

Flight Ready Program: This program is designed to help researchers overcome the “valley of death” in technology readiness—the critical gap between lab validation and flight demonstration. The goal is to accelerate mission readiness and enable technologies to reach flight-qualified status through real-world testing (e.g., STRATOS high-altitude balloon flights, SEDS parabolic flights, etc.). The program provides up to \$25,000 CAD over 18 months to support payload development, integration costs, and travel to launch sites. Up to \$75,000 CAD is available annually.

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 to the Director (westernspace@uwo.ca) including:

- 1) Planned flight opportunity
- 2) Description of the proposed project
- 3) A brief budget justification
- 4) The start and end dates of the project
- 5) The projected impacts to accelerating the strategic research priorities of the Institute
- 6) Plans to pursue matching and external funding

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 projects that are: interdisciplinary, aligned with the Institute’s research priorities, have a strong likelihood of raising the TRL, and have a clearly defined development plan post-flight. Priority will be given to pre-tenure faculty and faculty who have not been supported by the Institute in the previous 3 years.

When to apply: Rolling deadline. The closing date for each fiscal year is February 28.

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: Funding is contingent on a successful application for a flight opportunity. 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.

Western Space Flight Ready Program Rubric

Applicant:	
Link to proposal:	
Flight opportunity:	
Date:	
Title:	
Proposed Budget:	
Matching funds (if any):	
Proposed Start date:	
Proposed End date:	

Category	1 (poor)	2 (average)	3 (good)	4 (excellent)
Project Scope This criterion evaluates the scope and overall objective(s) of the proposed project.	The project scope and objective(s) are poorly defined.	The project scope and objective(s) are moderately defined.	The project scope and objective(s) are well-defined.	The project scope and objective(s) are very well defined.
Potential Impacts to Institute Research Priorities This criterion evaluates whether the project addresses any of the Institutes strategic research priorities.	The relevance to the strategic research priorities is not apparent.	There is some attempt to link to strategic research priorities.	The relevance to the strategic research priorities is clear and coherently expressed.	The project description is highly relevant to the strategic research priorities.
Feasibility This criterion assesses the overall feasibility of the proposed concept. It evaluates how appropriate, realistic, and effective the proposed methodology and approach are for achieving the goals of the proposed work.	The proposed work is either unrealistic or does not include sufficient detail.	The proposed work plan is realistic, but unclear if all work will be completed on time.	The project is likely to achieve most of the proposal's goals.	The project work plan is highly feasible and is very likely to achieve all goals.
Interdisciplinarity This criterion assesses the interdisciplinarity of the project.	Only one researcher is involved.	Multiple researchers are involved but are from the same discipline.	Multiple researchers are involved from different disciplines.	Multiple researchers are involved from different disciplines. The project plan integrates knowledge / methods from different disciplines.
Future Growth This criterion assesses the likelihood that a successful flight will lead to further granting opportunities.	No plans are in place to secure matching or future funding.	Consideration has been made about possible next-steps post-flight.	A plan is in place to secure matching or external funding.	A plan is in place to secure matching or external funding. The plan is realistic and likely to succeed.