

Call for Proposals

Research Expansion Grant

Extended Deadline: May 1st, 2021

The Research Expansion Grant (REG) is a student-administered grant which promotes collaborative research and innovation related to the field of photonics by supporting cross-disciplinary graduate student work. The REG is funded through the University of Toronto's Photonics Innovation Centre and awards up to four (4) grants of \$10,000 each, to upper year PhD students in engineering. Grants can be used towards student stipend and/or research-related expenses to enable the expansion of a student's current work into a multidisciplinary collaboration with a non-corporate principal investigator outside the applicant's own department.

Eligibility: Students who are applying for the REG must meet the following conditions:

- ❖ Be a registered PhD student in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering at UofT.
- ❖ Be in their 3rd or higher year of studies since first registering/transferring to PhD.
- ❖ Have a proposed collaboration with a non-corporate PI who is outside of the applicant's own department (signature is required on the Background Information Form).
- ❖ Have not previously been awarded an REG.

REG Proposal: Applicants must submit the following required documents:

- Background Information Form completed with all signatures of approval.
- Grant proposal document, maximum length of 2 pages not including references.
- CV, including list of publications.
- Graduate transcript(s) (unofficial is accepted)

The proposal document should be written for a general scientific audience and demonstrate:

- ❖ Excellence in research at the graduate level, giving an overview of the applicant's current research results which are being expanded upon.
- ❖ A well-defined direction, showing how the proposed project will expand the research in a multidisciplinary way, with a proposed end goal in sight.
- ❖ A meaningful opportunity in photonics research, explaining the impact of the work.
- ❖ A clear plan for collaboration, including a brief budget and timeline of key milestones.

Submission Process: To apply, please submit all required documents, mentioned above, as a single PDF file to photonics@utoronto.ca, by 11:59 pm on May 1st, 2021.

Adjudication Process: A committee of PhD students will review all proposals and decide on the grant winner(s), with results being announced around June. The winner(s) will be asked to give a presentation about their work during an REG Award Ceremony. After one year, the winner(s) will be asked to provide a brief report summarizing their accomplishments.

Questions about the grant can also be addressed to photonics@utoronto.ca.

Research Expansion Grant (REG)

Background Information Form

This form is to be completed and submitted by the deadline,
along with all other required documents.

Applicant Name	Engineering Department and Year of Study
Student Number	Email
Current Field/Topic of Research	Proposed Field/Topic of Collaboration
Applicant Signature	Date
Supervisor Name	Supervisor Affiliation (Eng. Department, Group)
Supervisor Signature	Date
Collaborating PI Name	Collaborator Affiliation (Institution, Faculty, Dept.)
Collaborator Signature	Date

Note: If awarded, the grant funds will be disbursed directly to the student applicants.

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Evaluation Criteria

This is an overview of the selection criteria used by the committee when evaluating proposals. The bulleted points are examples of proposal elements that would contribute to each criterion.

Evaluation of Proposal [$\frac{2}{3}$ of total weight]

- ❖ Feasibility [$\frac{1}{3}$ category weight]
 - Success of past research results
 - Planning a clear end goal, supported by major milestones
 - Choice of collaborator
- ❖ Impact [$\frac{1}{3}$ category weight]
 - Innovative project stemming from multidisciplinary collaboration
 - Proposed project impact on photonics and other fields of interest
- ❖ Presentation Style & Communication [$\frac{1}{3}$ category weight]
 - Written for a general scientific audience
 - Clear and concise explanations of the proposed project

Evaluation of Candidate [$\frac{1}{3}$ of total weight]

- ❖ Research Experience [$\frac{2}{3}$ category weight]
 - Journal publications
 - Conference presentations and proceedings
 - Research history
 - Applicable research skills
- ❖ Academic Merit [$\frac{1}{3}$ of category weight]
 - Awards (NSERC, OGS, best paper, best poster, etc.)
 - Transcript(s) (unofficial is accepted)