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1.0 Overview

BrainsCAN is dedicated to supporting novel, collaborative, and interdisciplinary research in cognitive neuroscience at all career levels, including postdoctoral fellows (PDF). The BrainsCAN PDF Collaborative Research Grant aims to promote postdoctoral networking, independence, and productivity, while increasing collaboration and research innovation across labs and/or faculties.

1.1 Program Targets

In the 2019 competition, this program aims to fund **up to 3** collaborative grants; however, the actual number of grants will be determined by the excellence of the proposals

2.0 Team Eligibility

The investigator team must have at least two PDFs (from different labs) affiliated with any faculty or department engaging in cognitive neuroscience research. Although the grant is intended to allow an independent research opportunity, the research team must contain a faculty supervisor, specifically the researcher who will hold the ethics and/or biosafety certifications related to the proposed research. Additional collaborators and/or consultants can be included as needed.

3.0 Project Eligibility

Proposed projects must clearly contribute to the strategic priorities of BrainsCAN (refer to BrainsCAN alignment / steering document). All project types are acceptable from discovery-based science to end-user translational research.

3.1 Budget

The budget may include any research-related costs associated with the project and must not exceed \$5,000. Examples of eligible expenses would be, but are not limited to, participant recruitment and payment, animal costs, materials and supplies, and costs related to the use of equipment.

Researcher salaries, travel, conferences, and equipment purchases such as computer laptops/desktops are not supported by this grant. Any requests for an exception should be well-justified. Quotes must be provided for any equipment requests exceeding \$500.

3.2 Term

The grant term is one year. The project must be feasible to complete within this term. The researchers should consider anticipated dates for receiving ethics approval, completing necessary setup and/or pilot testing, completing data collection, completing data analysis and any knowledge mobilization activities when assessing the feasibility of the project timeline.

3.3 Additional Project Considerations

- The proposed research should be interdisciplinary and leverage more than one BrainsCAN Core (<https://brainscan.uwo.ca/research/cores/index.html>). If the project only relates to a single BrainsCAN core, the applicants will need to provide additional justification on the expertise that the team brings together.
- The project should be distinct from the current research being performed by the PDFs and faculty supervisor, and represent an autonomous research direction.

4.0 Application Process

All application forms are available on the program website. The application must be completed and signed by the lead PDF investigators. The completed application must be received at brainscan@uwo.ca by 4:30pm on the deadline date.

5.0 Adjudication Process

All applications will be reviewed by the BrainsCAN HQP committee for “Fit to BrainsCAN’s Mandate”. Those deemed within the mandate will be scored and ranked by a review panel appointed by the BrainsCAN HQP committee in consultation with the BrainsCAN Executive Committee. This panel, comprising of at least three PDFs, will provide funding recommendations to the BrainsCAN HQP Committee.

6.0 Award Finalization

The lead investigators and their faculty supervisor must sign the award agreement, which describes award conditions, term and value, communication/acknowledgement expectations, and reporting requirements. Prior to the release of the funds, the faculty supervisor will need to submit a ROLA proposal and attest to any ethics and biosafety certifications.