

Office of Research Services Update - January 2021**January 7, 2021**

Dear MacEwan Research, Scholarly, & Creative Activity Community,

I hope everyone had a restful holiday and a good start to 2021. As challenging as 2020 was for all of society, I prefer to take an optimistic view and think of the lessons learned that we can build upon. COVID-19 gave us a different lens to look at how we deliver healthcare, education, and social services, as well as new insight into how we design and deliver communication and socialization. These new insights provide great opportunities for Research, Scholarly, & Creative Activity (RSCA). I see 2021 as a year of opportunities for all of society, but especially for post-secondary education. We are in a province that in the last two years has been double hit by the oil and gas market collapse and now COVID-19. We often hear the phrase “Build back better” in the province and we will play a key role in building Alberta back better. We are not here to solve COVID-19, it is just the pandemic of the minute, day, month, year etc. However, we can use COVID-19 as an opportunity to identify and engage in scholarly activity that crosses disciplines and sectors and helps us to develop societal resiliency to pandemics and other critical response needs.

1. Office of Research Services

The Office of Research Services (ORS) has adapted its delivery model in line with the Provincial work-at-home mandate. We are currently offering all our services virtually. Watch the ORS website for any update on ORS service delivery as Provincial and Institutional guidelines change. We strongly encourage people to e-mail research@macewan.ca to set up an appointment for any ORS service.

a. COVID-19 Information for Researchers

The ORS website is constantly updated and includes a dedicated *COVID-19: Information for Researchers* section with documents on research resumption, ethics, grant funding and amendments etc. All the five webinars from fall 2020 webinar series are available for viewing at the Office of Research Services “Channel” [Office of Research Services - MacEwan University](#)

b. Research Ethics

All human or animal research ethics services are available virtually. This includes any support for applications in ROMEO or general questions about research ethics. People with previous human or animal REB approval may have to provide additional COVID-19 related documentation or justification prior to resuming any RSCA. We have developed several documents outlining COVID-19 specific REB considerations for doing in-person and field research and how methods or approaches may need to be amended accordingly. These documents are available on the ORS website at <https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/OfficeofResearchServices/Ethics/index.htm>.

Rebecca Mitchell, the Research Ethics Officer, is holding weekly virtual office hours to discuss your project and the ethics submission process. You can join Rebecca on MS Teams every **Monday** and **Thursday** from 10:00 – 11:00 AM for a project-specific consultation by [clicking here](#).

As always, if the virtual office hours do not work for you, you can contact Rebecca directly at REB@macewan.ca to set up a one-on-one meeting.

c. Research Contracts and Expense Claims

Expense claims or setting up research accounts or contracts for students or RAs continue to be processed as usual. We ask that all contract or expense claim requests be done virtually. If you are having trouble with a research contract or expense claim please e-mail research@macewan.ca

To facilitate the submission of expense claims we have developed expense claims templates for travel and research material claims. We have also developed a guide for completing expense claims. Templates and guidelines are available here [Post-award Management - MacEwan University](#) The expense claim templates and instructions must be followed or else expense claims will be returned to the submitter.

d. ORS Winter 2020 Webinar Series

ORS will be continuing our webinar series in the winter semester. Webinars are either Tuesday from 12:30PM-1:30PM or Wednesday from 12Noon-1PM. Our first three webinars for the semester are as follows:

Tues Jan 19 12:30 – 1:30 pm Applying for the MacEwan Project, Dissemination and Community Engaged Scholarship Grants

Join Garson Law and Dr. Cynthia Puddu from the Office of Research services to learn more about the Project, Dissemination and Community Engaged Scholarship Grants. An overview of the grants and advice on the application process will be included in the discussion. Questions regarding on the grants or the application process can be sent to ORS ahead of time to have them answered in the webinar.

To register for the webinar or to submit a question for it please email: research@macewan.ca

Wed Jan 27 12:00 – 1:00 pm The Conversation Canada: Academic Rigor, Journalistic Flair

Mr. Scott White, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of The Conversation Canada (CC), will provide an overview of CC as an independent source of “news and views from the academic and research community, delivered direct to the public.” Scott will also discuss writing workshops and other supports offered by CC as well as describe opportunities for MacEwan faculty and students to engage with CC as a knowledge mobilization tool.

Register for the webinar here:

<https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/OfficeofResearchServices/Events/index.htm>

Tues Feb 2 12:30 – 1:30 pm Applying for the Undergraduate Student Research Initiative (USRI) Project and Dissemination Grants

Join Garson Law from the Office of Research services to learn more information about the Undergraduate Student Research Initiative (USRI) Project and Dissemination Grants available to students in all programs. Faculty supervisors are encouraged to attend this workshop to be able to better support students in submitting their applications. An overview of the grants and advice on applying will be included in the discussion. Questions regarding on the grants or the application process can be sent to ORS ahead of time to have them answered in the webinar.

To register for the webinar or to submit a question for it please email: research@macewan.ca

e. Research Resumption during COVID-19

Pandemic management will continue into the winter semester and we still require pre-approval for resuming on and off-campus RSCA. Faculty members that wish to resume either on or off campus RSCA are required to complete and have the necessary restart form approved before resuming any RSCA. On-campus RSCA restart forms must be completed if the RSCA involves groupwork or it will take place in a shared or common space. Faculty wishing to use their individual offices for sporadic scholarly activity do not need to follow the on-campus RSA resumption process. However, any individuals wishing to do on campus office work should consult with their chair or Dean for any Faculty or School specific return to work protocols prior to starting any RSCA.

