

SSHRC INSIGHT GRANT 2021: WORKSHOP FOR NEW APPLICANTS



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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. SSHRC Funding Opportunities
 - Multiple Application Rules
2. IG Stats
3. Adjudication Process
4. Application Modules
5. SPARC Support Available
6. Q&A



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SSHRC

Competition	Amount/Duration	Deadline/Results
Insight Development Grants (IDG) Support research in its initial stages; 50% of budget allocated to “emerging scholars”	\$7K - \$75K over 1-2 years	Deadline: Feb 2 nd Results: June
Insight Grants (IG) Support long-term research initiatives	Stream A: \$7K-100K over 2-5 years Stream B: \$100K - \$400K over 2-5 years	Deadline: Oct 1 st Results: “Spring” (typically mid-April)
Partnership Engage Grants (PEG) Involve partnership between a research and a single non-academic partner	\$7K-\$25K over 1 year	Deadlines: Sept 15 th , Dec 15 th , March 15 th , June 15 th Results: ~two months after deadline
Partnership Development Grant (PDG) Provide support to foster new research with new and/or existing partners	\$7K-\$200K over 1-3 years	Deadline: Nov 15 th Results: March
Partnership Grants (PG) Provide support to new or existing formal partnerships for initiatives that advance research, research training, and/or knowledge mobilization	Stage 1: \$20K to prepare full application Stage 2: \$500K - \$2.5M over 5-7 years	Stage 1 Deadline: Feb 15 th Results: June Stage 2 Deadline: Oct 29 th Results: April/May
Connection Grants (CG) Support events and activities that exchange knowledge and engage on research issues	Up to \$25K for events; Up to \$50K for other outreach activities Over 1 year	Deadlines: Feb 1 st , May 1 st , Aug 1 st , Nov 1 st Results: ~ six weeks after deadline



RULES REGARDING MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

- An individual may not, as applicant, submit more than one application in any given competition
- A researcher who applies successfully for an Insight Development Grant in February cannot apply for an Insight Grant in October of the same calendar year
 - Unsuccessful applicants to the IDG program may apply for an IG in the same year
- An individual may participate as co-applicant or collaborator in any number of grant applications
- A current grant holder may only submit a new application for the same type of grant in their grant's final year (year in which the grant holder receives the final installment of their grant).

