

FUNDING AGREEMENT DRAC#25058

THIS FUNDING AGREEMENT (this "**Agreement**") made effective as of September 13, 2024 (**the "Effective Date"**)

BETWEEN:

DIGITAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE OF CANADA/ALLIANCE DE RECHERCHE NUMERIQUE DU CANADA

(the "**Alliance**")

AND

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

(the "**Recipient**")

BACKGROUND:

- A. The Alliance is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to fostering research in Canada through a secure and predictable digital research infrastructure, a mandate that includes managing and coordinating the DRI EDIA Champions program (the "**Program**") described in Schedule A to this Agreement; and
- B. Recipient wishes to participate in activities in furtherance of the Program and has applied to the Alliance for funding to undertake its respective Program activities, as further described in Schedule B to this Agreement (the "**Project**").

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual covenants herein and other good and valuable consideration (the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by each of the parties), the parties hereto covenant and agree as follows:

1. THE PROJECT

- 1.1 Recipient agrees to carry out the Project as described in Schedule B to this Agreement, on and in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.

2. PAYMENT

- 2.1 To support Recipient in carrying out the Project, the Alliance shall pay Recipient the contribution amount(s) in accordance with Schedule B and the other terms and provisions of this Agreement.

3. TERM AND TERMINATION

- 3.1 The term of this Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue until the later of (a) the Project Completion Date specified in Schedule B and (b) the completion and delivery by Recipient of all deliverables and reports required to be delivered to the Alliance under Schedule B, unless earlier terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

4. SCHEDULES

- 4.1 The following is a list of the schedules which are attached to, and form an integral part of, this Agreement:
- A. Program Description
 - B. Recipient Deliverables, Payment and Reporting Provisions
 - C. General Terms and Conditions

5. SIGNATURES

- 5.1 Each party confirms that the individual(s) signing this Agreement on its behalf have authority to enter into this Agreement on behalf of that party.
- 5.2 This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts with the same effect as if all parties had signed the same document.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank – signature page follows]

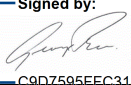
SIGNED effective as of the Effective Date.

FOR THE ALLIANCE:

DIGITAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE OF CANADA
/ ALLIANCE DE RECHERCHE NUMERIQUE
DU CANADA

Signature:

Signed by:



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Name:

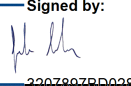
George Ross

Title:

Chief Executive Officer

Signature:

Signed by:



3207807BD02840C...

Name:

Julien St-Pierre

Title:

Director, Finance
and Chief Financial Officer

FOR THE RECIPIENT:

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Signature:

Signed by:



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Name:

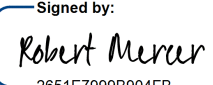
Lisa Cechetto

Title:

Executive Director, Western Research

Signature:

Signed by:



2664E7000B004FB...

Name:

Robert Mercer

Title:

Professor

SCHEDULE A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Through the DRI EDIA Champions Pilot Program, the Alliance will fund and provide project-related training to graduate and post-graduate researchers who self-identify as belonging to equity-seeking groups, or who have a well thought out strategy, to deliver a project of their own design with the goal to connect with members of equity-seeking groups within their research community to promote and facilitate access to Alliance Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) services. Successful applicants will work with the Alliance to promote and facilitate access to national Alliance DRI services within the research community to members of equity-seeking groups.

[End of Schedule A – remainder of page intentionally left blank]

SCHEDULE B**RECIPIENT DELIVERABLES, PAYMENT AND REPORTING PROVISIONS****1. RECIPIENT AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Authorized Representative Name:	Lisa Cechetto, Executive Director, Western Research
Address:	Western University Room 5150 Support Services Building, 1393 Western Road London, Ontario N6G 3K7
Email:	researchoffice@uwo.ca

2. ALLIANCE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Authorized Representative Name:	George Ross, CEO
Address:	Digital Research Alliance of Canada P.O. Box 48008 Davisville Post Office Toronto, Ontario M4S 3C6
Email:	george.ross@alliancecan.ca

3. RECIPIENT ACTIVITIES/DELIVERABLES

As set out in Schedule B.3.

In completing its activities and deliverables under this Agreement, the Recipient agrees to comply with the guidelines set out in Schedule B.4, *DRI EDIA Champions Pilot Program: 2024 Call for Proposals*.

4. PROJECT COMPLETION DATE

March 31, 2025

5. CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT

- 5.1 The maximum amount to be contributed by the Alliance to Recipient (“**Maximum Contribution Amount**”) will be as set out in the budget attached in Schedule B.2 (the “**Budget**”). The Recipient shall not be entitled to receive any amount in excess of the Maximum Contribution Amount from the Alliance without the Alliance’s prior written authorization.
- 5.2 Notwithstanding Section 5.1, Recipient acknowledges and agrees that the Alliance’s obligation to advance any amount to Recipient under this Agreement is conditional on the Alliance receiving all necessary funding for the Program from the federal government. If, at any time, the Alliance determines that it has not received sufficient funding for the Program in order to contribute amounts to Recipient under this Agreement, the Alliance may terminate this Agreement by written notice to Recipient.

