

STUDENT RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

2018

Overview

In 2011, a partnership between Teck Trail Operations and Selkirk College created an annual fund to provide support for Selkirk College students to undertake a community-based research project in the West Kootenay Boundary Region. Up to \$10,000 in student research internship funding has been made available each summer to conduct an applied research project that supports rural development at the community or regional level. Applied research involves the use of new or existing knowledge to solve real-world challenges or questions.

The *Teck Serv Applied Research Internship (Teck Serv)* matches a community organization with a Selkirk College student to undertake an applied research project. Community organizations in the Selkirk College catchment area, including organizations that have already identified a Selkirk College student, are invited to apply for funding.

The program:

- provides a student with the opportunity to engage in applied research and service learning designed to build confidence, capabilities and capacity;
- benefits community organizations by providing the expertise of a post-secondary student to help inform and advance their strategic goals; and
- brings real benefits to the region while enriching post-secondary students' educational and professional development experiences.

Selkirk College works closely with the student and community organization to:

- provide support for student selection, if necessary,
- support the development of the research project, including research design, data collection instruments and ethics protocols;
- provide research advisory support during the research project implementation phase; and,
- support the dissemination of research findings.

The Teck Serv Internship has served to effectively support the applied research needs of organizations in Selkirk College communities and has linked research to informed planning and action. The efforts of a student from the Nursing program in 2011 resulted in research that informed organizations on [how to better support boys aged 7-14](#) who were falling through the cracks in accessing community activities and programs in the Lower Columbia region. The efforts of a student from the Social Service Worker program in 2012 helped Castlegar better understand their [housing needs and demands](#) and provided the research required to access funding for capital housing projects. In 2013, a student from the Renewable Energy Technology program efforts focused on better [understanding alternative forms of energy and heat generation](#), providing East Shore communities with the research they need to develop a community energy plan. In 2014, a student from the Social Service Worker program explored the [needs of rural isolated seniors](#). In 2015, a student from the Rural Pre-Med program explored [The State of the Family](#) in our region. In 2016, a student from the Business program explored [Poverty in the Lower Columbia Region](#). In 2017, a student from the Geographic Information Systems program worked with East Shore communities on an Asset Based Community Development project.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include students, community-based groups or organizations, local governments involved in rural development initiatives. Submissions from community organizations do not need to have a student identified. Submissions from students do need to have a sponsoring community organization identified. In the case of successful proposals from community organizations, Selkirk College will assist in the hiring of a student if necessary.

Project Duration and Support

The project will be implemented over the summer semester (May to August) or for a period of time that best suits the project outcomes and the student's study schedule. Project funding up to the sum of \$10,000 will be provided, inclusive of student salary for 4 months plus benefits and eligible direct administrative and travel expenses. Ineligible expenses include staff time (e.g. to work on the project, to supervise the student) and indirect administrative/overhead costs. Research advisory and mentorship support for the selected proposal will be provided by the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Selkirk College. The community organization is responsible to provide daily supervisory support unless otherwise negotiated with Selkirk College.

Project Description and Proposal Submission

A call for proposals will be announced in early March each year. Projects should address a need for applied research that could be used to support initiatives intended to create positive rural development outcomes at the local, sub regional or regional scale. The scope could include a review of literature and reports, data collection from available sources or data gathering through surveys or other means, improving access to information, public education, and / or the piloting of new projects based on best practices.

Applicants are invited to submit a project proposal of no more than 5 pages in length using the application template included as Appendix B. Project proposals should outline:

- purpose and objective(s),
- guiding research questions,
- methodology,
- intended project outcomes and expected deliverables,
- intended student, organizational and community outcomes,
- student supervision and evaluation plan,
- anticipated challenges,
- organizational capacity, and
- an indication of if the project is dependent on other funding sources.

Project Selection

Proposals that reflect a combination of applied research and service-focused activity in rural development, and the development of student leadership and competence will be given priority. Proposals that feature measurable and observable outcomes will also be favored.

A representative from Teck Trail Operations, the Manager of Selkirk College's Co-Op Education and Employment Services, the Regional Innovation Chair of the RDI, and the Selkirk College Dean of Applied Research evaluate proposals and select one project in late March / early April of each year.

Student Selection

Once a proposal has been selected, Selkirk College's Co-Op Education and Employment Services will support the hiring of a Selkirk College student as required. Student selection will be based in part on the linkage between the students' academic program and the learning opportunities in the proposed project.

Reports and Outcomes

The community organization will be expected to provide an evaluation of the student, a copy of the final project report, and any other documents related to project outcomes. Selkirk College retains the right to make project reports or other reports on outcomes available for general public access.

Appendix B. Proposal Template

Please complete the following form and submit it to tmacdonald@selkirk.ca by 4:00 pm on March 29, 2018. The proposal should not exceed 5 pages in length. Please also include a letter of support from the sponsoring organization(s) and at least 1 additional letter of support. The letter of support from the sponsoring organization(s) should include details on the organization(s)' estimated in-kind contribution to the project and statement about the capacity of the organization to undertake the project.

The Teck Serv Applied Research Internship Project Proposal	
Project Title:	
Name of Sponsoring Organization(s):	
Project Community(s):	
Project Contact:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name:• Phone Number:• Email:• Address:
Purpose and Objective(s) (i.e. what is the issue or problem that the project would address?):	
Guiding Research Question(s):	
Methodology (optional):	
Intended Project Outcomes and Expected Deliverables:	
Intended Student Outcomes:	
Intended Organizational Outcomes:	
Intended Community Outcomes:	
Student Supervision and Evaluation Plan:	
Anticipated Challenges:	
Capacity of the Organization to Support the Project:	
Requested College Contribution(s) – list all that apply (office space & supervision of researcher, hiring support, research advisory services, communications support, dissemination of findings, other):	
Organization's Contribution (cash and / or in-kind):	
Does this project require other sources of external funding to proceed? If so, please describe and indicate if this project can proceed regardless of other funding:	
Additional comments:	