

ALES RESEARCH & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES TEAM - FAQ

February 2023

Who are we?

Barb Thomas, PhD ALES Associate Dean (Research) bthomas@ualberta.ca 780-492-3405	René Déry, PhD ALES Research and Innovation Director rene.dery@ualberta.ca 780-492-0174
Marina Offengenden, MSc ALES Research Development Coordinator offengen@ualberta.ca 780-492-6039	Krista Stefan, MA/BSc/PEng ALES Research Development Coordinator kstefan@ualberta.ca 780-492-6039

Where are we located?

- 2-10 and 2-14 Agriculture/Forestry Centre
- Marina and Krista (2-10C): Either Marina or Krista will be in the office during working hours
- René (2-10H): On campus Monday to Friday
- Barb (2-14B): By appointment
- <https://intranet.ales.ualberta.ca/research/>

How do we serve/support the academic community?

- **Development of Large-Scale Strategic Initiatives**
 - We support the development of large multi-researcher, faculty and institutional applications; working alongside researchers, sponsors and stakeholders to help manage submissions and launch new large strategic research programs.
- **Research Funding Applications and Proposals**
 - We provide advice and answer questions as you develop your research applications and proposals.
 - We review research documents for eligibility, compliance and required elements, and work with you to obtain signature(s) and approval(s) as needed.
 - We provide additional support for Assistant Professors and newly hired faculty where possible.
 - We provide Department Chairs with a summary of departmental activity, noteworthy cases and strategic opportunities on a regular basis.
- **Research Services Office (RSO) on-line review and approval**
 - The deadline to submit a proposal for internal review is 8 business days prior to the sponsor deadline, to allow time for Faculty and RSO reviews and approvals; we will inform you if this deadline is extended for high-volume competitions (e.g., Ag Funding Consortium and NSERC Discovery). Please check the RSO website or contact the ALES Research Development Coordinators if you need help determining the deadline.

- **Research Applications and Proposal Reviews completed by the ALES Research Coordinators will include:**

- Budget and Budget Justification are correct and comply with UofA policy and sponsor guidelines.
- Overhead (OH) or Direct Grant Administrative Costs (DGAC) are included (default is 30% for OH).
- Authorization from the Dean is included in the submission if there is any deviation from the standard rates for OH or DGAC; or if there are any Faculty commitments (e.g., funding support or space).
 - Note: The Dean's approval is not needed if there is a *publicly available policy* on overhead from the sponsor which is less than 30%, however, the reduced amount must be included in the proposal.
- Authorization from your Chair is included in the submission if there are any Department commitments (e.g., teaching release).
 - Note: Formal authorization(s) must be in place **prior to submission** for internal review or it will be returned to the PI.
- Contributions (cash and in-kind) made from other sources (e.g., supporting companies, researchers, other institutions, etc.) must have supporting documentation attached to the proposal.
- Certifications, Commercial Rights (e.g., intellectual property, IP), Data Transfer Agreements are included where appropriate.
- Alignment to non-budget related sponsor guidelines in order to improve success rate for applications – only if submitted well before deadline.
- If the application requires Faculty letters of support, the draft letters must be provided by the PI along with the application to be reviewed and signed by the ADR.

- **Research Funding Opportunities:**

- A main priority of our team is to regularly connect with the Vice-President Research and Innovation (VPRI), RSO, Tri-Agency, and other offices and funding organizations to be aware of new opportunities as early as possible; and allow for the development and communication of internal Faculty processes for competitions that require Faculty level adjudication.
- We can help you best, if you - the researchers, provide us with early notification of your intent to apply.
- We will notify all ALES PIs ASAP of funding opportunities of broad interest; and individual PIs when more specific opportunities arise.
- RSO Funding Opportunities list:
 - <https://www.ualberta.ca/research-services-office/funding-opportunities/index.html>