6. PAYMENT TERMS AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

- 6.1 In consideration of Recipient carrying out the Project, the Alliance shall make payments to the Recipient from the Maximum Contribution Amount in the amounts and at the times set forth in the table below:

Payment #	Payment Amount and %	Timeframe	Triggering Event
First	Up to 70% of the Maximum Contribution Amount.	Within 30 days	Upon execution of this Agreement.
Second	Up to 30% of the Maximum Contribution Amount.	Within 60 days	Receipt of the final Project Reports (defined below) and all supporting documentation, in each case in form satisfactory to the Alliance, acting reasonably.

- 6.2 The amounts received by Recipient under this Agreement may only be used for payment of eligible Project costs (as defined in program and/or financial administration guides provided to recipients) and otherwise in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

7. RECIPIENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 Recipient will provide financial and performance reports to the Alliance with respect to the Project (collectively, “**Project Reports**”) as set forth in the table below:

Report Type	Due Date
Progress Report	December 15, 2024
Final Progress Report, including exit survey	April 30, 2025
Financial Report	April 30, 2025

- 7.2 Project Reports shall be in the form attached as Schedule B.1 and otherwise in form and substance acceptable to the Alliance and shall describe: (a) Project activities; (b) eligible costs paid with amounts contributed under this Agreement; (c) adherence to the Project schedule; (d) achievement of the Project objectives, deliverables and key performance indicators described in this Agreement, and (e) if applicable, confirmation of receipt of third-party funding secured by Recipient for the Project in accordance with this Agreement.

- 7.3 Project Reports shall be submitted via the Alliance’s online grant management platform, <https://alliance.smapply.io>.

If the above-noted method is not available, Project Reports shall be addressed and sent electronically to the following address:

Digital Research Alliance of Canada
P.O. Box 48008 Davisville Post Office
Toronto, Ontario M4S 3C6
Email to: programs-programmes@alliancecan.ca

- 7.4 The Alliance shall have the right, in its sole discretion and at its own expense, to conduct an audit of amounts contributed to Recipient and payments made by Recipient from such amounts as reported in a Project Report at any time during the term of this Agreement or within five years thereafter and Recipient agrees to cooperate with the Alliance in the conduct of any such audit. The Alliance shall use commercially reasonable efforts to notify Recipient within thirty (30) business days following receipt of any Project Report if it will be conducting an audit of amounts reported in such Project Report.
- 7.5 If any Project Report states, or an audit pursuant to Section 7.4 determines, that any amount paid by the Alliance under this Agreement was expended on ineligible costs, such amount will be deducted from amounts remaining payable by the Alliance to Recipient under this Agreement and any excess amount remaining after such deduction shall be promptly paid by Recipient to the Alliance.
- 7.6 This Section 7 will remain in full force and effect notwithstanding expiration or termination of this Agreement.

8. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 Recipient Obligations. In performing its obligations under this Agreement, Recipient agrees that it will:
- (a) use best efforts to carry out the Project and to deliver its respective contributions to the Program, to work collaboratively with the Alliance and any third party delivery partners, and to meaningfully contribute to and participate in the design, development, launch, reporting and evaluation of the Project, as applicable;
 - (b) deliver its respective contributions to the Project and the Program in good faith, in a manner that is fair and reasonable, and in a manner that demonstrates a standard of care, diligence and skill that an analogous organization would display in comparable circumstances;
 - (c) reserve sufficient organizational resources to carry out the Project within the anticipated Project timeline, including appropriately qualified staff, technology resources and other organizational resources;
 - (d) use best efforts to carry out the Project within the Project schedule described in this Agreement;
 - (e) use reasonable efforts to ensure the security, integrity and protection of any physical and digital infrastructure acquired, operated and maintained by Recipient in connection with the Project in accordance with the *Cybersecurity Framework* published by the Alliance;
 - (f) ensure that all goods and services procured by Recipient in connection with the Project will be purchased or acquired at competitive prices that are no greater than fair market value;
 - (g) if awarding contracts or hiring personnel for the completion of the Project, use a fair and competitive or otherwise justifiable and generally accepted sound business process that results in competent and qualified contractors and/or personnel working on the Project;

- (h) provide regular, timely, proactive correspondence to the Alliance regarding the Project, completion of the Project deliverables or milestones, access to Project records, and performance of any additional rights and obligations under this Agreement;
- (i) collaborate with the Alliance, any delivery partners and any third party funding partners in completing any Project evaluations, evidence generation and related analyses required under any third party project funding agreement; and
- (j) collaborate with the Alliance and any delivery partners to publish any written or recorded content generated as part of the Project in both official languages of Canada.

8.2 Project Assets. Recipient shall retain title to, and ownership of, any equipment the cost of which has been contributed to by the Alliance from funds provided under this Agreement, *provided that* Recipient covenants to actively operate, maintain and use such equipment to: (a) further the purpose(s) underlying the Project, the Program and this Agreement, (b) to benefit Canadian researchers, and (c) to strengthen the Canadian digital research ecosystem. Recipient shall not sell, assign, transfer, encumber, pledge, grant a security interest in, or otherwise dispose of such equipment, unless: (a) the Alliance has obtained the prior written consent of the Minister, on such conditions as the Minister may determine, (b) the equipment was acquired at a cost less than \$1,000, (c) the equipment is being replaced pursuant to a manufacturers' warranty, insurance policy, or other equivalent legal mechanism, or (d) the equipment is worn, obsolete, or outdated and is sold, transferred, disposed of or otherwise converted in order to be replaced *and* the proceeds of sale, transfer, disposal, or conversion of the equipment are used for the acquisition of replacement equipment.

