

Office of Research Services Update – September 2021**September 10, 2021**

Dear MacEwan Research, Scholarly, & Creative Activity Community,

Welcome to the September 2021 update from the Office of Research Services (ORS). I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is looking forward to a resumption of on-campus activity. The fall always brings an increase in opportunities for Research, Scholarly, & Creative Activity (RSCA) and this fall promises to be no different. Alongside our ongoing scholarly opportunities, there are also numerous emerging opportunities related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This fall, aside from our regular events and support for grant writing, etc., ORS will begin developing a tactical plan for RSCA to build upon the strategic visioning exercise being done at the institutional level. ORS will be engaging with the faculties and schools and external community partners to shape the direction of RSCA at MacEwan.

There are several updates for the Fall 2021 term.

1. Office of Research Services

The Office of Research Services resumed on-campus activity and our office (7-257) is open for appointments. While on-campus meetings are offered, the availability of them may vary from day to day. We strongly encourage people to email research@macewan.ca to request an appointment for any ORS service.

a. Staffing Updates in ORS

The Office of Research Services had some staffing changes over the summer. (1) Dr. Sandy Jung has joined us on a one-year secondment as Interim Associate Dean, Research. (2) Professor Raymond Baril has taken over as the director of community engaged scholarship from Dr. Cynthia Puddu. We are grateful for all the contributions Dr. Puddu made in the role over the last three years, including establishing the first dedicated internal research funding for community engaged scholarship and starting work on MacEwan's pursuit of the Carnegie Classification. (3) Finally, Garson Law has left MacEwan for an external opportunity. We thank Garson for all his work on building up our external funding capacity.

b. COVID-19 Information for Researchers

The [Office of Research Services - MacEwan University](#) website is constantly updated and includes a dedicated *COVID-19: Information for Researchers* section with documents on pandemic-related impacts to conducting research and implications for ethics, grant funding, amendments, etc.

As communicated in the summer, we have resumed on and off-campus research activity without the need for COVID-related pre-approval. Regular research ethics board approval is still required where applicable. Research activity must follow all current public health guidelines to ensure the safety of

research faculty, staff, students and participants. Researchers are expected to follow all institutional COVID regulations for masking, vaccination status, testing, etc. if conducting RSCA on campus.

Similarly, if conducting research off of campus, the public health requirements at the off-campus site must be followed. Please remember that we are still in a very dynamic environment and public health regulations can change very quickly. The [Coronavirus - MacEwan University](#) website has the most up-to-date information about COVID-19, on-campus safety measures, etc.

c. Research Ethics

All human or animal research ethics services are available in-person and virtually. This includes any support for applications in ROMEO or general questions about research ethics.

Rebecca Mitchell, Research Ethics Officer, will not be having scheduled office hours over the fall term but she is available for 1:1 consultation by appointment. Please consult Rebecca directly at REB@macewan.ca to set up an in-person or virtual one-on-one meeting.

d. Research Contracts and Expense Claims

Expense claims or setting up research accounts or contracts for students or RAs continue to be processed as usual. Our website has templates for travel and research material expense claims. We have also developed a guide for completing expense claims. Templates and guidelines are available here: [Post-award Management - MacEwan University](#). The more stringent expense claim process is to help ORS better manage the workload associated with expense claims, and to ensure we are better able to comply with compliance and reporting guidelines from funding agencies. The expense claim templates and instructions must be followed when submitting a claim or else expense claims will be returned to the submitter. Should anyone have trouble with an expense claim, please contact research@macewan.ca for assistance.

Support for research contracts or expense claims is available virtually or in person in 7-257 but we encourage people to first set up an appointment through research@macewan.ca.

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 expired on September 1, 2021, and travel can again be requested and approved. However, there are a few conditions people must still follow. (1) First is that not all borders have reopened, and approval will be contingent on a border being open prior to the date of travel. For example, while a faculty member could apply to attend a conference in the US in November, Canadians currently cannot enter the US for non-essential travel. Should the US open their borders for Canadians by November, the faculty member would be able to travel to the US. Travel to some countries is more problematic than others and international travel will be precarious well into

2022. The Government of Canada Global Travel Advisory website is the best source for all information related to global travel: [Travel Advice and Advisories - Travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca). (2) Second, any additional requirements related to travel including entry requirements (e.g. proof of vaccination) and mandatory COVID-19 testing (where applicable) are the responsibility of the traveler.