By request from some researchers, we have also created a RSCA request form for one-time on-campus events and would be used if someone wished to hold a focus group or other activity on campus of a single duration. All research restart forms are available on the ORS website.

2. COVID Impacts on Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity

COVID-19 has greatly impacted people's ability to travel, conduct RSCA and to apply for new funding. Both our internal funding and external sources (e.g. Tri-Agencies) have been as flexible as possible in granting extensions for existing funding.

a. Travel for Research and/or Knowledge Mobilization

The faculty and staff international travel ban has been extended until April 30, 2021 and no international travel for RSCA will be approved before that date. Domestic travel may be allowed subject to the usual levels of approval and any government restrictions. Updates on the international travel ban will be forthcoming in the winter semester.

While our ability to travel has been severely impacted, I recognize that many conferences and other knowledge mobilization events have switched to virtual formats. We highly encourage people to continue to disseminate their RSCA and thus we are keeping the winter call for dissemination funding to support people who may want to present their work at a virtual conference.

b. Grant Extensions Due to COVID-19 Impacts

COVID-19 has substantially impacted people's ability to conduct RSCA and to accommodate this issue we have been as flexible as possible with extensions on internal research grants. People holding a MacEwan internal research grant where the proposed activity has been impacted by COVID-19 may apply for a grant amendment to extend the timeline or to change the method or approach of the RSA. Please ensure extension requests are made at least 30 days before the original end of the grant. The *Internal Grant Amendment Request Form* and additional details on grant amendments are available on the ORS website.

For dissemination travel such as for conferences, dissemination grant extensions will only be given if it the request is for the same activity that has been delayed due to COVID-19. For example, if you received funding to attend a conference in Fall 2020 and the conference has been moved to Fall 2021, you may request an amendment for that travel. Amendments will not be granted if the request is for a different activity than that which was initially funded. Please let us know if you have any questions about extensions for dissemination funding.

For extensions on Tri-Agency grants or other external funding organizations, please refer to the website of the funding agency or organization for specific details on funding extensions. For Tri-Agency funding please consult the website for NSERC [NSERC - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](http://nserc-crsng.gc.ca), SSHRC [Home \(sshrc-crsh.gc.ca\)](http://sshrc-crsh.gc.ca) or CIHR [Welcome to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](http://welcome-to-the-canadian-institutes-of-health-research-cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

c. New Funding Opportunities

Many external funding agencies are offering special funding calls on various aspects of COVID-19. To keep people updated on all funding opportunities we have developed a list of current internal and external funding opportunities that is updated regularly - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Qkvx5Y5eNYq-LudctgJzBjXrBC3Le2091qv4pSv1U0/edit#gid=0>

We are re-assessing all our internal research grants to best position them to support the RSCA people are doing. We will be holding sessions with all the Faculties and Schools in the winter term to get input on our internal grants.

3. Grant and Award Opportunities

The call is now open for the winter 2021 internal grants and research awards.

a. Internal Grant Opportunities

The following internal grant opportunities are now open:

Faculty grants:

Dissemination Grant
Project Grant

Student grants:

USRI Project
USRI Dissemination
USRA

All the above internal grants have a **March 1, 2021** deadline.

b. Community Engaged Scholarship Grant

We will be holding another call for the Community Engaged Scholarship Grant (CESG). This grant supports Community Engaged Scholarship opportunities for MacEwan faculty and their community partners. The deadline for applications is **April 1, 2021** and more information on the CES grant can be found here [Community Engaged Scholarship Grant - MacEwan University](#).

c. Research Awards

The call for the Distinguished Research award and the Board of Governors Research Chairs is now open. Applications for both awards are due **March 1, 2021** and application details are available on the ORS website.

4. Collaborative Scholarship Opportunities

In fall 2020 we established partnerships with organizations such as Health City [Health City | Economic development through health innovation \(edmontonhealthcity.ca\)](#) and Edmonton Global [Edmonton Global](#). These partnerships provide RSCA opportunities for our faculty and students. The November 26 webinar introduced Health City and some of the opportunities for collaboration. Please get in touch with my office if you want more information on these opportunities.

Contacting the Office of Research Services

There are several ways that people can find information or get in touch with ORS. Check the ORS website regularly and follow us on Twitter (@MacEwanResearch) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/macewanresearch/>) for updated information. For specific questions, the following table provides contact information for ORS staff and the areas they are responsible for:

ORS Staff Member	Area of Responsibility	E-mail
Craig Kuziemyk	Associate Vice-President, Research	kuziemyk@cacewan.ca
Garson Law	Internal/external research grant funding, research program development	lawg22@macewan.ca
Janice Mah	Support analyst for PeopleSoft and communication systems	Janice.Mah@macewan.ca
Aleah McCorry	Animal care technician	mccorria0@macewan.ca
Rebecca Mitchell	Research ethics (human and animal)	mitchellr38@macewan.ca
Cynthia Puddu	Community engaged scholarship	pudduc@macewan.ca
Bryce Wicks	Project accounts & paying research students or personnel, expense claim eligibility, other financial issues	wicksb2@macewan.ca
Carmen Wiggins	Marketing, social media, communications	wigginsc3@macewan.ca
Nicole Zastawny	Expense claim submission or general inquiries	Nicole.Zastawny@macewan.ca

Any general inquiries should be directed to research@macewan.ca

I wish everyone a safe and productive winter semester. I hope that you will be able to attend some of the events we have planned over the winter. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or require any specific supports from my office.

Regards,



Dr. Craig Kuziemyk
Associate Vice-President, Research