



Early Career Faculty Grants

Overview

MEOPAR anticipates the release of a call for proposals for Early Career Faculty (ECF) Grants in late June, with a due date of late October. This information is intended to provide additional time for interested researchers to begin designing their projects and building collaborations. To determine if your project idea fits within the MEOPAR framework of interdisciplinary research, training, and knowledge mobilization, we encourage you to review MEOPAR's Strategic Plan, available at: <http://meopar.ca/about-meopar/strategic-plan/>.

This ECF call is specifically targeted at individuals early in their academic research careers. The grants are a unique opportunity for early-career faculty investigators to contribute to and participate in MEOPAR's broad interdisciplinary, multi-institutional research effort, thereby growing and extending their network of collaborators and interactions with stakeholders. MEOPAR recognized the need for support of early career investigators (who received their first faculty appointment in the last five years) to maximize their considerable potential.

Structure

The ECF program provides individual research grants; therefore, the only investigator to receive funds on the project will be the Principal Investigator (PI). Only one application per PI will be considered. There are between **12-15 grants available** under this program. The maximum funding level available for each grant is **\$100,000**. MEOPAR will support research projects that are two years in length, beginning in April 2019.

Applicants are also encouraged to establish links with existing MEOPAR projects and activities. This may be through a formal cooperation with an existing MEOPAR research project, or through a clear explanation of how a distinct research focus is relevant to, and might be integrated with, other MEOPAR research. Descriptions of existing projects are available through our website at www.meopar.ca. Proponents are encouraged to contact MEOPAR's Theme Leads to discuss how the applicant's research interests align with the current projects.

Proponents with inquiries regarding Theme 1: Environmental Change are encouraged to contact Susan Allen at sallen@eoas.ubc.ca or Brent Else at belse@ucalgary.ca.

Proponents with inquiries regarding Theme 2: Human Activity are encouraged to contact Jackie Dawson at jackie.dawson@uottawa.ca or Phil Loring at phil.loring@usask.ca.

This Call is released in partnership with Ocean Networks Canada (ONC). The financial contribution of ONC may be applied to any proposal that meets their requirements for funding.

Eligibility

Applicants interested in applying to the Call who are unsure about their eligibility should contact Alexa Reedman at alexa.reedman@meopar.ca. Adjunct professors as well as existing and previous MEOPAR project or Core leads are not eligible to apply for these grants¹. The eligibility conditions are as follows:

1. The applicant must be eligible to receive [Tri-Council funding](#). Moreover:
 - a. The applicant must hold, or have accepted a firm offer of, an academic appointment at an eligible Canadian university at the time of application. For the duration of the award, the applicant must hold such a position. The appointment can be:
 - a tenure-track position; or
 - a term or contract position of no less than three years at the Assistant Professor level or higher.
 - b. The applicant's faculty appointment must not be conditional on obtaining the MEOPAR grant or other unconfirmed sources of support.
 - c. The position must allow the applicant to engage in research that is not under the direction of another individual and must authorize you to supervise or co-supervise the research of students registered in an undergraduate or graduate degree program, and/or postdoctoral fellows (e.g., thesis supervision and not supervision of regular course or laboratory assignments).

¹ Network investigators who have not been project or Core leads may be eligible.

- d. The appointment must be ratified by the person(s) or body responsible for approving appointments or their delegate(s), and must be in accordance with university statutes.
 - e. The source of salary funding for the appointment must be guaranteed for at least three continuous years within the period of the contract.
2. Initial funding of the project will commence in April 2019. At that time, the applicant must be **within five years of their first** academic appointment at a Canadian university and **within ten years of receiving their PhD**.
3. The window of eligibility can be adjusted to take into account instances where a researcher has had an acceptable delay in research or period of inactivity (illness, parental leave, etc.). For example, a researcher beginning to receive funding in April 2019 and who took a seven-month parental leave within the past five years must have been hired on or after August 2013 in order to be considered eligible.
4. Before any funds can be released on a MEOPAR grant, the applicant must have taken up their faculty position and completed all degree requirements. For ECF grants, this can be no later than the end of March 2019.

Additional Resources

All projects within the MEOPAR framework are eligible for this call. For some projects, there are additional resources available through Ocean Networks Canada or exactEarth Ltd.

Ocean Networks Canada Eligibility

This Call is released in partnership with Ocean Networks Canada (ONC). Research eligible to receive ONC funds includes proposals which:

- use ONC data sources (see definition below) to advance development of models or predictive skills that could be operationalized for the benefit of Canada, and/or
- create new or enhanced data products (process, analysis, visualization method or data format) from ONC data sources that will convey complex information and/or highlight key environmental variables, and benefit other observatory users and stakeholders. ONC data sources include:
 - Any data source associated with the VENUS Salish Sea Observatory,
 - Any data source associated with the NEPTUNE offshore Observatory,
 - Any ONC community observatory located along the coasts of BC, the Arctic and the Atlantic,

- Third party data hosted by ONC via the Oceans 2.0 data portal such as Arctic or Atlantic buoy data.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Richard Dewey at rdewey@uvic.ca regarding eligibility for Ocean Networks Canada funding.

AIS Resources

MEOPAR, in partnership with exactEarth Ltd. and Dalhousie University, has 10 "data licenses" available for use by MEOPAR researchers over our Cycle II. The licenses allow full use of the historical Satellite-AIS data archive (spanning 2011-current), along with technical / analytical support from the data administrator. Data licenses are allocated through an application process, which assesses fitness of purpose of the data to the proposed use, and conformance with the conditions of use for the data.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Casey Hilliard at casey.hilliard@dal.ca regarding access to an AIS data license for their project.