OCI C2C: A Primer for Faculty and Staff

The following is a brief overview of the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI) Collaborate 2 Commercialize (C2C) Grants program. For more information, please contact the Office of Applied Research and Innovation (OARI).

An OCI C2C project is a provincially-funded applied research project carried out by a college on behalf of an external partner. The college can be awarded up to $150,000 per year for a six-month to two-year project.

The OARI is responsible for the coordination and submission of <u>all Fleming College research proposals</u>. We want to make the application process as easy as possible for you – the first step is to let your Dean know of your interest and intention. With their support, the OARI will then work with you to prepare the project proposal, the project budget, and complete all the necessary paperwork.

Key details:
<u>Project length</u>: 6 months to 2 years
<u>Funding</u>: Up to $150,000 per year from OCI + 25% external partner cash match
<u>Project lead</u>: A Fleming College researcher
<u>External partners</u>: Required
<u>Student involvement</u>: Required

Project eligibility:
C2C grants support a wide range of research and development projects undertaken by college researchers with partner organizations. Is your project:

- ◯ In collaboration with an external company from Ontario?
- ◯ Focused on solving a specific problem for the partnering company?
- ◯ An opportunity for at least one student to engage in applied research?
- ◯ Within your scope of expertise or experience?

If you answered "yes" to all of the above, then your project could be a great candidate to receive C2C funding. Contact your Dean and/or Chair, as well as the OARI.

Expectations for external project partners:
OCI has outlined eligibility criteria for a project's external partner that must be fulfilled to be eligible for C2C funding. Your external partners must:

- ✓ Be a small-to-medium sized for-profit company in Ontario.
- ✓ Be incorporated in Ontario for a minimum of 2 years.
- ✓ Have at least five full-time equivalent employees.
- ✓ Have a plan to apply or commercialize the results of the project.
- ✓ Contribute a match of at least 25% of the grant amount in cash and 25% in in-kind.

Other eligibility criteria may be possible; external partners must first work with an OCI Business Development Manager to determine their eligibility and to begin the C2C application process. OARI can help with this process and once the application has begun, we can help you complete and submit the full application.

Timelines
Once OARI is notified of your interest and intent to apply for an OCI grant, we will work with you to determine a timeline for proposal completion and submission, which could take up to 4-6 weeks. Submitting your completed key documents to OARI quickly will help speed up the process. Once the proposal is submitted to OCI, the notification of results varies and can take several weeks.

Additional funding
The OCI C2C program is a great way to engage with industry partners on applied research while also providing opportunities for students to participate in hands-on learning. It is also a great opportunity to leverage additional funding sources for a project. During the proposal stage, C2C proposals can be combined with NSERC ARD funding proposals.

For more information, contact Laura Coles, Research Support Specialist, OARI.