



# Inter-University Research Network (IURN)

## Guidelines and Application for Funding

**Application Deadline: October 11, 2024**

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### Deadlines

- **Online applications activated: September 13, 2024**
- **Application deadline: 4:30 pm October 11, 2024**
- **Communication of funding decisions: November 8, 2024**

### Background and IURN Priorities

#### 1. Optimizing Strengths and Successes

The IURN is committed to supporting research projects that identify practices that support positive learning environments and opportunities for African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw, and those experiencing economic exclusion/poverty in Nova Scotia to thrive and grow. The work is related to the systemic inequalities which have resulted in unequal access to learning opportunities, achievement, and benefits.

These opportunity barriers are reflected in participation and engagement with schools, grades, standardized-test results, course selection, high school, and post-secondary completion rates, among other learning measures. The research focus will be on discovering the strengths of African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw, and those experiencing economic exclusion/poverty in Nova Scotia and supporting the system in building on these strengths to support student achievement and well-being.

The research focus enhances capacity among educators and policy makers to act to effect change by understanding and bridging the gap between community and classroom instruction to ensure multiple ways of being, knowing and learning are represented and equally valued.

#### 2. Supporting Research Partnerships

The IURN will prioritize funding projects that create partnerships with local and Mi'kmaw/Indigenous organizations, community groups, Regional Centres for Education/school board and schools. Priority will be given to collaborative research teams with representation from university faculty, public and Mi'kmaw schools, teachers, students, and community members.



### 3. Drawing on Local and Diverse Knowledge

The IURN will prioritize supporting research projects with a strong focus on generating local and diverse knowledge within a community context. Priority will be given to research proposals demonstrating a connection to place with potential to provide research evidence that will inform teaching and learning practices in Nova Scotia schools. IURN encourages research projects that adopt a collaborative and mentoring model that includes research by and with African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw/Indigenous researchers, teachers, and communities.

### 4. Maximizing Impacts

The IURN will prioritize funding for research projects that clearly demonstrate the impact on student achievement and well-being, and the benefits to the system by changing practice, student learning, engagement, and well-being.

### 5. Knowledge Mobilization

The IURN will prioritize funding for research projects that have a clear and appropriate plan for knowledge mobilization – to ensure the findings are communicated in multiple accessible ways to education stakeholders, Mi'kmaw and public schools, scholarly, professional, and local communities.

## Eligibility

Funding through the IURN is open to research teams affiliated with a post-secondary institution or non-for-profit education organization that conduct work in Nova Scotia to further the understanding of the strategies that support student success and well-being. Research teams that consist of university faculty, school staff, students, and community members as co-researchers will be prioritized to effect change by understanding and bridging the gap between community and classroom instruction and demonstrate benefits to the system by changing teacher practice, student learning, engagement, and well-being.

Applicants who are currently in receipt of IURN funding may apply to extend funding for an existing project if they are able to demonstrate that the initial phase of work has been completed.

## Funding Details

Funds from the grant must be applied directly to the costs of carrying out the research. One of the members of the research team's host institution(s) must provide for administrative and overhead costs.

### 1. Schedule of Rates

- research Assistants: \$20.00 per hour (maximum). During the academic year, student research assistants may not be asked to work more than 8 hours per week. For full-time work during the summer, student research assistants will also receive 11.5% in lieu of benefits.
- meals: \$40.00 per day (maximum)
- accommodation: Any reasonable rate for single accommodation
- mileage: \$ 0.5770 greater than 20 km and \$ 0.5092 less than 20 km.



## 2. Grant Payments

Following receipt of all required ethics or Regional Centre for Education/CSAP approvals, a one-year Letter of Agreement (LOA) will be signed between the host university or organization and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). Funding of successful research grants will be made in one payment, upon the grantor's receipt of two signed copies of the LOA.

The IURN may withhold further funding if a study is not moving forward as outlined in the proposal, or not following planned expenditures. Any changes to budget, timeline, and methodology must be approved in writing by IURN at least one month in advance of the implementation of the changes.

All unused funds must be returned to the Director, Leadership, Student Achievement and Well-Being at the end of the grant funding period.

