous research network, and a federal Tri-Agency committee to impact Indigenous research on the local and national stage.

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Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) in Research Priority area: Equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the content of equity, diversity and inclusion)	Dedicated EDIA staff: • develop guidance for researchers addressing funding agency requirements • strengthen research-related EDIA frameworks • align activities to institutional EDIA action plans	\$320,000	Timeline: April 2023 – March 2026 This year brought increased and diversified team capacity through a newly added role focusing on project and process expertise in EDI in Research, to complement the subject matter specialist roles within the EDI Team. This added capacity allows for framing defined projects and collaborative processes, including process improvements and a major migration of archived workshops and presentations into asynchronous e-module formats. The team held over 30 consultation meetings and an additional 30 written detailed EDI reviews on research proposals for funding competitions. The team undertook four internal process reviews: two related to EDI in the university’s CRC program, and two internal funding opportunities. The team launched new workshops on EDI in Peer Review, EDI in Research Mentorship, and Building Blocks of EDI Statements, in addition to its core programming. In total, 17 workshops and presentations were offered to the UCalgary research community. The team continued to align its scope and approach to institutional EDIA commitments in the research ecosystem, including the CRC-EDI Action Plan, the Dimensions EDI Action Plan, and the EDI Plan for Research and Teaching Awards. The team was also actively involved in the Research and Scholarship working group of Presidential Task Force on EDIA, which was tasked with developing recommended strategic priorities and actions for addressing barriers in the research ecosystem.

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Knowledge Engagement and Open Science Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	1. build capacity in open science, knowledge engagement, research impact 2. facilitate research partnership development 3. provide robust support for knowledge to impact initiatives	\$560,000	Timeline: April 2023 – March 2026 Number of: ○ inquiries received from internal and external parties re: Open Science and community-focused research partnerships; partnerships supported ● Matchmaking and collaboration consults with 33 community partners and 9 UCalgary researchers ● 36 consults on knowledge mobilization and engagement activities ● 85 internal and 28 external meetings on open science ● 35 internal and 8 external meetings on Responsible research assessment (DORA) ○ events and registrants at events ● Organized new “Mobilizing Knowledge for Impact” (KMb ’25) and Open Science webinar series ● Presented 43 workshops with over 2300 registrants, including final 6 of 10 Navigating Partnered Research sessions, first 5 of 6 KMb ’25 sessions, 5 Open Science workshops and 18 DORA/RIA workshops ● Hosted monthly Knowledge Engagement Community of Practice ● 59 unique UCalgary members participated in Community-Based Research Canada (CBRCanada) webinars and events, with 4 UCalgary presenters in events ● 5 CBRCanada Award Nominations of UCalgary scholars ○ funded projects; research revenue ● Provided partnership and knowledge mobilization support to 37 funding applications resulting in \$3.7M in grant revenue from successful applications ○ guidance resources developed ● Updated and consolidated previous Knowledge Engagement and DORA webpages into one Knowledge to Impact webpage, with

			support on knowledge mobilization, partnerships, open science and the Declaration on Research Assessment • Consolidated webinar and workshop archive into new webpage • Launched new Open Science Microsoft Teams community • Contributed to development of the DORA organization's "Practical Guide to Implementing Responsible Research Assessment at Research Performing Organizations" ○ website data (traffic, inquiries submitted) • 363 sign-ups for KE Newsletter, newsletter opened 1847 times • Knowledge Engagement and new Knowledge to Impact homepages visited a total of 3067 times • KE Impact Assessment Toolkit page visited 1692 times
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Grants and Contracts for Research Management Priority Area: Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	To replace RMS and eRSO with the PeopleSoft Grants & Contracts modules. In Year 1, the objectives are: 1. Ensure the project is sufficiently staffed with internal stakeholders and external skills 2. Completed requirements gathering, gap analysis of current as-is and future state business processes 3. Perform initial configuration of Grants & Contracts modules and developing integration strategy for third party tools, strategy to decommission legacy applications (RMS and eRSO)	\$333,333.00	Timeline: September 2024 – August 2027 1. Objective 1 has been fully met. External resources to fill the internal skills gap have been hired and several stakeholder teams have been created internally, including: Executive Sponsor, Project Steering Committee, Project Advisory Committee, Billing/Invoices/Contracts team, Reporting Team, Research Services Office and Legal team, a collection of subject matter experts. 2. Objective 2 has been fully met. Several documented artifacts have been delivered as part of the Discovery and Requirements Analysis. These include requirements documentation, current and future state business processes, gaps in process, the finalizing of scope for the Grants & Contracts project, and the identification and documentation of integration points. Additional documents include the Terms of Reference for Project Governance and structure, and the development of the OCM (Organizational Change Management) plan and communications plan. 3. Objective 3 has been met through the delivery of technical specifications for both integrations as well as the PeopleSoft security requirements, the development of specifications for the Enterprise Data Warehouse, the design of the funding opportunity database related to the Funding Calendar in Drupal.

