




University
of Manitoba

Office of the Vice-President
(Research and International)

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TO: Associate Deans (Research)/Research Liaison Officers

FROM: Dr. Mario Pinto, Vice-President (Research and International) 

DATE: October 26, 2022

RE: Call for CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) to the June 15, 2023 competition
(Note: Virtual workshop date on November 18th, 10:00am – 12:00pm)

The CFI JELF-Unaffiliated program is designed to help institutions attract and retain the very best researchers at a time of intense international competition, by acquiring infrastructure to undertake cutting-edge research.

ELIGIBILITY

New Investigators who are within the first three years of their appointment at the University of Manitoba, as of June 15, 2023, are eligible to apply. They must be ‘full-time academic faculty members with professorial or academic librarian rank, holding tenure or tenure-track appointments; and geographical full-time (GFT) academic faculty members who have a minimum 40% protected time for research.

Notwithstanding the three year window for eligibility described above, the University acknowledges the potential impact of career interruptions and personal circumstances (described below), which can have an impact on an investigator’s eligibility.

- **Career interruptions** for health, family or other reasons. For example, an investigator is taken away from his/her research work for an extended period of time (e.g., pregnancy, early childcare, eldercare, illness, etc.).
- **Slow-downs** for health, family or other reasons. For example, an investigator’s research productivity is slowed down (e.g., pregnancy, early childcare, eldercare, illness, etc.), but the investigator was not taken completely away from his/her research work.

We encourage investigators to explain the impact of any such interruption(s) or slow-downs in their submission. *Measures will be taken to ensure that these interruptions will be taken into careful consideration for eligibility during the administrative review of applications, prior to assessment by the CFI Advisory Committee.*

Proposals will be accepted from a single New Investigator; or from a group of up to three New Investigators; or from an identified Investigator(s) whom the University is in the process of recruiting to a full-time academic appointment in an area of strategic importance.

University of Manitoba proposal funding limits:

Total project costs for a **single New Investigator** will be a maximum of \$400,000. To facilitate strategic hiring and/or multi-faculty collaboration, the total project cost that can be requested by teams of **two New Investigators** will be a maximum of \$862,500, while **three New Investigators** will be a maximum of \$1,325,000.

For proposals from the **Social Sciences, Humanities (SSH) and Arts**, CFI accepts submission of proposals requesting less than or equal to \$187,500 total project costs. These proposals have a reduced application requirement (10 pages rather than 15 to address the assessment criteria).

The sources of funding will be divided as follows: 40% from CFI, 20% from Research Manitoba (RM), 20% from the Strategic Funds provided to the Vice-President (Research and International) for supporting large project grant submissions, and 20% from other contributions:

Investigators	TOTAL Funding	40% CFI Contributions	20% RM Contributions	20% VPRI Contributions	20% Other Contributions*
1 Researcher	\$400,000	\$160,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
2 Researchers	\$862,500	\$345,000	\$172,500	\$172,500	\$172,500
3 Researchers	\$1,325,000	\$530,000	\$265,000	\$265,000	\$265,000
SSH and Arts	\$187,500	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$37,500

****Securing the ‘Other Contributions’ (20%) of all proposals is the responsibility of the Investigator and the Faculty/School submitting the proposal.***

The requested infrastructure must be essential for the research program of the New Investigator(s), who must be recognized leaders in their fields of research or show promise of becoming research leaders. They must be engaged in or embarking on, an innovative research program for which the infrastructure is essential and will provide an enriched research training environment. A strong plan for ongoing operations and maintenance of infrastructure with identified support is also a requirement.

NOTE: Those who are beyond the first three years of their first full time academic appointment at the University are encouraged to apply to the CFI Innovation Fund (IF) program, normally held every two years. The IF program is intended to serve the needs of larger groups, centers, departments, or other participating institutions for transformative projects with a likelihood of being competitive on the global stage. The current 2023 competition is closed. Calls for the next competition will be communicated through Deans’/Directors’ offices in advance.

Timelines and assessment process for JELF proposals

Complete proposals must be submitted to the Office of Research Services: Birtukan.Gebretsadik@umanitoba.ca Research Grants Officer, by the Dean/Director or designate of the lead Faculty/School on behalf of the New Investigator(s) by **4:30 pm, February 27, 2023**. Units are advised to **establish their own earlier internal review deadlines**. If submitting more than one proposal, please indicate a rank ordering in terms of their importance to your unit’s strategic development of research and research training. Full details of the JELF program and application form can be accessed at CFI’s website: <https://www.innovation.ca/awards/john-r-evans-leaders-fund>.

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the University’s CFI Advisory Committee, with recommendations made to the VPRI for submission to the CFI. Decisions will be provided to Deans/Directors by April 14, 2023.

ORS staff will conduct a virtual workshop in Microsoft Teams

Please contact Birtukan.Gebretsadik@umanitoba.ca to register for the following date:

- November 18, 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Researchers will receive a calendar invite in Microsoft Teams, after they have registered to attend.

For proposals recommended for submission to the CFI, investigators will work to refine their submissions with assistance from ORS staff, their unit's research facilitators (as available), and as necessary, a peer identified from within their unit and/or the CFI Advisory Committee.

A strong emphasis is placed by the CFI on alignment with the institutional Strategic Research Plan (http://umanitoba.ca/research/media/Strategic_Research_Plan.pdf), as well as infrastructure sustainability and management plans. Therefore, the University expects that Faculties/Schools, through their Associate Deans (Research)/Research Liaison Officers, will become involved at the earliest stages of proposal development. Investigators can also seek assistance from the ORS and unit research facilitators in the proposal development prior to the internal submission deadline of February 27, 2023.

Excellence of the investigator(s), a clear argument for recruitment or retention and proposal completeness (all sections addressed and questions from the CFI Assessment Criteria answered) are important considerations. *Incomplete applications may be returned to the Faculty/School and will not be reviewed by the CFI Advisory Committee.* Evidence of sufficient research operating support is also a requirement for a successful application.

Assessment criteria for a JELF award:

- The proposed research or technology development program;
- The expertise and ability of the investigator to undertake the proposed research or technology development program;
- The requested infrastructure and how it will enable the proposed research or technology development program;
- The expected benefits to Canada;
- The institutional support in this area of research or technology development and for this particular project; and
- The operating and maintenance needs of the infrastructure.

If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of New Investigators, the JELF program or the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Birtukan.Gebretsadik@umanitoba.ca, Office of Research Services.