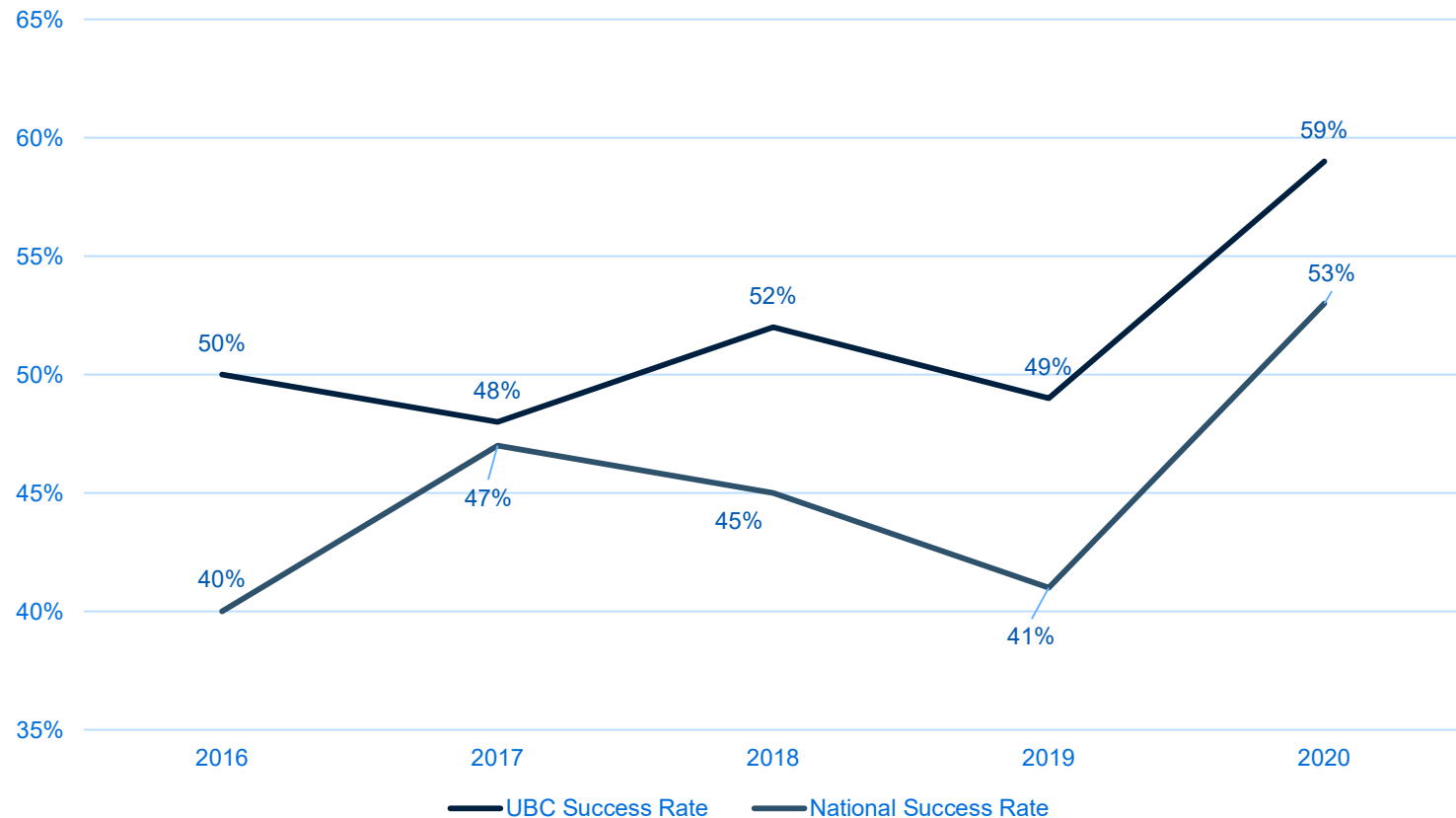


IG 2020 STATS



- UBC Success Rate: 59%
- National Success Rate: 53%
- UBC Total Funding Awarded: \$9.17M

Success Rates - UBC vs. National



IG 2020 STATS: UBC VS NATIONAL

UBC Stats

- Average Request: \$193K
- Average Award: \$183K

Stream A Success Rate: 60%
Stream B Success Rate: 58%

National Stats

- Average Request: \$185K
- Average Award: \$163K

Stream A Success Rate: 56%
Stream B Success Rate: 51%

IG ADJUDICATION PROCESS – COMMITTEE SELECTION

- Indigenous Research
- History
- Medieval, classics, and religious studies
- Philosophy
- Fine Arts, Research-Creation
- Literature
- Anthropology and Archaeology
- Linguistics and Translation
- Political science and public administration
- Geography, urban planning and related fields
- Business, Management and related fields
- Economics
- Sociology, demography and related fields
- Communications, media studies, gender studies, library and information science, and related fields
- Law and Criminology
- Psychology
- Education and Social Work
- Multi/interdisciplinary Humanities
- Multi/interdisciplinary Social Sciences
- NEW Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee



IG ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Proposals are read by External Assessors

- Be strategic in suggesting your assessors – SSHRC typically only chooses 1-2 of your recommended names, so make sure the people you list will say YES!
- Keep in mind that SSHRC may also look at your “List of References” for names, and/or at the keywords you list in your application
- The majority of external assessor feedback is positive – the score and ranking decision of the committee is much more important than the feedback in the external assessments



IG ADJUDICATION PROCESS CONTINUED

Step 2: Proposals are read and adjudicated by two Primary Readers (also referred to as readers A and B)



- Primary readers are assigned by SSHRC based on expertise
- Initial scores determine initial ranking – applications near the bottom of this initial rank may not receive much, if any, discussion time

ADJUDICATION PROCESS CONT.

