STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AT WESTERN

VISION
TO IMPROVE WESTERN’S INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH RANKING AND REPUTATION

STAKEHOLDERS
* Canada & the international community/society
* Western students, faculty, trainees & staff
* Funding agencies

GOALS
1. To Increase Engagement in High-Impact International Research
2. To Attract and Retain World-Class Researchers (faculty, trainees, students)
3. To Increase # International Collaborations
4. To participate in solving Global Challenges at the Global Scales of Leadership and Activity

IMPACT
* Citations
* Books & Published Manuscripts
* Guidelines, Tools & Best Practices
* Policies
* IP Licences
* Innovations
* Performances
* Teaching & Business Cases
* Media Mentions
* Global Rankings
* Products

Indirect Impact:
* Recruitment and Retention of high quality researchers, students and trainees

RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS
* Assistance with Team-Building and Strategy
* Dissemination of Funding Opportunities and Research Development assistance
* Assistance with trouble-shooting
* Continuing professional development (workshops, toolkit)
* Co-funding for strategic initiatives
* Liaison, Advocacy and Outreach

PROGRESS INDICATORS
* Funding trend- including mobility funding over last 10 years
* # joint & single authored international publications over last 5 years
* # citations for international publications over last 5 years
* # grants with international collaboration (going forward)
* # & global ranking of research areas over last 5 years
* # Proof of Principle projects
* Volume of stories about global impact of Western’s international research in the media
* # Recruited Researchers, Graduate Students, PostDocs and Trainees over last 10 years

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Indirect Impact:
* Recruitment and Retention of high quality researchers, students and trainees
SUGGESTED PATHWAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

STEP 1: Starting Point
* Build Relations with International Researchers and Institutions.
* Apply for Internal Travel and Seed Grants – Build your CV
* Always Include Students and Trainees in your research grants
* Consult Western International for processes for In and Out-Bound Students and Trainees.
* Create an Interdisciplinary Team - Leverage Existing Western Partnerships.
* Determine Team – Members’ Roles.
* Create Communication Plans for all the Stakeholders

STEP 2 – Could run concurrently with Step 1 depending on the researcher’s stage of international engagement
* Apply for External Seed, Project and Mobility Grants.
* Explore/Initiate internal and external Ethics Approval Processes.
* Build Collaboration History - Conduct Pilots/Proof of Principle; Co-Supervise and Co-Publish - Build your CV.
* Initiate Institutional Agreement Processes.
* Build Interdisciplinary Collaborations.

Now You Are Ready To Upscale to Externally - Funded Larger Projects and Programs
* To Ensure Sustainability, Continue to Apply for a Variety of Internal and External Grants of All Sizes.
* Continue to Co-Supervise & Co-Publish to build international reputation.
* Translate your Research

TIMELINES
Development and submission processes for international research projects and programs no matter their size, require a lot of effort by researchers and Research Offices at Western and at Partner institutions. To ensure provision of adequate assistance with developing highly competitive proposals, researchers (faculty, trainees and students) are strongly-advised to contact Faculty Research Offices as well as Western Research Development & Services as soon as a decision to apply to a funding program, is made. Contact Western International for Undergraduate and Graduate Research Student components as soon as possible if there is intent to include them in the international engagement.

TEAMS
International research requires a collaborative, team approach. Why work in teams? Primarily in order to solve problems or address issues that transcend borders using the diverse ideas, expertise and solutions that each team member brings to the table. It is very unlikely that a researcher, trainee or student would solely be able to undertake any kind of research in a foreign country – even though at times this is discipline-dependent

International Research = Interdisciplinary Team Approach.