
Research Incentive Grant For New Academic Staff Members Policy

Policy Sponsor:	Office of the Provost and Vice President, Academic
Policy Contact:	Provost and Vice-President, Academic
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Approval Group:	The Board of Governors of Athabasca University
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Procedures:	Research Incentive Grant for New Academic Staff Members Procedures

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide initial research funding support to new academic staff members on tenurable contracts to enable them to enhance their research and publication records and increase their success in obtaining external funding.

Definitions

Academic Staff Member	An individual holding a regular, full-time academic appointment in accordance with Article 3 of the Board/AUFA Terms and Conditions of Agreement. This does not include Academic Coordinators.
Dean	Chief administrative officer of a Faculty (includes, for purposes of this policy, Chair, Centre for Distance Education and Chair, Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research).
Research Incentive Grant	A one-time award that enables new Academic Staff Members to undertake research activities to enhance their research and publication records and increase success in obtaining external research funding.
Term of Funding	Maximum of three years.



Policy Statements

A Research Incentive Grant (RIG) will be offered to eligible Academic Staff Members upon appointment.

To be eligible, an Academic Staff Member must have completed a doctoral degree (or equivalent, in particular disciplines).

The amount of the RIG is determined by Provost and Vice-President, Academic, in consultation with the Dean, at the time of appointment.

The RIG amount, conditions, and term of funding are identified in the Confirmation of RIG Letter sent to new Academic Staff Members.

A RIG Holder is strongly encouraged to submit at least one application to the relevant federal research council or equivalent (external funding body) prior to the end of the Term of Funding.

Funds are normally provided for a maximum of three years. In exceptional circumstances, a maximum one-year extension in the Term of Funding may be granted by the Dean.

The signing authority for RIG expense claims is the relevant Centre Chair.

It is the responsibility of Chairs to ensure that RIG holders produce annual progress reports on RIG awards as part of their annual assessment progress, and to forward these reports to the Dean.

Applicable Legislation and Regulations

N/A

Related References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

[Research Incentive Grant for New Academic Staff Procedures](#)

[Conflict of Interest in Research Policy](#)

[Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Policy](#)

[Expense Reimbursement Policy](#)

[Hiring of Research Assistants Policy](#)

History

The Board, March 16, 2012, Motion # 176-7 (approved)