8.3 Insurance. Without limiting Recipient's obligations under Schedule C, Recipient will maintain during the term of this Agreement adequate comprehensive public liability insurance against injury, death or other loss or damage resulting from actions of Recipient in connection with the activities funded under this Agreement that is consistent with the level of risk exposure associated with the Agreement and the Project. If Recipient is in possession or control of any equipment or hardware used for purposes of the Project, Recipient will maintain property insurance covering such equipment or hardware in the possession or control of Recipient. Upon request by the Alliance, Recipient shall provide to the Alliance certificates of insurance evidencing the insurance policies required by this Section 8.5. Recipient shall promptly notify the Alliance in the event of any cancellation or material change in any such policies.

8.4 Termination.

This Agreement can be terminated by the Alliance or the Recipient upon 60 days written notice. In the event of termination of this Agreement for any reason, the parties hereto agree to cooperate with one another to accomplish an orderly transition of the Project. In the event the Agreement is terminated:

- (a) From and after delivery of notice of termination, the Recipient shall make no further commitments for expenditures to be funded from the Maximum Contribution Amount and shall cancel or otherwise reduce, to the extent possible, the amount of any outstanding commitments in relation thereto; and
- (b) The Recipient's expenses and non-cancellable obligations incurred up to and including the termination date, to the extent that it is established to the satisfaction of the Alliance that the costs mentioned are eligible expenditures, will be paid by the Alliance, subject to and in accordance with this Agreement.

Sections 8.2 and 8.4 of this Schedule B will remain in full force and effect notwithstanding expiration or termination of this Agreement for a period of 3 years.

[End of Schedule B – remainder of page intentionally left blank]

Schedule B.1

Form of Project Reports

I. Financial Report

Financial reports must:

- be created by the Recipient's appropriate department
- include a summary of expenditures and balance
- ensure that expenditures align with the eligibility requirements of the program
- categorize expenditures into the eligible categories of:
 - stipend
 - project implementation
 - travel to the in-person Alliance meeting

II. Exit Survey

Exit surveys are to be completed by the DRI EDIA Champion on the Alliance's online grant management platform, <https://alliance.smapply.io>.

III. Progress Report Template



PROGRESS REPORT

RECIPIENT PROGRESS REPORT (QUARTERLY)				
PROJECT INFORMATION				
Organization Name:		Reporting Period: From: (dd-mm-yyyy) To: (dd-mm-yyyy)		Prepared by:
STATUS				
Parameter	Last Status (On track/ delay/ issue)	Current Status (On track/ delay/ issue)	Additional Detail	
Overall				
Schedule				
Budget *			*Please complete Attached spreadsheet	
Risks/Issues				
Status Definitions				
On Track: Initiative is in line with approved timelines and plans				
Delay: A key task or activity is delayed from the approved timelines and plans				
Issue: An issue, risk has been flagged, or a decision is required on the initiative				
TIMELINES & MILESTONES				
Activity/Milestone	Status: on-track/ delay/ issue/ not started)	Planned Completion (dd-mm-yyyy)	Revised Completion (dd-mm-yyyy)	Comments on Revised Completion
Key activities & milestones with completion dates to align with those provided to the Alliance during the contract agreement phase. (If needed, new milestones can be added during project implementation with Alliance approval)				
RISKS				
Description	Escalation? (Y/N)	Risk Likelihood (Low/Medium/Hi gh)	Risk Impact (Low/Medium/Hi gh)	Mitigation in Place? (Y/N) & Describe
Risks identified to the Alliance during contract agreement phase, please indicate if escalation is required.				
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)				
Description	Metric/KPI	Target	Date target to be achieved?	Target Achieved? (Y/N) if 'No', provide rationale
COMMENTS				
Provide details on any issues, risks or activities related to the initiative				

Schedule B.2

Budget

Category	Maximum
Stipend	\$27,000
Project Implementation	\$5,000
Travel to in-person Alliance meeting	\$3,000
Total	\$35,000

Project costs (up to \$5000).

Please list all expenses including activities, material costs, gifts/honorariums and any other relevant expenses.

	Cost (\$)	Description of Expense	Add additional Expenses
	2500	French Language Text Translation (upto 14,000 words)	✓
	500	Sign Language Interpreters (10-16 hours of work)	✓
	1000	One Indigenous Technical Consultant (~1.5 total days of work)	✓
	500	Food for meetings and workshops	✓
	500	Survey Completion/Outreach Meeting Incentives	✗
Total Requested Amount	5000.0		

Schedule B.3

DRI EDIA Champions Pilot Project: Applicant Application Form

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Application: 0000000335

Anemily Machina - anemily.machina@uwo.ca
DRI EDIA Champions

Eligibility Form

Completed - 2 Jul 2024

Eligibility Form

Which of the following scenarios related to your career stage apply to you?

