

Research contingency fund:

The research Contingency Fund is intended to enable applicants who were unsuccessful in obtaining funding in a recent research grant competition to undertake measures to improve the quality of a rejected research grant and increase the likelihood of success of a resubmission in future competitions. This in turn will allow for continuity of existing research programs or pursuit of novel lines of investigation during the brief periods between grant competitions. Research contingency funds will be awarded to unfunded, yet highly ranked research grants, from applicants who have participated in the internal grant review process at OVC. Applications for research contingency funds will be reviewed by members of the internal grant review panel and a recommendation will be made to the Associate Dean, Research and Innovation.

Requirements for applications for Contingency Funds:

- Complete rejected research full proposal (e.g. NSERC form 100 and 101) including reviewers comments from the granting agency
- Contingency fund proposal outlining specific use of the funds e.g. specific experiments, assistance with manuscript preparation etc. that will address reviewers' concerns
- Detailed budget with justification of budget items

Questions to be addressed in the application for Contingency Funds:

1. What aspects of the original proposal need to be addressed for a resubmission to be improved and more competitive?
2. Does the contingency fund application address the reviewers' concerns? If so, how?
3. Are the proposed experiments feasible and achievable within a realistic time frame i.e. before the next grant competition?
4. Are issues other than scientific methodology/approach addressed by use of the contingency funds e.g. suboptimal productivity (i.e. publications or HQP training), lack of novelty, lack of preliminary data?
5. Will the proposed experiments substantially improve a revised grant submission? If so, how?
6. What mentoring issues should be addressed in conjunction with contingency funds e.g. assistance with scientific writing, improving grantsmanship skills, more effective supervision of graduate students, enhancing time management etc?

Responsibilities for reviewers of Contingency Fund applications

- Review the rejected research proposal and associated reviewers' comments and very briefly summarize the strengths and weaknesses
- Review the contingency fund proposal and determine whether the reviewers' concerns are being addressed and the potential for success in future resubmissions is improved
- Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Contingency Fund application and provide a recommendation and feedback to the applicant (e.g. approved, not approved, resubmit with revisions, more details etc.)