Step 3: Proposals are discussed at the committee level



- Number of committees is based on number of applications received

Check out the 2020 committee composition online (https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/merit_review-evaluation_du_merite/selection_committees-comites_selection/2020/ig-ss-eng.aspx)

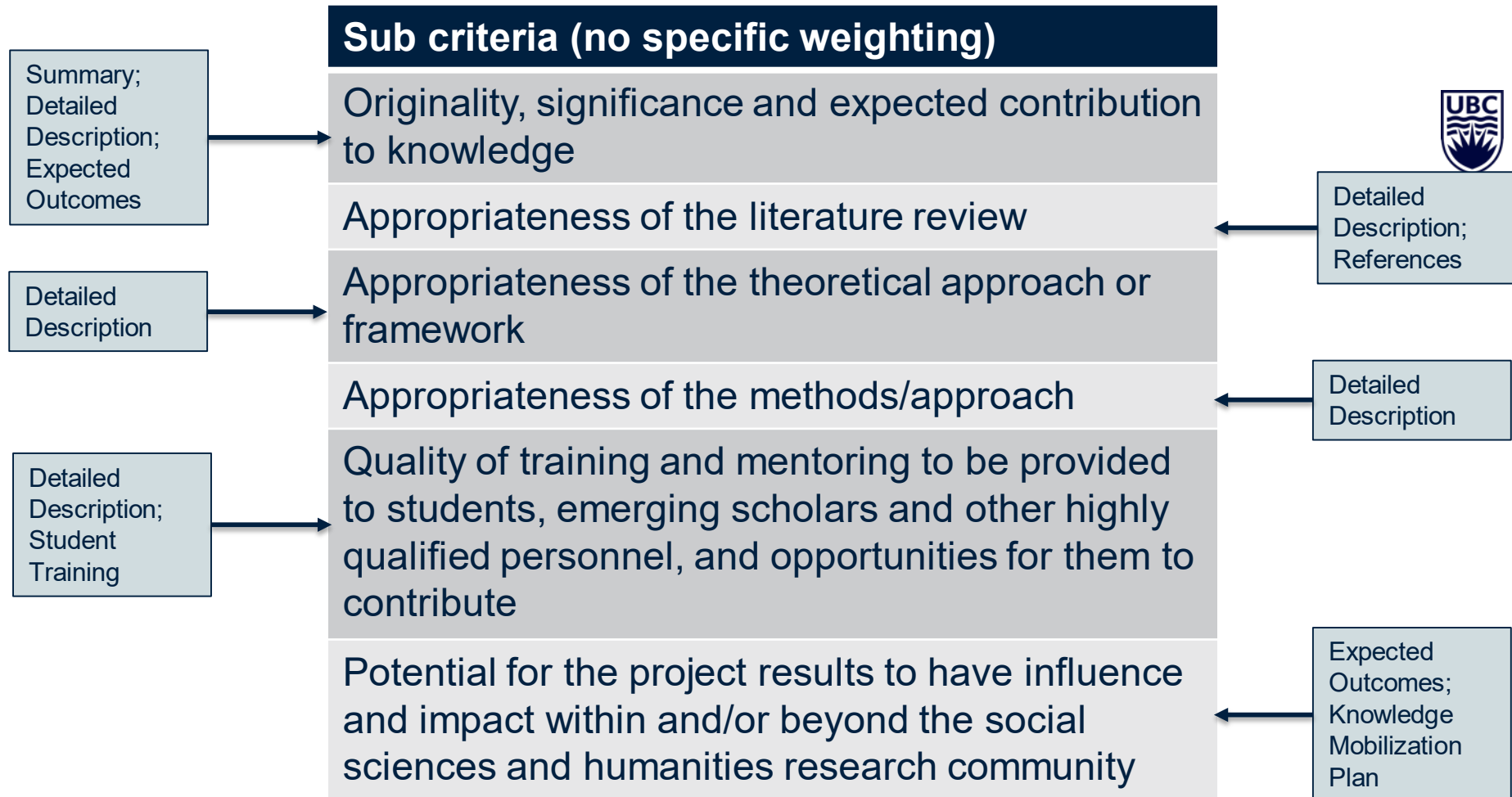
- Structure of committee discussion can depend on the SSHRC Program Officer, and can vary across committees
- Following discussion, primary readers confer and either raise or lower their initial scores, or leave them as they are

