

# MSSI INNOVATION FUND – 2019/20 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## THE FUND

Do you have an innovation that has potential for commercialization or a process that will lead to policy development in the field of sustainability? Do you need funds to proceed to the next stage of development? The MSSI Innovation Fund can provide up to \$75K to accelerate the innovation or process and move your project forward.

## AVAILABLE FUNDS

Faculty Research Awards of up to \$75,000 per award, to a total amount of \$150,000.

## ELIGIBILITY

### THE INNOVATION/PROCESS

The innovation or process must have a positive impact on a sustainability challenge. The following are within the scope of the Innovation Fund: policy development; proof of concept (perhaps as a prelude to an entrepreneurial path; transfer of a technology to industry, or the implementation of a social innovation); preparatory work for IP filing; development of a prototype or small-scale pilot system; testing the viability of an approach in the environment; and reduction to practice.

Previously unsuccessful proposals will only be accepted for a subsequent competition if they contain obvious and significant developments that are clearly identified in the proposal.

### THE PROPOSER/S

- All lead applicants must be active members of McGill Faculty
- All applicants must be MSSI Members or Affiliates (register at <https://mcgill.ca/mssi/join-mssi>)

Group applications are welcome. If an application is made on behalf of a group at least 50% of the applicants must be active members of McGill and all applicants must be MSSI Members or Affiliates.

### ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Materials and supplies
- Travel costs
- Conference costs
- User fees
- Community engagement expenses (e.g. workshops, community consultations etc.)
- HR compensation (stipends and salaries for students/post-docs)
- IP filings etc.

## INELIGIBLE COSTS

- Building and refurbishment costs
- Honoraria

## SELECTION CRITERIA

All Innovation Fund proposals are reviewed by the Innovation Fund Review Committee. This committee provides recommendations to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Projects receiving Innovation Funds are selected for their impact on a sustainability issue, their feasibility to move an idea from bench toward commercialization or widespread adoption, their potential to be awarded further funding from commercialization-enabling programs (NSERC I2I, VC accelerator/seed funds, etc.) or foundation translational programs (Gates, Kavli, etc.) at the end of the funding period.

To reflect the complexity of sustainability challenges, proposals are encouraged to take a systems-level perspective (i.e., to consider the social, economic and environmental implications).

To guide proposal development, note that successful proposals from previous competitions (<https://www.mcgill.ca/mssi/research/funded-projects>) had the following attributes:

1. A clear explanation of how the end product (technology, process, policy etc.) will positively impact sustainability;
2. A well-articulated and feasible plan that moves the end product from the idea or bench stage to practical application;
3. Existing links with potential users of the end product;
4. An explanation of how the expertise and breadth of the research team enables the success of the proposed project;
5. A well-defined, though not necessarily detailed, budget that included explanations of the subcomponents and how any training is incorporated;
6. Lead applicant does not currently receive direct funding from MSSI.

Applicants may also find it helpful to refer to the Government of Canada Technical Readiness Level (TRL) scale <https://ito.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ito-oti.nsf/eng/00849.html>.

## OTHER CRITERIA

Any additional space must have been approved, and associated costs allocated, by the relevant Department prior to application.

Where applicable, the appropriate McGill Research Ethics Board must have granted approval prior to application.

Successful applicants are expected to become active members of the MSSSI community. This includes participating in MSSSI events and acting as reviewers for future competitions.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

All material and information submitted to the competition should be non-confidential as a high-level synopsis of funded projects may, after consultation with the awardee, be made available on the MSSSI website. Applicants are responsible for taking the necessary steps to protect any intellectual property associated with the project.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Successful applicants must provide a short update report six months after the start of the funding and a final report no more than one month following its the end.

## **TIMETABLE**

Winners of the 2019/2020 competition will be announced by February 2020. Work covered by the funding must be completed within one calendar year of the grant start date. Any carry-forwards must be justified and require written approval from the MSSSI Hub.

## **TO APPLY**

Please use the template provided to submit a proposal.

## **PROPOSAL DETAILS (SEE TEMPLATE)**

1. The following information should be included for each applicant, with the lead applicant clearly indicated:
  - a. Full name and e-mail;
  - b. McGill faculty and department, or external affiliation for non-McGill co-applicants;
  - c. Area of expertise relevant to proposal.
2. Outline of the research project (maximum 200 words) with explicit description of its novelty (figures can be included as separate attachments);
3. Relevance to sustainability;
4. Anticipated deliverable(s) including those associated with IP;
5. Project timeline within the 1-year funding period;
6. Budget (as categories, including human resources, materials/supplies, travel and auxiliary costs);
7. Any additional information relevant to the proposal:
  - a. Potential (socio)-economic and other benefits which could be realized;

- b. Any commercial product or service that could be implemented or developed through application of the research results, including reference to other applications of the product or service;
- c. Any collaboration with industry related to the proposal.

Supporting figures can be included separately from the completed template.

An abridged resumé highlighting relevant background, publications, patents, and collaborative research activities should be included for each applicant (pdf format, maximum five pages).

Non-conforming applications will be returned for modification and resubmission up to the competition closing date. No late submissions will be accepted.

#### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Please save the completed form with the last name of the lead applicant appended “**MSSI Innovation 2020 *LastName***”). Please submit completed form, supplemental figures (if any) and resumé in a single e-mail to [mssi.mcgill.ca](mailto:mssi.mcgill.ca), copying in all co-applicants.

**The deadline to apply is 17h00 on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**