

Institute Catalyst Program

Open to: Western Space faculty

This program aims to enable Institute faculty members to accelerate projects aligned with Institute priorities through access to agile, short-term (<18 months) catalyst funding. Amounts of funding are anticipated to be in the \$5-\$30k range, and can include requests for specialized equipment, HQP salaries, or other expenses eligible under Western policies with the exception of conference travel and publication costs.

Who can apply: Any Institute faculty member or team of members in good standing. The Director and Associate Directors are not eligible.

How to apply: Submit a 2-page proposal (pdf format) to the Director (westernspace@uwo.ca) including a (1) description of the proposed project, (2) a brief budget justification, (3) the start and end dates of the project, and (4) the projected impacts as they relate to accelerating the strategic research priorities of the Institute. If the project expenses would be eligible for external funding from sources such as Mitacs, CSA, or the granting agencies, give a justification for the need for catalyst funding at this time.

Process and criteria for funding: Funding decisions will be made within 4-6 weeks by the Director in consultation with members of the Executive Team and Research Advisory Committee as relevant. Priority will be given to short-term, interdisciplinary projects where a modest injection of timely funding has the potential to take a research project to the next level in terms of external funding opportunities or maturity (e.g., technical readiness level). Budgets may be adjusted. Priority will be given to junior faculty and faculty who have not been supported by the Institute in the previous 3 years.

When to apply: by February 1st, 2025.

How funding is administered: Dependent on the project and the needs of the researcher, funding can be forwarded in full, partial, or based on reimbursement. An agreement on the payment method will be reached prior to the project's start.

Conditions of funding: The researcher agrees to provide a presentation on the following Space Day on the project's progress, challenges, and impacts and will acknowledge Institute funding in any communications, publications, or research outputs that arise from this funding. The researcher also agrees to be showcased in Institute communications and on the Institute website.