



February 8, 2023

Report to Senate #707 - February 15, 2023

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research

Canada Research Chair Calls for Proposals

Two internal [calls for proposals](#) for Canada Research Chairs are now open, both due March 14. One position is a Tier I Chair, and the other Tier II, both designated SSHRC. I encourage all potentially interested hiring units to begin planning and consultation, and to review the CFP and the process outlined in the Brock University EDI Action Plan for CRC appointments.

2023 Match of Minds competition

The 2023 [Match of Minds program syllabus](#) is now available on the Brock Research Sharepoint site, and applications are open. The Match of Minds program provides up to \$5000 funding for research employment opportunities for students across all Faculties, as well as non-faculty units, intended to expand students' potential to participate in research. The program also encourages the development of skills and abilities of students for future employment, in turn improving the quality of Research Assistants available to faculty researchers at the graduate level.

USRA program open, with expanded capacity for Black and Indigenous student researchers

The 2023-24 [Undergraduate Student Research Award program](#) is now open on the ORS Sharepoint site. Additional spaces are available for Indigenous or Black student applicants working in NSERC disciplines. This year features an expanded program, growing beyond NSERC for the first time to include capacity for one CIHR award and one SSHRC award at Brock. These two additional awards are open exclusively to Black student applicants.

Launch of Brock's new Research Capacity Program

The new Research Capacity Program (RCP) enables BUFA members in all Faculties and the Brock Library to apply for a temporary teaching reduction, with the aim of supporting grant applications for significant external research funding. Consult the [program syllabus](#) for details.

Conversations and community-building around KMb and science communication at Brock

Spurred by a presentation from the Canadian Museum of Nature at the Ontario Council for University Research in the Fall term, my office organized a conversation among Brock researchers and staff experts specializing in Science Communication and Knowledge Mobilization.

Brock has developed considerable strengths in these areas, based in but not confined to research. For example, Brock recently launched an undergraduate program in Science Communication, led by Earth Sciences, but representing a collaboration with researchers in multiple departments. At the same time, an NSERC-funded project developing SciComm training resources is well under way under Dr. Wendy Ward's leadership. The Faculty of Education too hosts expertise in KMb and SciComm from various perspectives, including Dr. Xavier Fazio's recent SSHRC-funded research on connecting school science with local communities.

Brock also boasts significant expertise in the Library, in Brock LINC, and in the Office of Research Services, including Jayne Morrish, ORS Knowledge Mobilization Officer, who has offered KMb training and reflection opportunities to many Brock researchers and students.

There has not always been effective coordination or mutual awareness of activities between these contributors, however. Seeking to build synergies, my office brought some of these colleagues together on November 23, with a follow-up meeting facilitated by Jayne Morrish on January 18.

A more deliberate approach to SciComm and KMb at Brock holds the promise of integrating these different sources of expertise across teaching and research domains, to help create external partnerships, to platform Brock research more effectively, and to support research-related work-integrated learning opportunities for students in these areas. I was moreover struck by the recommendation of Dr. Imogen Coe, in a presentation for the Biological Sciences Seminar Series on November 11, that recognition and valorization of Science Communication in particular is one way of building a more inclusive climate in the sciences.

These conversations are at a blue-sky stage, with a focus on bringing interested participants into the discussion as we learn who they are; so please do share with your networks, or contact jmorish@brocku.ca should you be interested in participating.

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