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Research Computing Infrastructure Priority areas: • Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance • Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	1. Enhance local digital research infrastructure: • Supporting more than 1000 researchers across the institution on digital research infrastructure, • Support researchers across more than half of the 15 institutional faculties, • Increased service capacity (computing, storage and/or consulting support), 2. Refine the service offering catalogue: Publish an updated research computing services catalogue.	\$166,667	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 1. Enhance local digital research infrastructure: • We have increased service capacity through the development of a secured Commercial Cloud for research to support researchers who have computational and storage requirements which cannot be met by existing local and national resources. During this period, we implemented the proof-of-concept environment and documented the required security controls. • We increased service capacity through expanded local computational resources by adding GPUs to the local cluster to support additional researchers requiring resources for artificial intelligence, and computationally heavy analysis. • Researchers supported on digital research infrastructure: 1,023 • Faculties with researchers supported on local digital research infrastructure: 9 2. Refine the service offering catalogue: In collaboration with the Libraries and Cultural Resources, Research Services, Research Security and Privacy teams, a new consolidated intake for research data management questions was developed. The Research Data Management Support Hub provides a “one-stop shop” for researchers to send inquiries related to a wide range of data management items which require input from one or more support teams across campus. Work has added and refined documentation to support existing and new IT services that support the research community.

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Research Data Management (RDM) – Institutional Strategy Implementation Priority area: Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	1. Convening UCalgary RDM Strategy Implementation Steering Committee 2. Convening RDM Implementation Working Groups and deliverables for each (e.g., environment scans, policy reviews, recommendations) 3. Delivery of strong RDM workshops and information sessions, guided by a training plan developed in conjunction with LCR 4. Develop robust RDM tools, and resources	\$110,000	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 1. The UCalgary RDM Implementation Steering Committee was established in September 2024 and met four times in the reporting period. It established two working groups and provided feedback on preliminary deliverables. 2. The Policies & Procedures Working Group and Sensitive Data Working Group were established in September 2024 and have initiated their work on relevant commitments in the UCalgary RDM Strategy. A report with recommendations on RDM-related policies and procedures is expected in fall 2025. A report on researchers' needs and institutional requirements is expected in fall 2025. 3. The RDM Specialist based in the Research Services Office delivered seven presentations on various aspects of RDM to staff, faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students. 4. The Research Services Office contributed to templates for the national DMP Assistant, hosted by the Digital Research Alliance of Canada. The Research Services Office also reviewed ten data management plans required for research funding applications.

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UCalgary's Gateway Innovation Initiative Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	1. To increase researcher engagements with the innovation ecosystem by 30% this year and by 100% over 3 years. 2. Build capacity for academic social innovators and community partners to co-design sustainable solutions to complex social problems.	\$489,745	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 1. Innovation and commercialization activities collectively supported the following outcomes during the reporting period: • # of new research teams engaged in commercialization activities: 43 • # of researchers that completed innovation/commercialization training: 147 • # of invention disclosures: 96 • # of new patents filed: 20 • # of new revenue bearing agreements: 13 • # of new companies formed: 13 2. Capacity building activities: • Delivery of social innovation service providing coaching for researchers seeking to mobilize their knowledge and wanting to explore various paths (enterprise creation, co-creation/collaboration with community, licensing/commercialization) to inform their next step. 7 early-stage social innovation teams advancing research into viable and sustainable applications/enterprise. • Two community engagement projects supported utilizing evidence-informed knowledge to advance social serving mandates/goals. • Implementation of Social Impact Starter Series workshops focused on developing 'soft skills' of storytelling, connection creation, public speaking, and communication. 95 participants (researchers, deans, community, practitioners, social enterprise). • Creation of Community Engagement Guidebook to provide

