

## BORDEAUX-WATERLOO JOINT GRANTS

### Background

From the first scientific collaborations in 2010 to today's institutional ties, the partnership between the University of Waterloo (UW) and the University of Bordeaux (UBx) has been growing at a rapid pace. Joint actions are diverse and cover a range of research topics with particularly strong collaborations in the following fields: Functional materials, Nanosciences, Health and Environment. At the institutional level, a framework agreement and a joint academic exchange program in the field of chemistry were signed in the past few years.

Over the 2016-2018 period, three joint calls for proposals were organized to support collaboration initiatives between both universities. 28 projects involving 40 PIs were supported in different fields (materials science, water, energy, ageing and computer science), which led to significant research results and could leverage matching cash contributions.

In line with this dynamic, a new roadmap was jointly established by the two partners for the next 3 years (2019-2021), covering education, research, innovation and institutional governance. In this framework, both universities have wished to identify a shared scientific challenge which could contribute to significant advancements in science. Based on each partner's strengths and interests and relying on more global stakes, it was jointly agreed to explore additional opportunities in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Health.

A joint workshop was organized in Bordeaux in April 2019 on this topic, which gathered about 30 speakers from both universities.

The present call wishes to build on the success of this initiative to support collaborative projects between UW and UBx and seeks to provide seed-funding opportunities for new or recent collaborations. While not excluding other topics, priority will be given to projects connecting AI and Health.

*In accordance with the priorities of both universities, special attention will be given to projects whose objectives take into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

### Call structure of 2019

- ❖ Projects that fall within the scope of the priority topic of AI and Health are placed into **Category A**.
- ❖ Projects in other disciplines (all fields are covered) are placed into **Category B**.

#### Category A. Projects in the field of artificial intelligence and health sciences

Joint applications are invited from UW and UBx faculty, working with their counterparts in the partner institution, who wish to start a new collaboration or pursue the strengthening of an existing collaboration in the field mentioned above. Up to 20K€/30KCAN\$ (per joint project) is available for competition in this category.

#### Category B. Projects in other research fields

Joint applications are invited from UW and UBx faculty, working with their counterparts in the partner institution, to pursue a deeper understanding of complementary interests and strengths in all fields, including earlier priority fields (materials science, water, energy and ageing). Up to 10K€/15KCAN\$ (per joint project) is available for competition in this category.

- Funding for both categories will mainly support travels and costs associated with the organization of seminars, workshops, events, as well as mobility of students in order to help faculty in both institutions to deepen their understanding of complementary interests and strengths in the fields. Activities linked to the training of students at the undergraduate level may also be eligible.
- Projects are expected to be completed within one year. Requests for extension are possible, at no cost, upon presentation of a progress report.
- PIs that have already been funded in the previous joint call for proposals (2016, 2017 or 2018) may re-apply if their previous project is complete and they have submitted an outcomes report (see template in appendix).

**It is expected that funding for Category A or B will provide UW and UB research groups with the enhanced capacity to pursue and leverage significant collaborative international research funding.**

*Preference will be given to submissions involving a group of UW/UBx<sup>2</sup> researchers rather than individual applications.*

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<sup>2</sup> As regards Bordeaux participants, beneficiaries may be researchers of the following institutions: University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux Montaigne University, the Bordeaux Institute of Technology, Sciences Po Bordeaux, Bordeaux Sciences Agro, CNRS, Inserm, INRIA, INRA, CEA, IRSTEA, IFREMER, Institute of Optics Graduate School.

**Curriculum Vitae:**

Attach a **short** CV for each of the researchers (maximum 2 pages)

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Deadline: September 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Submit your application directly online as a single pdf file: <https://idex.u-bordeaux.fr/n/Call-for-proposals/Open-calls-for-proposals/Bordeaux-Waterloo-joint-grants/r3294.html>

An [Office of Research Cover Sheet](#) for Sponsored Research with a copy of the proposal must also be submitted by the deadline for all UW applicants to Drew Knight or Regan Child, International Research and Partnerships Office of Research.

Applicants from Bordeaux must inform via email the directors of their research laboratory and research department of the project prior to the submission.

**EVALUATION PROCEDURE:**

Applications will be evaluated by a joint Bordeaux-Waterloo Steering Committee, co-chaired by the UW Associate VP Interdisciplinary Research and the UBx Deputy Vice-President International Networks. Applications will be evaluated on the guidelines noted above. Those selected for funding will be notified by email. Unsuccessful applicants may be provided with some evaluative comments.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Please direct any questions or comments to Drew Knight, University of Waterloo, Director, Global Research and Strategic Alliances, Office of Research ([dknight@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:dknight@uwaterloo.ca) / ext 32288) and Veronique Debord-Lazaro, University of Bordeaux, Director of the International Office ([veronique.debord-lazaro@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:veronique.debord-lazaro@u-bordeaux.fr) / +33 5 40 00 36 43).