
CIFAR

GLOBAL CALL

FOR IDEAS

LOI Instructions
2017 - 2019

CIFAR
CANADIAN
INSTITUTE
FOR
ADVANCED
RESEARCH

CIFAR GLOBAL CALL FOR IDEAS

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research invites the global research community to submit proposals for new programs that address complex, fundamental questions of importance to the world. Ideas must be novel, bold, and potentially transformative to warrant the creation of a sustained, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research program.

Deadline for Letter of Intent submissions: January 21, 2018

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) invites the global research community to submit proposals for new programs that address complex, fundamental questions of importance to the world. Ideas must be novel, bold, and potentially transformative to warrant the creation of a sustained, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research program. Proposals will be accepted from all areas of research.

Individuals considering submitting an LOI are strongly encouraged to visit CIFAR's website to look at the nature, breadth, and scope of our existing research programs.

OVERVIEW OF CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

A successful Letter of Intent (LOI) must satisfy the following criteria to qualify for consideration for Stage II of the Global Call. The proposed program must:

1) Align with CIFAR's overall mission.

- The LOI must outline a novel idea that addresses a complex research question of global importance and with the potential for impact.
- The LOI must articulate how an interdisciplinary approach with international engagement is needed to address this question.
- The LOI must clearly describe how CIFAR's model of supporting international engagement over a sustained period of time will add value to the pursuit of the identified research challenge or question.

2) Highlight an exceptional core research team and leadership.

- The proposed team should consist of researchers who are among the best in their fields globally.
- LOIs must identify up to seven core team members, including two suggested program Co-Directors.
- The proposed team must be international, interdisciplinary, and diverse. The founding team must include at least one member based at a Canadian institution.

COMPONENTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA OF THE LOI

The LOI includes five main components: Research Significance, Potential Impact, Excellence of the Research Team, Potential Leadership, and Alignment with CIFAR. Proponents are also expected to include a lay summary of the proposed research, three suggested reviewers, and supporting documents.

Listed below are the LOI components and instructions for each section.

Research Significance (750 words)

Describe the research question or challenge to be addressed in the proposed research program and how this challenge requires sustained collaboration through an international, interdisciplinary research network. In your description, give a brief overview of the current state of knowledge in this topic area and describe how this research program will add value to the work happening globally, including how this interdisciplinary effort is distinct from existing research efforts addressing similar questions.

Potential Impact (500 words)

Describe how the proposed research program has the potential to impact our understanding of the world. Outline how the proposed research question is complex, has potential for intellectual advancement and/or addresses an emerging area of inquiry. Articulate how a commitment from CIFAR would provide the opportunity to make important progress in addressing this research challenge and why this is the time for CIFAR to take on this challenge.

Excellence of Research Team (500 words)

Identify your team of researchers and clearly outline how each proposed member will contribute their own unique expertise necessary for addressing the research challenge. Describe how your interdisciplinary team is ideal to address the research question being proposed. Include a plan for inclusivity within the program's membership.

Potential Leadership (500 words)

Identify potential Co-Directors for your research team and describe how the proposed leadership demonstrates a history of promoting openness to new ideas and disruptive thinking. Overview how the proposed Co-Directors of the program have demonstrated a clear commitment to research impact and collaboration, and if applicable, have previous experience working with or leading an interdisciplinary team of world-class researchers.

Alignment with CIFAR (500 words)

Describe why a CIFAR effort, based around global, deep collaboration, would produce unique and important progress towards advancing the current state of research related to the identified research question. Articulate how CIFAR support will add value to the pursuit of the identified research challenge, including how CIFAR's model of supporting international engagement over a sustained period of time will contribute to developing transformative knowledge.

Lay Summary of Proposed Research (250 words)

Describe your proposed research in a way that is accessible to a lay audience. Indicate the significance of the proposed research and how this work will impact our understanding of the world.

Provide three suggested arm's-length reviewers fit to review your LOI, including their name, affiliation, email address, and research expertise.

Attachments (pdf): References cited in the LOI and short CVs (max. 5 pages each) for all team members

Any LOI that falls outside of CIFAR's mandate or that does not meet the Global Call criteria will not be further considered. We have provided examples below of proposals that do not align with a CIFAR program.

- LOI does not describe a research challenge that would clearly benefit from CIFAR's approach.
- LOI does not demonstrate how proposed research program addresses the identified global challenge.
- Proposed program does not require or clearly benefit from an interdisciplinary research approach.
- Core research team is not interdisciplinary in nature.
- Core research team is not international.
- Core research team does not include a member based at a Canadian institution.

Completing the LOI

You must complete the LOI using the CIFAR Portal, which can be accessed by visiting cifar.ca/cifar-global-call-for-ideas.

You will be required to sign up for an account and create an application addressing the Criteria for Selection. You must also attach a short CV for each proposed core team member as well as all references cited in the LOI and three suggested reviewers of your LOI.

Note that you will only be able to access to the online portal when the call opens on November 15, 2017.

Application Deadline

The deadline for LOI submissions is January 21, 2018 at 11:59pm (PST) through our online application portal. Late submissions and emailed submissions will not be considered.

More details on the CIFAR Global Call for Ideas, including the Criteria for Selection and timeline, can be found **here**.

A **Frequently Asked Questions page** has been developed to address questions that we anticipate. We encourage potential applicants to first review these, and to contact globalcall@cifar.ca with questions not addressed in the FAQ.