A) I am a graduate or post-graduate researcher enrolled at a Canadian university.

Which of the following descriptions related to participation in EDIA work apply to you?

A) I am a member of an equity-seeking group.

Do you identify as belonging to an equity-seeking group? If you would like to identify yourself as a member of one of these groups, please select all that apply:

Responses Selected:

Women
Person living with a visible or invisible disability
Member of 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities
Neurodiverse

I am currently residing in and plan on executing my proposed activities in Canada.

Yes

If yes, please provide a response to the following items below:

i) Please indicate Province/Territory of residence:	Ontario
If you reside in Ontario, do you live in the GTA?	No
ii) Please indicate Province/Territory where proposed activities will take place:	Ontario

Applicant Information

Completed - 17 Jul 2024

Applicant Information

1) Applicant First Name

Anemily

Applicant Last Name

Machina

2) Language of Correspondence:

English

Educational Program

Please answer the following questions related to your current program of study.

3a) What type of program are you currently enrolled in?

PhD

3b) Institution/Organization:

Name of Institution you are affiliated with:	University of Western Ontario
Province/Territory of Institution:	Ontario
Type of Institution	Post-Secondary Institution (Universities, Colleges, CEGEP, Institute or Polytechnic)

3c) What year of your program will you be in as of September 2024?

5

3d) Discipline

Responses Selected:

Applied Sciences

3e) Faculty and department of your program:

Science - Computer Science

3f) Working thesis/research project title:

Improving Local AI Explanations in Natural Language Processing with Manifolds, Concept Explanations, and Human Feedback

Letters of Support

Please provide the relevant contact information for the following required Letters of Support.

4a) Academic Supervisor / Advisor

First Name	Robert
Last Name	Mercer
Position Title	Professor Emeritus
Department	Computer Science
Institution / Organisation	University of Western Ontario
Email	mercerc@csd.uwo.ca

4b) EDIA Mentor

First Name	Robert
Last Name	Mercer
Position Title	Professor Emeritus
Department	Computer Science
Institution / Organisation	University of Western Ontario
Email	mercerc@csd.uwo.ca

4c) Institutional Representative

A person who will be reviewing and approving your application on behalf of your institution, typically in the Office of Research Services.

First Name	Lisa
Last Name	Cechetto
Position Title	Executive Director, Western Research
Department	Western Research
Institution / Organisation	Western University
Email	researchoffice@uwo.ca

Merit Review Committee Recommendation

Please recommend two names of subject matter experts, with whom you do not have a conflict of interest and who could participate as Merit Review Committee members to review applications for this call.

5) Merit Review Committee Member Recommendations

(Recommendation #1) Name:	(No response)
Position Title:	(No response)
Institution:	(No response)
Email:	(No response)
(Recommendation #2) Name:	(No response)
Position Title:	(No response)
Institution:	(No response)
Email:	(No response)

Application and Proposed Activities

Completed - 17 Jul 2024

Application and Proposed Activities

Please answer the following questions related to your DRI EDIA Champions project proposal.

6) Please provide a title for your proposal.

Community Driven Accessible Mini-Courses and Workshops to Further the Uptake of DRA DRI Resources

7) Please describe (briefly and in plain language) the area of research that you are focused on. (Max 200 words)

My research focuses on explaining how Artificial Intelligences (AIs) make decisions, with a focus on explaining a single decision. Current popular explanations ignore the shape of the data an AI uses, instead assuming the shape to be a sphere when in fact it might be a more complex shape, for example a donut. As well, concept explanations, i.e. explanations that include concepts such as Parts of Speech or Gender, which are used to explain an AI at a high level have yet to be adapted to explain a single decision. My research hopes to improve the quality of AI explanations by considering the actual shape of the data and grounding those explanations with concepts. Further, we plan on having humans evaluate these explanations in grounded tasks to confirm our new explanations are an improvement. AI is being forced into many aspects of everyday life, often by focusing on hypothetical future gain and ignoring current harms. Groups most negatively affected by these AIs often have the least amount of influence in how the AIs are trained and used. High quality explanations will help these people voice their concerns when AIs negatively affect their lives.

8) DRI Focus Area

Please identify all that apply.

Responses Selected:

Advanced Research Computing (ARC)
Research Data Management (RDM)
Cloud
Artificial Intelligence
Research Software

8a) Please select the specific Alliance DRI you would like to support:

Responses Selected:

Lunaris

8b) Please describe the DRI training or resources that you are looking to access in order to advance your graduate work. (Work with team to produce a list of possible trainings/resources)

Advanced research computing like the CCDB to further my AI/Machine Learning (ML) research, DRM resources like Lunaris, but also explanations of the differences between the various DRM resources so I can make informed decisions of how to use them and present them to equity deserving groups with diverse needs.

9) Please describe how access to these DRI trainings and resources would advance your graduate work, and how access would advance your research career overall (Max 250 words).

While I am aware of some DRA resources I have been hesitant to use them as I expect there will be a high time cost in finding the correct resources and then learning to use those resources. Access to computation resources, such as the CCDB, would allow me to further my ML research by allowing me to easily experiment with the newer and more complex AIs, making my research more relevant to the current state of AI. Even using efficient methods, new billion parameter AIs require large computational resources.