While our ability to travel was severely impacted for the last year, many conferences and other knowledge mobilization events have switched to virtual formats and may still be using that format into 2022. We highly encourage people to continue to disseminate their RSCA and thus we are making dissemination funding available to support people who may want to present their work at virtual conferences and other events.

b. Grant Extensions Due to COVID-19 Impacts

COVID-19 substantially impacted people's ability to conduct RSCA. 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 RSCA. 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. NSERC has published a set of guidelines for describing pandemic-related impacts in grant applications: [NSERC - Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on research: NEW guidelines for NSERC's community \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/impacts)

For dissemination travel, such as for conferences, dissemination grant extensions will only be given if the request is for the same activity that has been delayed due to COVID-19. Dissemination funding is not transferable to a new activity. For example, if you received funding to attend a conference in spring 2021 and the conference has been moved to Spring 2022, you may request an amendment for that travel. Amendments will not be granted if the request is for a different activity than 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 \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca), SSHRC [Home \(sshrc-crsh.gc.ca\)](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca) or CIHR [Welcome to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

c. New Funding Opportunities

Many external funding agencies are continuing to offer special funding calls for COVID-19. To keep people updated on all funding opportunities, we have developed a list of current internal and external funding opportunities that is update regularly: bit.ly/3yWPgag

We are re-assessing all our internal research grants to best position them to support the RSCA people are doing. We began conversations with Faculties and Schools in the Winter 2021 term to get input on our internal grants, and consultation will continue over the Fall 2021 term.

3. ORS Fall 2021 Research Event Series

ORS will be continuing our RSCA event series this fall. However, the focus of the events will be developing a research program and grant writing for MacEwan faculty. Our initial fall event is as follows:

September 13 to 16, 2021, 4 – 5 pm, online and 7-254

Drop-In Information Sessions: Applying for Upcoming Internal Grants

Facilitated by Dr. Sandy Jung, Interim Associate Dean, Office of Research Services

Join Dr. Sandy Jung from the Office of Research Services in any of these four (4) drop-in sessions to learn more about the MacEwan Faculty Dissemination, USRI Dissemination, Strategic Research Grant, and SSHRC Institutional Grant. Questions about these internal grants and tips on how to apply will be discussed. Sandy will be available both online via Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/vkf-gadi-xzv?authuser=0>) and in-person in room 7-254.

Watch the ORS website and social media channels for information on other fall events. All the previous webinars are available for viewing on the Office of Research Services “channel” - [Office of Research Services - MacEwan University](#).

4. Knowledge Mobilization Opportunities

a. Research Recast(ed) Podcast Series

To improve our knowledge mobilization and outreach about our research, scholarly and creative work, the Office of Research Services and the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications launched a new podcast, [Research Recast\(ed\)](#), on September 2. Join co-hosts Brittany Ekelund (a recent MacEwan journalism graduate) and Dylan Cave (current MacEwan music student) as they explore the research, scholarly and creative activities happening at the university, and how faculty influence and/or incorporate students, teaching and the larger community into their scholarly work.

In each episode, Brittany and Dylan are joined by a MacEwan faculty to delve into their scholarly projects and bring them to life. The podcast will cover topics from theatre, community-based research, advocacy for student and societal mental health and wellbeing, neuroscience, and many topics in between. People can access or subscribe via services such as Spotify, Apple Podcasts or Google Podcasts at: <https://research-recasted.pinecast.co/>.

b. Conversation Canada

In spring 2020 MacEwan signed on as a member of the Conversation Canada, a media outlet providing independent, high-quality, explanatory journalism. As a member, we get access to support for pitching and writing stories. The introductory webinar by Scott White, CEO of the Conversation Canada, is available on the Office of Research Services “channel” - [Office of Research Services - MacEwan University](#). Please e-mail research@macwean.ca if you would like to find out more about submitting stories to the Conversation Canada.

5. Collaborative Scholarship Opportunities

Over the fall and winter terms, ORS established partnerships with organizations such as Health City [[Health City | Economic development through health innovation \(edmontonhealthcity.ca\)](#)], Edmonton

Global [[Edmonton Global](#)], the Edmonton Police Services, and the Edmonton International Airport. These partnerships provide RSCA opportunities for our faculty and students. Please get in touch with ORS 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 ([@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
Sandy Jung	Interim Associate Dean, Research	sandy.jung@macewan.ca
Raymond Baril	Community engaged scholarship	barilr0@macewan.ca
Lindsey Chochula	Support analyst for PeopleSoft and communication systems	drozakl@macewan.ca
Slavica Lepki	Internal grants and pre and post award support	bjelis@macewan.ca
Aleah McCorry	Animal care coordinator	mccorrya0@macewan.ca
Rebecca Mitchell	Research ethics (human and animal)	mitchellr38@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 fall term. I hope that people can attend some of the ORS events and you are able to pursue some of the RSCA opportunities that are available. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or require any specific supports from ORS.

Regards,



Dr. Craig Kuziemyk
 Associate Vice-President, Research and Interim Dean, School of Business