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

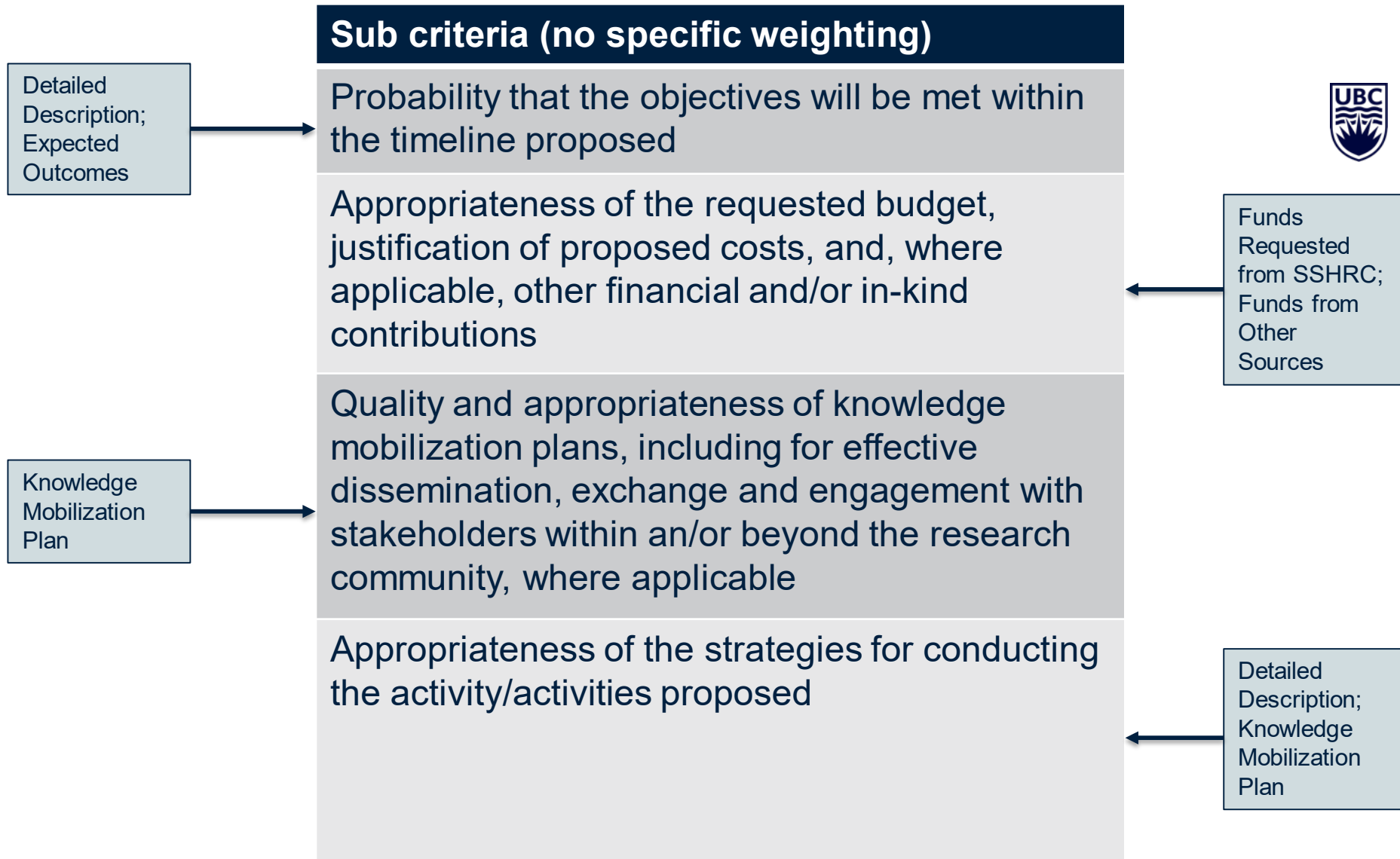


- Challenge – the aim and importance of the endeavour (40%)
- Feasibility – the plan to achieve excellence (20%)
- Capability – the expertise to succeed (40%)

CHALLENGE (40%)



FEASIBILITY (20%)



CAPABILITY (40%)

Sub criteria (no specific weighting)

Quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published and/or creative outputs of the applicant and any co-applicants, relative to their roles in the project and to the stage of their career

Evidence of past knowledge mobilization activities (e.g., films, performances, commissioned reports, knowledge syntheses, experience in collaboration/other interactions stakeholders, contributors to public debate and media), and of impacts on professional practice, social services and policies, etc.

Quality and quantity of past contributions to the development of training and mentoring of students, postdoctoral researchers and other highly qualified personnel

SSHRC CV;
Research
Contributions;
Research Team,
Previous Output



SSHRC CV;
Research
Contributions;
Student Training



SSHRC CV;
Research
Contributions;
Previous
Output;
Knowledge
Mobilization
Plan



APPLICATION MODULES

Within the Application Portal:

1. User Profiles/Identification (includes committee selection)
2. Request for multi/interdisciplinary evaluation (1 pg) (if applicable)
3. Response to Previous Critiques (1 pg) (optional, if applicable)
4. Summary of Proposal (1 pg)
5. Expected Outcomes Summary (1 pg)
6. Funds Requested from SSHRC
7. Funds from Other Sources (optional, if applicable)

Attachments

1. Detailed Description (6 pgs)
2. List of References (10 pgs)
3. Knowledge Mobilization Plan (1 pg)
4. Research Team, Previous Output & Student Training (4 pgs)
5. Budget Justification (2 pgs)
6. Research Contributions (4 pgs)
7. SSHRC CV



SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

- Use clear, plain language – avoid jargon
- A summary of your WHOLE proposal – not just the detailed description