Existing shared datasets could be used to explore AIs ability to handle new tasks, how well existing explanation methods work on those new tasks, or how explanations need to be adapted. Using DRM or other DRA services to store my research artefacts, such as AI manifolds, can benefit other researchers and the environment. Often the computational resources needed to create artefacts are many times higher than the resources needed for storage and transmission. Further, this would help me create reproducible scientific results, increasing the legitimacy of my research: AI/ML research has had a long standing reproducibility problem.

10) Which equity-seeking group(s) do you wish to support in advancing access to DRI (check all that apply):

Responses Selected:

Women
Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis)
Person living with a visible or invisible disability
Member of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities
Member of racialized groups
Neurodiverse
First generation post-secondary students

11) Please describe the barriers to success within traditional academic structures that exist for this group. How may improved knowledge about or access to DRI mitigate these barriers? What barriers currently exist for this group in accessing DRI? (Max 250 words)

Equity deserving groups often have a lack of funding opportunities and access to role models and mentors with similar lived experience. They must also frequently deal with harassment and ignorance either directly or in the form of microaggressions. This can lead to feelings of being unwanted and a chilly climate for underrepresented groups. Additionally, lecturers and teachers can be reluctant to provide accessible education materials, e.g. bilingual material, captions, lecture recordings, etc., which creates a significant access barrier for individuals who need opportunities to process information in their own time and/or through other forms.

Specific barriers to accessing DRI are a lack of awareness and access to relevant training materials. By increasing awareness, designing accessible training materials, and holding training sessions reflecting the needs of equity deserving researchers we help democratise access to ACR and DRM. Much skill specific knowledge is shared via mentors, so you may be equally aware or not of DRI. Providing workshops targeted for beginner and advanced use makes access more equitable, as it does not depend on your personal connections.

Hopefully groups that increase their usage of DRI can stand out in their fields, making them competitive in their future fields, showing that their voices can be heard, creating new community mentors to help guide the next wave of equity deserving researchers. Being able to access DRI can open up new venues in which researchers can network: e.g., the workshops we put on or technology focused conferences.

12) How do you plan to implement your vision for the DRI EDIA Champions initiative? Select all applicable categories. (It is expected that successful applications will address more than one of these broad areas of activity, but not necessarily all. If applicants identify other areas of activity that are aligned with this program’s purpose, these may be considered as well.)

Responses Selected:

Training/mentoring
Promoting/advancing DRI
Driving culture change
Informing future initiatives

13) The Alliance is committed to Indigenous data sovereignty. Projects by and in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and other Indigenous communities, collectives, and organizations must be co-developed and approved by those involved. As appropriate, project outputs are expected to articulate how they will address Indigenous data sovereignty. Does your proposal include the use of Indigenous data?

Yes

13a) If yes: Please describe how this proposal has been co-developed and approved by those whom the data belong to? How does this proposal address Indigenous data sovereignty?

No existing Indigenous data is planned to be used. However, the expectation is that Indigenous data would be collected, i.e. survey and meeting feedback, and I will work with institutional leaders such as Katie Big-Canoe to make sure that this data is used respecting Indigenous data sovereignty. Similar consultations will be done concerning any workshops or educational materials: i.e. included in my budget is the hiring of an Indigenous technical advisor to consult on and/or run a workshop.

14) What activities do you plan to engage in to improve access to and knowledge about the DRI of interest? (These may include hosting peer to peer training sessions, development of knowledge transfer products including blog posts or social media content, direct engagement and knowledge gathering with equity-seeking groups, engagement with decision makers within your host institution, or any other activities that you envision enhancing access to and knowledge about DRI for equity-seeking groups).

The project will start with surveys and/or focus groups to gauge awareness of DRA DRI resources, opinions on said resources, and explore researchers' needs. I am trying to be open to community feedback here as we should focus on being reactive to what researchers in equity deserving groups need: e.g. the feedback might say researchers in equity deserving groups don't need HPC tutorials but rather ML tutorials using cloud computing for digital humanities. I note from the 2021 DRA "Researcher Needs Assessment" that ML training is the second highest desired type of training and as an ML expert with experience teaching ML I can prepare such training material if it is also wanted by my local communities.

Secondly I would work with my institution's office of EDI to find community leaders and experts from equity groups who can collaborate with me to determine the best DRI resources and research tasks based on feedback and explore best practices for using said resources.

The next step is producing accessible and reusable bilingual education material for use in social media posts, mini-courses, workshops, etc. This includes videos, video transcripts, slides, audio files, mixed media documentation, Jupyter Notebooks, GitHub repositories, etc. Videos would come with the option of slide descriptions, with bilingual captions, and with sign language interpretation. Mixed media documentation will be in both paginated and non-paginated formats with video and image description and are intended to serve as reusable accessible "mini-course textbooks".

The goal of the education material is to support mini-courses and workshops that are the next steps, while also being useful as reference materials for learners, and being usable for others who wish to incorporate the materials into their own teaching/mentoring. I will myself create the English language versions of this material, and included in the budget is French to English text translation and Sign Language interpretation. Based on the budget and time constraints we can expect to cover at most two topics of interest. Educational materials will be hosting on public websites (e.g. Jupyter Notebook hosted on GitHub) so they are widely accessible.

