

Bridge Funding

Overview:

Bridge funding is designed to stabilize meritorious research programs that have lost extramural funding. Bridge funds are for one year and are intended to enhance the likelihood of success in subsequent funding opportunities, to maintain research productivity and to ensure that essential research personnel are not lost. Priority will be given to those investigators who:

- went through the formal internal peer review process
- can demonstrate need (i.e., have no or limited access to other research funding either as PI or co-investigator)
- and can demonstrate a strong likelihood to regain external funding

Applications will be strengthened by evidence of financial or in-kind support provided by the applicant's Department/Division. Applicants may only request bridge funding once per calendar year. Bridge funding is not intended to become a source of ongoing support. Currently the maximum available is \$40,000 per application.

Eligibility:

Investigators whose primary appointment is in the Faculty of Medicine, who have lost research funding (or are facing the reasonable prospect of such loss as indicated by percentile rank in a recent funding competition) can submit a request for bridge funding.

Application Guidelines:

Applications must be supported by the Department Head of the investigator's primary Department/Division. The cover letter requesting funding must be signed by both the investigator and his/her Department Head. In this letter, please address briefly:

- How you accommodated the internal peer reviewer comments;
- Your plans for future support of your research program (i.e., strategy for new applications) and
- Budget for the requested bridge funds, including information on other financial resources available to you.

Additional documents to include:

- Copies of external reviewers' comments including a statement of the relative ranking of the application. Applicants may choose to include a brief response clarifying any issues raised by reviewers
- Internal peer review (pre-submission) comments (those applications that were internally peer reviewed will receive priority for bridge funding. Information on the internal peer review process can be found here:
http://research.medicine.dal.ca/documents/peer_review_guidelines_june_2013.pdf)
- Brief CV (no more than two pages) that includes past funding history and relevant publication record
- Explanation of the outcome of any previous bridge fund award.

Review Process:

Applications for bridge funding will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the Research Advisory Committee chaired by the Associate Dean (Research). Additional reviewers may be added as deemed necessary. Decisions will normally be made within two weeks.

Where the number of requests exceeds availability of funds, relative ranking of applications will also be considered, along with demonstrated need.

Submit complete applications as one pdf file to Sandy Bennett, Administrative Assistant, MRDO (sandy.bennett@dal.ca). Requests from clinical faculty will be evaluated through the Clinician Scientist Program until that funding is exhausted.

Evaluation:

Recipients of bridge funding are required to submit a report (no more than 2 pages) highlighting progress of the supported research and the impact of the bridge funding. This information will be used to evaluate the value of bridge funding. Reports (pdf version) are to be submitted no more than 12 months after receipt of bridge funds, to Carla Ross (Carla.ross@dal.ca).

Deadlines – Because grant decisions come out at various times depending on the agency (federal, charitable and provincial), there is not a fixed deadline for submission of bridge funding requests. After each funding decision, MRDO will attempt to alert the research community to the deadline for bridge funding applications but will also entertain requests on an ad hoc basis to accommodate funding decisions from smaller agencies.