



Establishing the Community Engagement and Research Centre (CERC) Research Fellows Program

To: Faculty members in the Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

From: Dr. Amber Fletcher (CERC Academic Director), Dr. Tom McIntosh (Associate Dean, Research & Graduate, Faculty of Arts), and Emily Lints (CERC Community Coordinator)

Do you collaborate with community-based, non-profit, and/or grassroots organizations as research partners? Or, would you like to be more involved with community-engaged research?

Tenure-track and tenured faculty members in the Faculty of Arts are invited to join the CERC Research Fellows Program. This new program is part of a broader initiative to reenergize our community-engagement efforts and reenvision what CERC can be.

Since 2003, CERC—known until 2020 as the Community Research Unit—has served as a bridge between Faculty of Arts researchers and the broader community of which we are all part. CERC's key activities include:

- Serving as the first point of contact for community organizations with research questions or data needs;
- Initiating, building, and supporting relationships between Faculty of Arts researchers, students, and community organizations who have shared research interests;
- Facilitating collaborative research projects that involve both university- and community-based researchers working toward a common goal;
- Providing grants of up to \$5000 for community-university partnered research projects through our recently revived Community Engaged Research Grants program;
- Creating community-based internship opportunities for Arts students through our Arts Work Experience Internship program (AWEI).

As we consider CERC's future, we envision an active, engaged community of researchers who do community-based, community-driven research with an aim to empowering community partners to meet their goals and to develop research, analytical, and advocacy capacity within their organizations. At the same time, the resulting research will exemplify high-quality social science and humanities research that can contribute to the career advancement of the researchers involved.

Benefits of being a CERC Fellow

Support for grant applications:

- Access support for developing your grant applications (e.g., obtain feedback on proposals).
- List CERC as a partner organization on your grant applications, including in-kind commitments from CERC.
- Get assistance connecting and developing meaningful relationships with community partners for funding proposals.

Support for your students:

- Encourage your students and/or Research Assistants (RAs) to join the CERC student community, a collective and collaborative “research lab” environment where they can access training opportunities, workshops, and mentorship.
- Pool small funding sources together with other CERC researchers to hire students over a longer, sustained period, thus retaining skilled students and supporting extended opportunities for them across multiple projects.
- Access shared student workspace for your RAs on CERC-related projects.

Support for your community partnerships:

- Get support in maintaining your current community partnerships and building new ones.
- Draw on CERC’s existing networks and presence in our community to connect with potential community partners.
- Receive support for project administration tasks (e.g., honoraria payments to community partners).
- Be part of a larger community of support for community-engaged Arts researchers and partner organizations.

Support for your research projects:

- Receive support for research administration tasks like hiring RAs, financial paperwork (e.g., reimbursement claims), etc.
- Access RA training opportunities through CERC’s student community.
- Obtain assistance with knowledge mobilization (e.g., copy-editing of reports; arranging community-level peer review of public research outputs).
- Promote the results of your research via CERC’s network and website.
- Brand your research as CERC-affiliated research with our visual identity.
- Engage with students through classroom experiential learning activities that connect to your projects.
- Collaborate on grant applications and research projects with other researchers in the Faculty of Arts.

Responsibilities of CERC Fellows:

As a CER fellow, we will ask you to:

- Attend quarterly CERC meetings to provide updates on your work, connect with other CERC researchers, discuss the current state of the program and its supports.
- Advise CERC leadership in developing policies and procedures for the Centre.
- Provide one student training workshop per year based on your expertise. Examples may include: community-engaged research, research skills, professional skills, etc.
- Provide peer review of external grant application drafts from other CERC fellows (approximately 1-2 per year).
- Adjudicate approximately 2-3 Community Engaged Research Grants per year. These grant applications are short (e.g., under 5 pages each); the anticipated total time commitment is approximately 2 hours.
- List CERC as a partner on your external grant applications.
- Promote yourself as a CERC Fellow at public engagements, presentations, etc.
- Promote the Arts Work Experience Internship to your students every semester.
- Promote the Arts Work Experience Internship to your community partners.
- Integrate your student RAs into the CERC student community and lab environment.
- Provide ad-hoc advice to CERC staff, as needed, based on your expertise.