

## Research

### Project RFPs 2018-2019

Deadline: December 10th 2018, 11:59pm

#### Overview

##### About Us

Established in 2011, the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) was created to enhance student pathways and reduce barriers for students looking to transfer among Ontario's postsecondary institutions. ONCAT works with all public colleges and universities to enable the system of credit transfer to develop as rapidly as possible, while respecting institutional autonomy. Supported by the Government of Ontario, ONCAT is committed to creating a comprehensive and transparent system of pathways and credit transfer in the province. ONCAT works to enhance information channels for students, help postsecondary institutions collaborate in building enhanced pathways, and support research about transfer and student mobility. Our collective efforts serve to continue Ontario's development of an integrated postsecondary system that maximizes opportunities for mobile students to access postsecondary educational credentials that meets their needs, interests, and translates into career/employment opportunities.

Through an RFP process, we provide funding to publicly-funded colleges and universities, and other postsecondary partners including Indigenous Institutes recognized by MTCU, to develop and create new transfer pathways and articulation agreements, examine student and institutional experiences of transfer, and improve transfer student success.

##### Stream

ONCAT is seeking proposals for **research** projects that will advance knowledge and understanding of the current state of student mobility and credit transfer in Ontario. The objective of this funding stream is to generate knowledge that can directly inform policies, pathways and institutional practices related to student mobility and transfer in Ontario. This includes practical applications for developing stronger cultures of mobility within postsecondary institutions and/or contributing to greater understanding of system-wide issues that impact mobility.

This stream will support research projects that address knowledge gaps in:

- **Transfer Student Experiences: Assessing pathway successes and challenges in Ontario**  
There are increased pathways for students to move between institutions, but how are student's actually experiencing transfer and mobility? Research projects could explore student experiences post transfer. These could include whether the transfer experience has been of high value for the student (ie. they received adequate credits and experienced time-savings) and what factors contribute to success for students once they transfer. Additionally, they could explore the transfer experiences of underrepresented students, and how can pathways/transfer supports be designed to support student success. This funding is not meant to evaluate internal pathways, but could evaluate the pathways between institutions. This is an opportunity to identify significant opportunities to improve student experience and make recommendations for improving pathways for students.
- **Institutional Barriers to Transfer: Obstacles and Challenges to student mobility**  
Although the province is moving towards a more seamless mobility system, students continue to face challenges when transferring among Ontario's institutions. What are the obstacles within postsecondary

institutions that inhibit student mobility in Ontario? Projects could explore obstacles experienced during collaboration, restraints within institutions (e.g. academic policy, institutional data/student records), faculty engagement etc. This is an opportunity to gain deeper insight into system-wide barriers and how these challenges can be addressed in order to create stronger cultures of mobility within postsecondary institutions.

- **Costs and Savings associated with Student Mobility**

What are the real costs and savings associated with transfer for students and for institutions? Research projects could explore costs associated throughout the transfer student life cycle, examine costs and savings associated with different student mobility/transfer models, explore the hidden costs associated with transfer, etc. This is an opportunity to help inform student mobility policies and practices at a systemic level and within institutions.

- **What's next for Transfer Students: Outcomes for Transfer Students**

What is happening for transfer students upon graduation/once they leave an institution? Research projects could explore factors/outcomes related to student success post-transfer, credential completion rates, employability outcomes for graduates of transfer pathways, the relationship between developed pathways and job opportunities, the long-term economic outcomes for transfer students, and how best to integrate employers into pathway planning, etc. This is an opportunity to identify longer-term impacts of student mobility that can support the design of effective pathways and inform institutional practices.

- **Understanding the Student Mobility Landscape: Comparative Analysis**

How are other jurisdictions addressing student mobility and what can be applied to Ontario? Research projects could explore the ease of transfer in other jurisdictions, inter-institutional relationships, system tools and supports (e.g. provincial/state level), institutional processes and their applicability for the Ontario credit transfer system. This is an opportunity to ensure that promising models and examples of how other jurisdictions have addressed student mobility informs the Ontario system.

## Eligibility

### Who Can Apply

- Postsecondary institutions in Ontario including Indigenous Institutes recognized by MTCU ([www.ontario.ca/page/indigenous-students#section-0](http://www.ontario.ca/page/indigenous-students#section-0)) and Not-for-Profit organizations working in the field of postsecondary education in Ontario are eligible to apply.
- Applications can be from individual institutions or collaborative initiatives.

### Funding Available

- To allow for the widest possible range of proposals no maximum funding limit is set. Pathway projects are typically 12 months in length and range in amounts from \$10 000-\$100 000.
- NOTE: Activities and/or personnel funded through the Credit Transfer Institutional Grant (CTIG) are not eligible for ONCAT funding.

### Ineligible for Funding

- Issues that are specific to the applicant's institution only.
- Proposals led by external consultants Research funded through the Credit Transfer Innovation Grant (CTIG). The applicant must ensure that its institution has not been granted funding for the same or similar research.

## Application

### How to Apply

Proposals are accepted through an online application portal you can access here:

<https://oncatapplication.smapply.io/>. The deadline to apply is **December 10th 2018, by 11:59pm**. Please leave yourself enough time to transfer your responses to the online portal and ensure all the required documents are uploaded.

### Overview of Application Questions & Submission Requirements

[Project RFP Application Overview](#)

### Working Together: Reports and Check-ins

ONCAT is committed to learning with its partners and values open and ongoing communication. If you are successful in receiving a grant, the following check-ins and reporting will be required:

- An interim report and financial report
- Check-in's on the project as needed (via email and/or in person)
- A final report and detailed financial statement