



a place of mind

Office of the Vice Principal Research
Okanagan

MEMO: **General Research Fund; Change to Extension Policy**

General Research Funds (GRF)

UBC Okanagan holds Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) General Research Funds (GRF) accounts. These accounts are funded solely from unspent funds remaining in NSERC and SSHRC project accounts after they expire.

NSERC and SSHRC Policy regarding GRF funds:

Use of GRF funds must follow guidelines authorised by the agencies, regardless of whether they are used for start-up grants to new professors, bridge funding to professors who are between applications, additional funds to professors in support of their research or other activities.

GRF funds must be used within one year of their being provided to UBCO researchers. See link for agencies' policy on GRF: http://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_5429D5A5.html and 'residual balances' http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/AdminMatters-QuestionAdmin_eng.asp

Researchers at the end of their NSERC/SSHRC one-year automatic extension:

Researchers may use their SSHRC and NSERC funds through the regular funding term as specified on the sponsor's award document, and for one additional year as per the Tri Council Financial Administration Guide (link above). This additional year is automatic, and no action needs to be undertaken by the researcher to hold this extension. **However, as of January 2018, at the close of the auto-extension, researchers will no longer be able to access any remaining funds***. Extension to the end date thereafter can only be made by special request to The Research Advisory Council (RAC) with details on project, PG number, why the extension is required, and with a budget justification for the requested amount. This extension may be granted for a period of no more than six months from the expiry date of the auto extension. Please direct any extension requests to kristen.korberg@ubc.ca

* Researchers who have received permission to access funds beyond the auto-extension period under previous GRF guidelines (prior to Nov 2017) may continue to access these funds until the end of the granted period. There will be no further extensions granted and residuals will be moved to the UBC Okanagan Master GRF account.