Mini-courses and workshops are designed around the other educational materials described above, with mini-courses taking place online and workshops being hybrid in-person and virtual meetings. These courses and workshops will be focused around guiding learners through a smaller selection of the educational materials with the goal of introducing learners to the concepts. After which they can access the full set of educational material to continue learning.

Finally, creation of reports on insights gained from the project and any training that was desired but we were unable to address which can be used to drive future change and inform initiatives both for the institutions and the DRA.

15) What is the expected timeline for these activities?

	Planned Activity	Milestone
Jul 2024 – Aug 2024 (Please note, activities executed prior to final agreement completion are ineligible).	Work with EDIA mentor and community experts to develop questions for Surveys and Outreach Meetings.	
Sept 2024- Dec 2024	Work with EDIA mentor and community experts to develop questions for Surveys and Outreach Meetings. Gather information from surveys/meetings. Finalize mini-course topics. Start preparing educational material.	Feedback gathered and mini-course topics decided.
Jan 2025- Mar 2025	Finish educational materials, create mini-courses, hold workshops. Complete final documentation.	Educational material completed. Two mini-courses completed. Workshops for mini-courses. Final documentation.

16) How do you intend to measure the impact of these activities?

	Activity	Target/Outcome	Scope of activity (Select National, Provincial, Municipal, University wide, department wide.)	Location of Activity	Click here to add more
	Working with EDIA mentor and community experts to develop questions	To create a survey/meeting where we can gauge awareness of DRA DRI and communities research needs	University	University of Western Ontario	✓
	Gathering feedback/holding community focus groups	Gauge awareness of DRA DRI and communities research needs	Municipal	University of Western Ontario	✓
	Create educational materials	The creation of accessible educational materials for future workshops, mini-course, and for use by others in future training	National	University of Western Ontario	✓
	Creation of mini-courses	Mini-courses created using the educational materials	National	University of Western Ontario	✓
	Holdings Workshop	Help workshops for communities to promote mini-course and educational materials	University	University of Western Ontario	✓

	Writing Documentation	To summarize the project and inform future initiativesd	National	University of Western Ontario	✖
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17) How many people within the equity-seeking group(s) do you intend to engage with the proposed activities?

d. 101 – 250

Upload CV

Completed - 8 Jul 2024

Please upload an up-to-date CV in PDF format.

[CV July 2024](#)

Filename: CV__July_2024_.pdf Size: 93.5 kB

Optional: Additional Documentation Upload

Incomplete

If there are any other documents (letters of support, grant award letters) that you feel add to your application that you would like to include, please upload a maximum of 2 additional documents here (Max 500 words per document).

Please note: Documentation that exceeds the prescribed limit will not be reviewed.

Letters of Support (Academic Supervisor / Advisor)

Completed - 17 Jul 2024

Please enter your academic supervisor / advisor's email here. A Letter of Support Template will be sent to them asking them to indicate their knowledge of and support of your application to this grant. Please note that your recommender will have the opportunity to review your application.

Preview Letter of Support Template here:

- [FR - Lettre d'appui – Superviseure ou superviseur, conseillère ou conseiller universitaire](#)
- [EN - Academic Supervisor / Advisor Letter of Support](#)

Recommenders

Recommender:

[Dr. Robert Mercer <mercer@csd.uwo.ca>](#)

Request Date:

11 Jul 2024 07:08 (PDT)

Content:

File Upload

[Recommendation Dr. Robert Mercer 17 Jul 2024.pdf](#)

Filename: Recommendation_Dr._Robert_Mercer_1_xfscxy7.pdf Size: 96.6 kB

Letters of Support (EDIA Mentor/Resource)

Completed - 17 Jul 2024

Please enter your EDIA resource / mentor's email here. A Letter of Support Template will be sent to them asking them to indicate their support of the proposed EDIA engagement activities described in this application. Please note that your recommender will have the opportunity to review your application.

Please Note:

This individual can be your supervisor should they have relevant EDIA expertise or experience, but this may also be another individual. Applicants without access to an EDIA resource or mentor should reach out to their institution's EDIA (or equivalent) office or representative.

Preview Letter of Support Template here:

- [FR - Lettre d'appui – Mentore ou mentor en EDIA](#)
- [EN - EDIA Mentor / Resource Letter of Support](#)

Recommenders

Recommender:

[Dr. Robert Mercer <mercer@csd.uwo.ca>](#)

Request Date:

11 Jul 2024 07:09 (PDT)

Content:

File Upload

[Recommendation Dr. Robert Mercer 17 Jul 2024.pdf](#)

Filename: Recommendation_Dr._Robert_Mercer_1_Z210Aqt.pdf Size: 49.5 kB

Letters of Support (Institutional Awareness)

Completed - 15 Jul 2024

Please enter your Office of Research Services' or equivalent institutional contact email here. A Letter of Support Template will be sent to them asking them to indicate that this application has gone through your individual institution's internal approval processes. Please note that your recommender will have the opportunity to review your application.

Preview Letter of Support Template here:

- [FR - Lettre d'appui – Sensibilisation des établissements](#)
- [EN - Institutional Awareness Letter of Support](#)

Please Note: If the email address entered here has been used by your institution for other programs in the past; your institutional contact's name *might appear differently once submitted*. Please contact your institution for further assistance in updating this information if needed.

