



Research Support Fund Objectives 2021-2022

Report on Research Support Fund Objectives and Indicators 2021-2022

In 2021-2022, Brock University allocated its Research Support Fund (RSF) funding in the following five areas:

Research Facilities (4.6%): The RSF was used to upgrade research space and support equipment operations. A portion of these funds was used to support the ongoing maintenance of an institutional website to profile the research enterprise and build research partnerships.

Resources (4.5%): RSF funds were provided to support licensing of tools that accelerate the research process by integrating funding, collaborator discovery, and publishing opportunities (Pivot database). These tools connect researchers to financial support by leveraging the most comprehensive global source of sponsored funding opportunities and providing scholarly profiles to match researchers with financial partners and collaborators. Also, licenses were continued for a research survey instrument that enables researchers across campus to collect critical data (Qualtrics) and a programming and numeric computing platform for analyzing data, developing algorithms, and creating models (MatLab).

Management and Administration (62%): RSF funds are a key component of the Office of Research Services' budget, which provides researchers access to professional staff who assist them with grant writing and overseeing their financial compliance and reporting. In 2021-2022, funding was used to procure an electronic research administration system to improve overall efficiency and client service, hire additional research services staff, and support as well as improve operations.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation (8.5%): The operation of the Research Ethics Board, the Animal Care and Use Committee, and Research Safety are funded through funds from the RSF program. Funding is also used to support further development and advancement of training programs for users of animal care services.

Intellectual Property and Commercialization (20.4%): RSF funds have allowed Brock University to meet rapidly expanding needs in the fields of intellectual property, patenting, technology transfer, and commercialization. Funding received in 2021-2022 supported the salaries of staff who build research partnerships between Brock researchers, industry and community groups and develop and identify avenues for the commercialization of new technologies. Funding also supported operational costs for the Innovation and Commercialization team.

Eligible Expenditure Category	Output (Investment or Expense of RSF Grant Funds)	Performance Objectives	Performance Indicators	Target Outcomes	Reported Outcomes
<p><u>Research Facilities</u></p>	<p>4.6% of the RSF grant will be used for upgrades to research space, support equipment operations and maintain a research website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved sustainability and efficiency of research equipment Maintenance of an institutional website for research communications and partnership building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of research equipment supported Number of visitors to the research services website Total support for research equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for 5 major pieces of equipment An increase of 10% in web traffic (internal and external) 15% increase in partnerships explored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment renovations and upgrades in 2021-2022 include those for the Validation, Prototyping & Manufacturing Institute, the Brock Library Makerspace, and the Math and Science shop. Purchases included lab safety equipment and a powered air purifying respirator. The internal Research Enterprise website has been updated in an effort to improve communication of funding opportunities to Brock researchers and to improve usability of the site. The number of subscribers to the research communications web digest has continued to grow (currently at 587 subscribers). There were approximately 32,700 page views during the reporting period. University research partnership activity has continued to grow significantly in comparison to 2020-2021 with the number of formal partnerships increasing by more than one-third. Brock has benefited from additional prospect exploration as well as increased efforts to engage with industry and community groups.

<p><u>Research Resources</u></p>	<p>4.5% of the RSF grant will support software licensing; namely, a funding / collaborator and publication database (Pivot), the licensing of survey tool instruments, and a site license for MatLab</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced support for researchers in finding external funding, collaborators, and publication opportunities through the Pivot database • Sustained usage of Qualtrics software for research survey design and implementation • Implementation of MatLab institutional license for use by researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of users of Pivot, Qualtrics, and MatLab resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased usage of Pivot funding database and Qualtrics survey tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research clients from all faculties can search Pivot for funding opportunities. Auto-generated reports have been embedded in the site allowing researchers to find more opportunities readily. • Researchers have continued to make use of the MatLab license. • The Qualtrics subscription was expanded to an institutional subscription. • The Office of Research Services engaged the services of a grant-writing firm to enhance support for grant applications to funding programs of strategic importance to the institution. • Resources were provided for an onsite Mitacs Business Development Officer.
<p><u>Management & Administration of Institution's Research Enterprise</u></p>	<p>62% of the RSF envelope will be used for the salary of research officers, accounting, and other research support staff who provide core services to Brock researchers. Funding was also used for the purchase of an electronic research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved administrative efficiency with the introduction of the research administration system • Improved support from research services staff in the preparation of grant applications and administration post 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of applications to external granting programs • Time savings for researchers and staff due to improved efficiency conferred by the research administration system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 – 10% increase in the number of applications to external agencies • Time savings / reduced administrative burden as reported by researchers through survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSF has translated into greater numbers of applications and increased research revenue. • An online portal on the internal website was created for researchers to communicate feedback, comments, and suggestions for the ORS; to date, no negative feedback or comment about staff and/or services provided to researchers has been received. • The hiring of additional research services staff has improved the capacity of the ORS to provide support in the preparation of

	administration system to improve efficiency	award			grant applications and post-award administration. This included partial funding of a new Mitacs Business Development Officer.
<u>Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation</u>	8.5% of the RSF fund will be used to support the operation of the Research Ethics Board (REB), the Animal Care and Use Committee, and Research Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going operations of the REB, animal care committee, and research safety boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely support of researchers using the services of the boards Sustained compliance record and maintenance of existing accreditations for animal care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased user satisfaction with board/office services No breaches in compliance or change in accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online portal on the internal website enables researchers to communicate feedback, comments, and suggestions for the Office of Research Services; to date, no negative feedback or comment about the board/office services has been received. To date, there have been no breaches in compliance or change in accreditation with the Research Ethics Board (REB), Animal Care and Use Committee, and Research Safety.
<u>Intellectual Property</u>	20.4% of the RSF will be used to offset staff salaries in the Innovation and Commercialization branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved support to researchers seeking to commercialize technologies or build research partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client satisfaction as is evidenced through client response Number of research partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in client satisfaction with services provided by the Innovation and Commercialization team Increase in number of research partnerships with industry and community groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The additional staff that was added has allowed for faster processing of a greater number of research contracts, Non-Disclosure Agreements, IP disclosures, and IP assignments in 2021-2022. Brock currently maintains approximately 29 patent families and the RSF helps to defray the costs of this maintenance. The number of partnerships formalized through collaborative research or nondisclosure agreements increased owing to a greater emphasis on cultivating new partnerships in alignment with Brock's Strategic Plan.