 - Be sure to also summarize your training of students, knowledge mobilization plan, and expected outcomes
- Indicate the following:
 - Challenges/issues to be addressed
 - Potential advancement of knowledge
 - Wider potential benefit



Thoughts from previous review committee members:

- “the 1 pg summary was integral for presenting the notion of originality – a huge driver for application rankings”
- The summary serves as a “primer” document for the first reader in charge of presenting your proposal to the larger committee – make it easy for them!

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (6 PAGES)

- Enough detail to allow informed assessment by committee
- Explain acronyms and highly technical terms
- Use the following headings, in order
 - **Objectives** – be clear and precision: why is it important?
 - **Context** – include a completely and up-to-date literature review
 - **Methodology** – outline theoretical/conceptual framework and ensure methods make sense in terms of objectives and personnel involved



STUDENT TRAINING

- Student training is a focal point for many review committees – do not gloss over this module!
- Be specific – how will roles and responsibilities complement academic training?
 - For example, working with a community group or participating in KM
- Think about what your department or program and institution offer in terms of professional training
- What skills will your students have gained by the end of your project's completion?



TIPS FROM SSHRC'S GUIDELINES

- Build both academic (research and teaching) competencies and general professional skills, including knowledge mobilization, that would be transferable to a variety of settings
- Include international and/or intersectoral opportunities whenever possible and applicable
- Include specific, effective mentoring and institutional support
- See “[Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#)”
 - Note: this resource is provided to Review Committees!



KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION PLAN (KMP)

- How will research knowledge be mobilized to facilitate or enable benefits and impact?
- KM focuses on activities, not outcomes
 - Which audiences will you target?
 - What are your goals for each audience?
 - What methods will you use to achieve this goals?
- Be SPECIFIC about your activities
 - Which conferences/journals, and why? (i.e. who will be in attendance, who makes up the readership/what is the impact?)
- See SSHRC's "[Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization](#)" (also supplied to reviewers!)



EXPECTED OUTCOMES – SSHRC DEFINITIONS

- **Outputs:** short-term results (e.g., number of publications, presentations, event attendees, new partners added to a team, or new stakeholders and/or research users contacted or added to networks).
- **Outcomes** may include: the number of people in various target audiences that use the research findings, the number of students trained, new capacities created, policies developed, business strategies formulated, etc.
- **Impacts:** long-term outcomes or effects that take the form of changed thinking and behaviours. Impacts are reflected through such indicators as, e.g., global economic performance, competitiveness, public service effectiveness, new products and services, employment, policy relevance, learning skills enhancement, quality of life, community cohesion, and social inclusion.



INSTRUCTIONS TO ADJUDICATION COMMITTEES RE: BUDGETS

- Committees may **consider failing a project** on the Feasibility criteria if they deem **30% or more** of the overall budget request to be insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate to the proposed objectives or outcomes of the project
- An application will be **automatically failed** if the committee deems that **50% or more** of the overall budget to be insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate to the proposed objectives or outcomes of the project
- Committees will use the principle of **minimum essential funding** to guide their discussions of project budgets
- Committees **may recommend budget** reductions in cases where they determine that the request is inadequately justified or inappropriate, and where they judge savings could be achieved without jeopardizing the project objectives



BUDGET TIPS FROM REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- An explanation is not a justification!
- A well-justified budget is key
- Connection between budget allocation and research tasks is important
- Do not leave anything up to the imagination!
 - For example, justify the training benefits of using a student over a (cheaper) external professional service
 - Be explicit when UBC does not provide a particular funding item (e.g. subscription to a database) so that reviewers cannot assume otherwise



COMMON BUDGET RED FLAGS

- Conference Travel in Y1
- Student Funding that is incompatible with Student Responsibilities
- Workshop Costs
 - While some costs associated with workshops are eligible, keep in mind that projects whose “primary goal” is to organize a workshop are ineligible for IG funding
- Yearly Stipends for PostDocs
 - *The other general caution I could throw out is over how stipends are being used and how full-year funding is taken. I did see a couple of proposals where students were to be supported with 12 months of funding... In any case with twelve months of funding it's rather hard for committee members to see it as anything other than out and out living support. It's always best to **lay out project-related tasks quite specifically** so that **hourly equivalents** can be calculated or estimated. Providing sufficient justification for 12 months would be difficult because it would surely act as an invitation to reviewers to ask whether too much were being asked of a student and what exactly the P.I. intends to do.*

- SSHRC Program Officer



FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES

- While not required – this is a space to show support for and commitment to your project (both cash and in-kind)
- Contributions can include things like institutional funding for grad students, equipment, space to hold events, etc.
- This is especially important for researchers working with community groups
 - in-kind contributions can and should be listed in this module if they can be given a cash valuation



SPARC SUPPORT!

- Writing Bootcamps: July 13, 14, 15
- Peer-Editing Drop-Ins: Wednesdays in August, 1pm-3pm
- Internal Review (see next slide)
- SPARC Criteria Review (see next slide)
- www.sparc.ubc.ca:
 - Sample Grant Library
 - NEW online guide coming soon



INTERNAL REVIEW TIMELINE

- Mon, Jul 26 by 5pm [Register online](#) (registration includes submission of 1 Page Summary)
- Wed, Aug 4 by 3:30pm Submit Full Draft Proposal
- Wed, Aug 18 Receive reviewer feedback



SPARC REVIEW TIMELINE

- Wed, Sept 22 at 12pm Deadline for submission (both individual modules and full proposals accepted)

KEY INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS FOR SSHRC IDG

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... and be sure to work with your grant facilitator if you have one!



THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK!

ANY QUESTIONS?