

Seed Fund

Application Form

OCEAN FRONTIER INSTITUTE | Led by DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

The Seed Fund provides expert support and funding for ocean-focused projects with strong innovation potential. It aims to advance bold ideas in research, commercialization, policy, and social impact, helping to pave the way for larger research programs, policy development, and commercial investment.

Visit our website for more additional information about the Seed Fund program.

Selection Criteria

Seed Fund applications will be assessed on the following selection criteria:

- Excellence and creativity of the proposed research project (25%)
- Alignment with TCA's research priorities (25%)
- Potential for the project to create broader commercial, research, policy, or social relevance opportunities related to the ocean and climate change (25%)
- The project's plan to foster and support respectful engagement, the removal of systemic barriers, and equitable access considerations (25%)

Note: The fund cannot be used to supplement OFI's large research projects currently underway.

Contact Information

Dalhousie University:

Email: seedfund@dal.ca

University of Quebec at Rimouski:

Marie-Michelle Dugas, TCA Administrative Management
Email:marie-michelle_dugas@uqar.ca

Laval University:
Dr. Marie-Hélène Forget, TCA Director
Email: marie-helene.forget@takuvik.ulaval.ca

Memorial University:
Email: seedfund@dal.ca

Application submissions:
Please submit your full application to: seedfund@dal.ca

Application Form

Primary Applicant Information

Full name:* _____

Academic title:* _____

Email address:* _____

Phone number:* _____

Office/lab address:* _____

Institution & faculty:* _____

Role in Seed Fund project:* _____

If a student or postdoc, indicate contact information for a current faculty member who would act as the project supervisor and grant-holder:

Note: For **Memorial University** applicants only: Due to the small amount of Seed Fund budget available for this year's competition, only one application will be accepted per eligible grant holder (faculty member).

Project Information

What is the title of the proposed research? *

Summary of proposed research: (Maximum 2200 characters)*

What is your field of study? *

- ☐ ***Social Sciences & Humanities***
- ☐ ***Engineering and Applied Sciences***
- ☐ ***Natural Sciences***

Provide five keywords for your project: *(Maximum 120 characters)**

Describe the anticipated outcomes of the project, their significance, and the approach that will be used to achieve them. *(Maximum 1800 characters)**

Provide a brief description of the project's aims, rationale, and methodology. *(Maximum 1800 characters)**

Please select your proposed research theme from the supported research themes by TCA: *

- ☐ ***Reducing international uncertainty about ocean carbon sequestration***
- ☐ ***Making Canada a global leader in the mitigation of carbon emissions***
- ☐ ***Promoting just and equitable adaptation***

How does the project align with TCA research themes? *(Maximum 1300 characters)**

How might this project catalyze a new funded initiative (such as a larger-scale research project or commercial opportunity) with significant relevance to ocean-related commercial, research, policy, or social aspects in the future? *(Maximum 1800 characters)**

Have you previously participated in Lab2Market Foundations and/or Intellectual Property Training? *

- ☐ ***Intellectual Property Training***
- ☐ ***Lab2Market Foundations***
- ☐ ***Other***

If you selected "Other" for the above question, could you please provide further details? *(Maximum 200 characters)**

Workplan

What is the start date for this project? *

_____

What is the end date for this project? *

_____

Proposed Project Timeline:
Please include key milestones and deliverables and submit a Gantt Chart if applicable. *(Maximum 1300 characters)**

In what ways does your project align with one or more of the following strategic priority areas: policy impact, social impact, data management, data visualization, commercialization, or knowledge mobilization? Please describe your work in these areas, highlighting any novel or innovative aspects of your approach. *(Maximum 1800 characters)**

Indicate if you, your department, or your institution have matching funding available to support this project. Please provide an overview of the amount available, the source, and the timeline associated with the matching funds. *(Maximum 500 characters)**

Data Strategy and AI Integration

Does your proposed research have any potential for an AI or advanced data synthesis component(s) (algorithms, machine learning, generative AI, etc.) that you are interested in exploring?

☐ ***Yes*** ☐ ***No***

Please describe your data readiness, what data you propose to collect, or how AI or advanced data synthesis (algorithms, machine learning, generative AI, etc.) may add value to your research. *(Maximum 1000 characters)**

What types of data are you proposing to collect or generate through this project? Who owns the data being collected or used? Are any permissions required to use or share the data? *(Maximum 1800 characters)**

Respectful Engagement, Systemic Barriers, and Equitable Access Considerations

For inquiries regarding Respectful Engagement, Systemic Barriers, and Equitable Access Considerations, please contact Aria Russell, Project Manager at OFI: aria.russell@dal.ca

Brief description of how the project would mitigate systemic barriers faced by underrepresented groups. *(Maximum 1300 characters)**

In your answer, please address:

- How the project will address systemic barriers faced by underrepresented groups, including Indigenous communities, women, racialized individuals, people with disabilities, and 2SLGTQIA+ communities.
- How respectful engagement with underrepresented groups and/or equitable access will be addressed within the advancement of your research.
- How respectful engagement and inclusion of diverse communities will be addressed in staff or highly qualified personnel (HQP) recruitment.

Seed Fund Project Team Members

List all additional project team members in this section. If there are more than two, please include their information on a separate page.

Team Member 1

Full name:* _____

Academic title:* _____

Email address:* _____

Phone number:* _____

Address:* _____

Institution/Faculty/Organization* _____

Role in the project:* _____

Team Member 2

Full name:* _____

Academic title:* _____

Email address:* _____

Phone number:* _____

Address:* _____

Institution/Faculty/Organization* _____

Role in the project:* _____

Collaborators or Partners Outside the Seed Fund Project Team

This section must list all other collaborators or partners outside of the Seed Fund project team. If there is more than one, please include their information on a separate page.

Collaborator or Partner

Full name:* _____

Title:* _____

Email address:* _____

Phone number:* _____

Address:* _____

Institution/Faculty/Organization* _____

Role in the project:* _____

Checklist and Submission Details

For **Memorial University** applicants only:

☐ *I confirm that this application is the only one submitted for this eligible grant holder.*

List faculty member's name here:

_____

Before submitting your full application package, please ensure you have completed the required online forms:

- Checklist Confirmation Form
- Excluded Reviewers Form (optional)

Completion of the Checklist Confirmation Form is mandatory and must be done prior to submitting your application materials.

Disclaimer

- All funding awarded under the Seed Fund is subject to and must adhere to the policies, procedures, and guidelines of the host institution. Applicants are responsible for ensuring compliance with these regulations, including but not limited to financial administration, ethical conduct, and reporting requirements.
- Start date must be set on or after the award notification date.
- Start date can be aligned with the scheduled award date or scheduled for a later time.
- The end date must be within 12 months or earlier.