Recommenders

Recommender:

[Western Research Office <researchoffice@uwo.ca>](#)

Request Date:

11 Jul 2024 07:10 (PDT)

Content:

File Upload

[Recommendation Western Research Office 15 Jul 2024.pdf](#)

Filename: Recommendation_Western_Research_Of_AMcOAex.pdf Size: 54.6 kB

Submission

Completed - 17 Jul 2024

Please verify you have completed all the sections of your application and click “mark as complete” before submission. Following submission, you should receive an email confirmation that your application has been successfully submitted. If you did not receive a confirmation email, please check that your application has been marked as submitted or write to Alliance Programs / Programmes de l'Alliance programs-programmes@alliancecan.ca. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

You can download a copy of your application for your records. Any further questions or comments about your application can be directed to Alliance Programs / Programmes de l'Alliance programs-programmes@alliancecan.ca.

Submission

In addition:

Responses Selected:

By submitting an application for funding consideration, the Applicant and their institution(s) acknowledge that the terms and conditions outlined in Appendix B – Alliance Funding Agreement, in the Call for Proposals are non-negotiable.

I confirm that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I confirm I have read and agree to adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Call for Proposals.

I confirm that if I receive the DRI EDIA Champions Award I will participate in a 16-week virtual training program organized by OLS <https://openlifesci.org/openseeds/ols-1/> and an in-person meeting organized by the Alliance.

I consent to the Alliance collecting any personal information provided in this form for the sole purpose of delivering and evaluating the program. If my application is successful, my name and relevant project information will be shared publicly.

Communications

Responses Selected:

I would like to be included in future communications from the Alliance regarding funding calls and other opportunities.

Note: When all sections are marked as complete the "Submit" button will become green on the left hand side.

Tips:

1. All recommendations must be received before you can mark each of the tasks as "complete" and submit your application.

2. Monitor your email for completed recommendation notifications. Once received, please log back in to your Survey Monkey Apply Account on <https://alliance.smapply.ca/> to mark these tasks as complete and submit your application.

Anemily Machina

Educational Background

Sep. 2020 – July. 2025 expected. **PhD Candidate in Computer Science**

University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Awarded Feb. 2021. **Master of Science in Computer Science**

University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Awarded Jun. 2018. **Honors Specialization in Computer Science**

University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Awarded Jun. 2008. **Honors Specialization in Mathematics**

University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Publications

Anemily Machina, Robert E. Mercer, “Anisotropy is Not Inherent to Transformers” (2024). Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (Volume 1: Long Papers). <https://aclanthology.org/2024.naacl-long.274/>

Anemily Machina, Robert E. Mercer, “An Experimental Comparison of the Geometry of Models Trained on Natural Language and Synthetic Data” (2021). Proceedings of the Canadian Conference on Artificial Intelligence. <https://doi.org/10.21428/594757db.f47d55f8>

Anemily Machina, “Exploring Explicit and Implicit Feature Spaces in Natural Language Processing Using Self-Enrichment and Vector Space Analysis” (2020). Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Repository. 7471. <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/7471>

Presentations

Anemily Machina, “Artificial "Directed Musement" and Its Limitations” (2024). Accelerated Ad(E)vent: Subjectivity and Aesthetics Approaching the Singularity <https://accadvnt.com/>

Research Experience

Sep. 2018 – Present. **Research Assistant, University of Western Ontario**

Sep. 2018 – 2021. **Paper Reviewer**

Sep. 2018 – Oct. 2020. **University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada**

Thesis in AI model analysis supervised by Dr. Robert E. Mercer. The geometry of embeddings was compared across models and the embeddings of individual models were probed for information leading to insight on the global decision making of that model.

Work Experience

Sep. 2018 – Present. **Teaching Assistant, University of Western Ontario**

Prepared course material; Lectured in class, labs, and tutorials; Held office hours; Graded assignments, reports, and tests.

Jan. 2021 – Aug. 2021. **Messagepoint, Mitacs Accelerate Internship**

Researched, designed, and implemented AI models for both document retrieval tasks and semantic similarity prediction; Prepared presentations; Wrote technical documentation.

Sept. 2023 – Dec. 2023. **Machine Learning Associate - KnowMeQ, Vector Institute of AI - Fastlane Applied Projects**

Researched, designed, and implemented AI models to create a proof of concept AI assisted Credit for Prior Learning/Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition recommender system.

April. 2024 – Present **Machine Learning Specialist - KnowMeQ, Mitacs Accelerate Internship**

Researched, designed, implemented, trained, and documented AI models for real world application of an AI assisted Credit for Prior Learning/Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition recommender system; Met with relevant parties to discuss implementation and explainable AI details.

June. 2024 – Present **Technical Consultant - Vector Institute of AI**

Technical consultant for the Vector Institute of AI Fine-tuning and Alignment Bootcamp; Provided technical, programming, and machine learning support to participants; Participated in feedback sessions with Vector

Volunteer Positions

July. 2023 – Present **Western Society of Graduate Students - Speaker**

Managed monthly council meetings; Gathered and collated documentation from Society executive and non-executive for monthly council package; Create educational material; Managed interpersonal conflicts; Organized meetings.

