

CFI-IF 2027
Expression of Interest (EOI) Requirements

Due:	January 6, 2025
Components:	- Assessment Criteria (6 pages) - Budget (in RFS's CFI spreadsheet) - Endorsement of anticipated construction/renovation costs, with authorizing signature.
Submit to	Manager, Strategic Programs: ailsakay@uoguelph.ca

The objectives of the Innovation Fund competition are to:

- Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members.
- Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program over the useful life of the infrastructure.
- Generate benefits for Canadians.

We anticipate that the objectives and assessment criteria will not change substantially for the 2027 competitive. We also anticipate that the CFI will again offer three streams:

Stream 1: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open to all disciplines)

Stream 2: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities, and arts (SSHA) **The University can lead one Stream 2 proposal outside the institutional envelope.*

Stream 3: Creation, renewal, and upgrade of core facilities

EOI criteria are based on CFI's 2025 assessment criteria. Criteria for Stream 3 differs from the Stream 1 & 2 Criteria. Each criterion will be scored on a 5-point scale.

Please see additional resources available at [Innovation Fund | Office of Research \(uoguelph.ca\)](https://www.uoguelph.ca/innovation-fund)

1. Assessment Criteria (for streams).

Formatting Guidelines:

Length: 6 pages

Font: 12 pt

Margins: 1" (2.5 cm)

Stream 1 and 2 Assessment Criteria

1. Internationally competitive research or technology development

- a. Goals and objectives of the program of research
- b. The innovative aspects and the breakthrough potential of the proposed activities within the national and international context.
- c. The approach, methodology and key challenges as well as how the team will overcome them
- d. How principles of equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the design of the research or technology development program (if not applicable, explain why).

NOTE: We recommend inclusion of a cogent problem statement at the beginning of this section.

2. Team

- a. Describe Project Director's experience leading large-scale initiatives.
- b. The expertise needed to conduct the proposed activities and use the requested infrastructure (include a competency matrix).
- c. The experience and output of each team member as it relates to their career stage and role in the team
- d. Evidence-based actions taken to enable full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers
- e. Evidence-based actions taken to provide an equitable, inclusive and accessible working environment.

Note: It is imperative to demonstrate that the team has all the expertise required to conduct the research proposed. Even if the infrastructure is housed entirely at U of G, it is expected that the team will include researchers from other universities.

3. Benefits to Canada

- a. Anticipated benefits of the research or technology development activities and their impact
- b. Potential pathways to transfer results to end users and partners (e.g., collaboration with communities, clinicians and the public or private sector)
- c. How principles of equity and inclusion for any people communities that may be impacted by the proposed activities have been considered

4. Institutional Alignment and Sustainability

- a. How is U of G positioned in relation to national and international competitors in this research area? To substantiate claims, please list competitors and provide relevant comparative data in table form. This might include e.g., bibliometric data, global rankings, peer-reviewed recognitions such as NSERC prizes and CRCs.
- b. What existing U of G infrastructure and facilities will complement this infrastructure?
- c. What U of G research centers, institutes, or graduate programs will benefit from this infrastructure
- d. What is the approximate anticipated cost to maintain the equipment and how will these costs be covered?

Stream 3 Assessment Criteria

1. Research or technology development
 - a. A high-level description of the types of projects the infrastructure will enable, and, in more detail, a representative sample of the projects to be conducted (include a link to the facility's website)
 - b. The innovative aspects and the breakthrough potential of the projects within the national and international context (include references)
 - c. The network of users and collaborators in academia, communities, public or private sector
 - d. How principles of equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the design of the projects (if not applicable, explain why).
2. Team
 - a. The expertise and specialized skills needed to enable multiple research or technology development activities and use the requested infrastructure
 - b. The experience and output of each team member as it relates to their career stage and role in the team
 - c. Evidence-based actions taken to enable full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers
 - d. Evidence-based actions taken to provide an equitable, inclusive and accessible working environment.
3. Benefits to Canada
 - a. Anticipated benefits of the research or technology development activities and their impact
 - b. Potential pathways to transfer results to end users and partners (e.g., collaboration with communities, clinicians and the public or private sector)
 - c. How principles of equity and inclusion for any people communities that may be impacted by the proposed activities have been considered
4. Institutional Alignment and Sustainability
 - a. How the facility will be operated and managed
 - b. How data will be securely and ethically managed
 - c. The operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources
 - d. What U of G research centers, institutes, or graduate programs will benefit from this infrastructure

2. Budget

Use the RFS budget spreadsheet to provide an approximate total project budget and CFI allocation request (40% of total project costs) that includes:

- i. major items of equipment (w/in \$500K).
- ii. anticipated construction/renovation costs (and location)
- iii. anticipated in-kind contributions (vendor discounts)
- iv. amount of CFI envelope requested from potential partner institutions

3. Endorsement

Letter, signed by the dean, confirming the equipment location and endorsing the college's anticipated financial commitment to construction/renovation and maintenance.