

Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG)

Categories of Funding

Mandate: As stated in the constitution,

1. The purpose of RPIRG is to operate as a student-funded, student directed research, education and action organization pursuing the interest of students at The University of Regina and members of the wider community of Regina and beyond on issues of public concern.
2. Specifically RPIRG shall:
 - a. promote and conduct research on issues of public interest and concern;
 - b. aid in the education of members and the public at large about issues of public interest and concern;
 - c. promote and undertake appropriate citizen action;
 - d. act as a democratic organization, facilitating student participation in public interest research and aiding students in developing effective citizenship skills;
 - e. support the development of and co-operation with other Public Interest Research Groups as the occasion arises.

Categories of Funding:

Working Groups:

Definition: Working Groups (WGs) are semi-autonomous groups of students and community members who organize around specific issues of environmental and social change. WGs are groups which operate on a consensus-based decision making model. Upon approved application, a Working Group will receive support and funding of up to \$500 per semester.

Requirements and Responsibilities: Working Groups are required to maintain a membership as well as decide on representatives who will be contact persons to the RPIRG Board of Directors and the RPIRG Administrative Coordinator. Working Groups will hold regular meetings open to the public, with detailed minutes recorded. Minutes shall be submitted to the volunteer coordinator and shall contain records of all spending decisions amounting to over \$15. Minutes containing spending decisions must be accompanied by 2 signatures of members aware of spending, and these members' contact information. The minutes shall be submitted to the volunteer coordinator and shall be reviewed by the RPIRG Board of Directors at least once every semester. Representatives from Working Groups will be required to

attend monthly meetings with the Administrative Coordinator and representatives from all other Working Groups. In addition to minutes, Working Groups will be required to submit an end-of-term report to the RPIRG Board of Directors outlining the activities of the Working Group over the past semester, and records of workshop attendance. The Working Group must also be willing to provide a short summary of activities and expenses for the RPIRG Annual Report, and also be willing to provide a brief presentation at the RPIRG Annual General Meeting. The RPIRG Board of Directors reserves the right to review at any time the status of a Working Group.

Projects/Events:

Definition: Projects/Events are undertakings of groups or individuals which require funding and/or support under or over \$500, such as: speakers/speakers series, event/event series, or other projects with specific start and end dates. Members wishing to attend conferences that align with the RPIRG mandate may also apply using the Project/Events application. RPIRG Working Groups are also able to apply to this avenue of funding.

Requirements and Responsibilities: Approved Projects/Events must meet all of the requirements outlined in the Project/Event application form.

Research Grants:

Definition: Research Grants are a funding category for RPIRG members who are doing research which can be demonstrated to be in the public interest, and which aligns with the RPIRG mandate. This category provides resources for members requiring funding for research for independent studies and thesis projects. It is also for those students who are committed to putting their research skills to use to raise awareness about an issue of social or environmental justice, to aid a local non-profit organization, or to aid in an action campaign.

Requirements and Responsibilities: Students wishing to gain funding from this category are required to demonstrate sound designed methodology as well as background information on their topic. They will also be required to carefully consider ethical issues and submit their proposal to the RPIRG Board of Directors for review. It is important to keep in mind that it is an asset for research projects to demonstrate a strong commitment to public interest in our community. Applicants should research and pursue additional sources of funding which should be outlined in their proposal. RPIRG is seeking proposals that demonstrate a commitment to public interest issues and that make a practical use of funding when addressing such issues.

To apply for a research grant, please read and complete the Research Grant application form.

Application Procedure:

Applicants will,

- Determine what category of funding they wish to apply for, or discuss ideas with RPIRG Administrative Coordinator to find which category is appropriate.
- Acquire the appropriate application forms from RPIRG.
- Applications should include details about what type of support is being requested, be it funding, office support, or other. All funding requests must be accompanied by a clear and complete budget.
- Submit proposals to RPIRG according to category deadlines. Requests for Working Groups support must be received before the end of the second month in each academic semester.
- Applicants must also be willing to make a brief presentation of (2-3 minutes) to the RPIRG Board of Directors outlining their request, and be prepared to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding the application.