			guidance on how to initiate and navigate collaborations that create momentum for social impact. • UCalgary hosted the annual International Social Innovation Research Conference (2025).
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Strengthening, Advancing, and Facilitating International Research Partnerships and Innovation at UCalgary Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	1. The International Research Partnerships and Innovation team brokers new global research and innovation opportunities for UCalgary. This unit serves as a key interface between researchers, international funding agency representatives, industry partners, and UCalgary's International and Research Services offices, coordinating research grants and contracts in collaboration with multiple internal teams. 2. The unit initiates and develops strategic international research collaborations, application strategies, and project design and management to drive innovation and commercialization with global impact.	\$345,000	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 1. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the team hosted 104 individual consultations to help UCalgary researchers identify funding opportunities. We delivered 18 cross-campus Roadshow sessions, reaching more than 270 researchers across nine faculties. In addition, we launched a new Horizon Europe-specific Roadshow to introduce this funding program and support researchers in preparing for potential 2025 applications. 2. The team facilitated introductions and created opportunities for researchers to identify potential international partners and develop new collaborations. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, we helped host 10 significant delegations to UCalgary from countries including Belgium, France, New Zealand, Norway, Ireland, Qatar, the US, Australia, Singapore and Japan. We also supported the preparation and follow-up for multiple international missions during this period. 3. In addition to our ongoing efforts to identify research funding opportunities and facilitate international research partnerships across UCalgary, a major new priority has been supporting UCalgary's success in Horizon Europe. Following Canada's designation as an Associate Country in July 2024, we engaged an external consultant over the summer and fall to prepare an organizational readiness report and deliver specialized education sessions for campus groups involved in supporting Horizon Europe applications. Our team also developed an Initial Notice of Intent process designed to identify PIs planning to apply to Horizon Europe in 2025. This focus on Horizon Europe continues as we refine our processes with the goal of increasing applications and achieving greater success in 2025.

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Information Resources and Infrastructure to Support Open Scholarship Priority area: Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	1. UCalgary authors are aware of discounts or waivers available to them when publishing in participating Elsevier journals and will choose to publish in open access journals. 2. UCalgary authors can more easily meet funder requirements for Open Access to funded research outputs 3. UCalgary authors have increased options for making diverse research outputs openly accessible and visible to a wide range of audiences	\$200,029	1. Compared to 2022, we are projecting a 41% increase in OA publications in 2025 based on publication rates in Elsevier journals to date. Of the 455 articles published in Elsevier journals in the reporting period, 271 (60%) were published in hybrid OA journals, 46 (10%) in gold OA journals, and 138 (30%) behind a subscription paywall. 2. Licensing the SciFree tool, which allows UCalgary authors to easily search for OA discounts or waivers, has made searching for OA publishing options much easier. Since implementing and widely promoting the tool, we have seen a steady increase in usage, with 2,644 searches being performed in the tool over this reporting period. 3. Because the deal with Elsevier covers thousands of journals in multiple disciplines, it vastly increases researchers' options for publishing OA at no direct cost to them and has resulted in cost avoidance for authors of over \$800,000 USD during this period.

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Individually Ventilated Caging (IVC) - Updating UCalgary Rodent Caging to Meet Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Standards Priority area: Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance	1. Upgrade rodent caging systems on Main Campus demonstrating a strategic commitment to improve animal welfare prior to 2025 Site Visit by the CCAC	\$609,984	1. Eight single-sided mouse racks and 6 double-decker rat racks, fully caged and with change-outs, including 9 blowers and 5 change stations, were ordered, delivered, purchased and assembled. 2. The equipment is now operational within main campus animal facilities. 3. These caging systems effectively provide the per animal cage space required by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) as well as cage height required for animals (Eg. rats) to exhibit normal behaviours such as rearing and climbing. These caging systems meet the CCAC requirements for animal welfare. 4. The new cage systems improve air delivery to animals, as well as cage venting enabling a more efficient soiled cage changing schedule for both mice and rats. The new IVC ventilation strategy enables more efficient staff activities as we now will not need direct monitoring of emitted animal by-products such as carbon dioxide, ammonia, volatile organic molecules, and particulate matter. 5. Implementation of these new IVC housing improvements has been conveyed to the CCAC. That organization will directly review this new infrastructure in late 2025.