### Ongoing/Long-term Research Projects

#### 1. Initial Year of Funding

Research funding provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is allocated for one year. The IURN Steering Committee recognizes that some projects may require more than one year to complete. Applicants proposing multi-year projects must clearly identify in the "Timeline/Milestones" section of the application how the research fits into a long-term strategy. In such a case, the research should be presented in a phased approach with clearly identified deliverables within the initial year of funding. Applicants proposing long-term research programs are encouraged to pursue additional partnerships and sources of funding.

#### 2. Project Extensions and Transfers

To request a time extension to complete an existing study, contact the Director, Leadership, Student Achievement and Well-Being at: [IURNNovaScotia@novascotia.ca](mailto:IURNNovaScotia@novascotia.ca). Requests to extend the end date must be made at least 30 days in advance of the existing end date. A progress report and updated financial statement will be required before the extension will be considered.

Researchers who wish to suspend their grant while on an institution-approved leave must apply in writing for approval outlining the provisions for either the suspension or operation of the grant. Leave of absence approval is considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Project Proposal Information

The written project proposal (maximum four pages) must include the following:

1. **Introduction**—establish the background and context for the research, including the research team, self-identifying locations, positionalities, and responsibilities in the research
2. **Purpose and Significance of Research**— include goals of the research and the significance of the proposed research to the target populations



3. **Research Methodology**— clearly outline details of the location of the research, research participants, data collection procedures (observation, interview, talking circles, photo voices, etc.; identification of schools, grades involved, community, etc.), including steps to be taken to ensure confidentiality or anonymity of all research participants.
4. **Data Analysis Procedures**—identify provincial data that will be accessed and how the research team will analyze and interpret data collected.
5. **Project Timeline/Milestones** – identify timeline by month/year of proposed activities, outcomes, and progress to completion of research
6. **Maximizing Impact** – outline how the impact on student achievement and well-being will be examined and how areas of pedagogy, instruction, curricula, climate, or cognitive or affective domains might be affected.
8. **Credentials and Capacity of Research Team** – identify credentials of the research team and why it is the right mix of people to see project through to completion
9. **Alignment with the IURN Priorities:** clearly articulate how the project will address each priority as outlined by the research foci from the EECD. See document:
  1. Optimizing strengths and successes
  2. Supporting research partnerships
  3. Drawing on local and diverse knowledge
  4. Maximizing Impact
  5. Knowledge mobilization

## Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Purpose and significance of research**
- **Research methodology and data analysis strategy** appropriateness and suitability.
- **Feasibility** of the proposed research, including a timetable for completion and an assessment of resources needed to complete the project.
- **Communication strategy** is clear and achievable.
- **Credentials/capacity** of the research team to undertake the proposed course of study.
- **Completeness** of the application (including appropriateness of budget information; see Funding section below)
- **Alignment of proposed research with IURN Priorities**
- **Maximizing Impact** on student achievement and well-being



## Application Submission

The following information with attachments is submitted electronically using the online form (<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/ERP/iurn#application>) by **4:30 p.m. on October 11, 2024**:

- **Inter-University Research Network funding application**
- **Abbreviated curriculum vitae or resume**—maximum four pages (include areas of expertise, experience with research, and recent publications)
- **Written project proposal**—maximum four pages (see “Project Proposal Information” page 3)
- **Current criminal record check and child-abuse registry check**— (if required)
- **Copy of current ethics review committee approval**— (if available)

## Project Completion

Principal investigators are required to:

1. make a presentation to the IURN steering committee on their completed research at the IURN Symposium.
2. make a presentation to Regional/Board leadership as applicable.
3. submit a final report of research findings.
4. develop a one-page document for educators in the public system.
5. submit an annual progress report and updated financial statement for ongoing/long term research projects.

The project is considered complete when all reports and accompanying paperwork have been submitted to the committee. The final report, including a copy of research findings shared with educational partners, must be submitted by email to the Director, Leadership, Student Achievement and Well-Being. Once the project is complete, the investigator is welcome to apply for a new IURN grant.