Nov. 2023 – Nov. 2023 **Western Society of Graduate Students - Board Steering Committee**

Committee that determined the composition of SOGS's new board of directors; evaluated different corporate structures.

Sept. 2022 – Nov. 2023 **Western Society of Graduate Students - Strategic Planning Committee**

Gathered feedback from society members; Outlined new Goals and Values as a corporation.

Nov. 2022 – July. 2023 **Western Society of Graduate Students - Appeals Review Commission Chair**

Managed the Appeals Review Commission a team of seven people; Organized meetings; Prepared and summarized documentation.

April 2023 – April 2023 **Western Society of Graduate Students - Hiring Panel**

Interviewed candidates; Selected candidate to be hired.

Nov. 2021 – Nov. 2022 **Western Society of Graduate Students - Appeals Review Commission**

2019 – Present **Western Society of Graduate Students - Councillor**

Aug. 2022 – Nov. 2022 **Western Society of Graduate Students - Acting Ombudsperson**

Reviewed policy documents; Interviewed relevant society members; Managed interpersonal conflicts; Wrote reports.

Awards

Sep. 2023 – Aug. 2024. **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**

Sep. 2022 – Aug. 2023. **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**

Jan. 2022 – Aug. 2022. **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**

Sep. 2018 – Present. **Western Graduate Research Scholarship**

Jan. 2021 – Aug. 2021. **Mitacs Accelerate Internship**

May. 2008 – Aug. 2008. **NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award**

May. 2007 – Aug. 2007. **NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award**

2004 - 2007. **Dean's Honor List**

2007. **Leland Ritcey Prize**

2006. **Nortel Networks Scholarship of Distinction in Computer Science**

2006. **Borwein Memorial Prize**

2005. **Nortel Networks Scholarship of Distinction in Computer Science**

2004. **The Western Scholarship of Distinction**

Academic Supervisor / Advisor Letter of Support

To the review committee for the DRI EDIA Champions Program:

I am writing to express my support for Anemily Machina (student name) in my capacity as academic advisor/supervisor. I am both aware and in support of them pursuing this funding to support the activities described in the submitted proposal. Specifically, I will be able to provide my support in the following ways:

1. Anemily is a perfect candidate for the DRI EDIA Champions Program. She has the mathematical and computer science background to accomplish all the objectives in her proposal. I can attest to this given that she has a recently published paper (see below) in a top-ranked Computational Linguistics conference. The work required a deep and thorough mathematical understanding of the problem being addressed and also needed a strong set of computer science skills to deal with the big data resources and to develop the software to prove the outcome of the work. Included in this paper was a novel sub-quadratic algorithm. The final paper was a cooperative effort between her and me to communicate her knowledge to the scientific community. Machina, A. and R. E. Mercer, Anisotropy is not inherent to transformers, Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (Volume 1: Long Papers), pp 4892--4907, 2024.
2. Anemily is a PhD candidate. We have weekly meetings to discuss her progress. In these meetings, she provides me with updates of her current readings, both in the scholarly literature and the scientifically moderated social media. These conversations show that Anemily and I remain at the forefront of the rapidly changing Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning research areas, the main focus of her proposal.
3. I have more than 40 years of supervising graduate students. This experience will allow me to guide Anemily to accomplish her goals. Anemily wants to provide various communities the ability to utilize DRI facilities to access and use machine learning resources to accomplish their goals. My years of supervising graduate students and teaching thousands of undergraduate students of diverse cultures enables me to guide Anemily on her path to fulfill her goals.

In my role as academic advisor/supervisor, I can confirm that Anemily Machina (student name) has the capacity to complete the described activities, will have my support in doing so and, that I am willing to hold the funding in my name if required by my institution's Office of Research Services' policies.

Academic advisor / Supervisor name: Robert Mercer

Department: Computer Science

Institution: University of Western Ontario

Date: 16 July 2024

Signature: 

EDIA Mentor Letter of Support

To the review committee for the DRI EDIA Champions Program:

I am writing to express my support for Anemily Machina (student name) in my capacity as EDIA mentor. I am both aware and in support of them pursuing this funding to support the activities described in the submitted proposal. In my role as EDIA mentor, I can confirm that I have relevant expertise or experience working with groups who identify as a member of a racialized group (equity-seeking group) in my capacity as graduate student supervisor (describe role or relevant experience) and am comfortable providing advice to Anemily Machina (student name) with respect to meaningfully engaging with and supporting this group.

EDIA mentor name: Robert Mercer

Department (NA if not affiliated with academic institution): Computer Science

Organization / Institution: University of Western Ontario

Date: 16 July 2024

Signature: 

Institutional Awareness Letter of Support

To the review committee for the DRI EDIA Champions Program:

I am writing to confirm that Anemily Machina (student name) has completed the requisite internal reviews of the proposed application through the office of Research Services - Western Research. Should the included application be successful, the institution is able to receive and distribute funding to the successful applicant, as well as provide accountability with respect to the financial reporting required for this award.

Signatory name: per Lisa Cechetto; Executive Director

Office of: Western Research

Institution: Western University

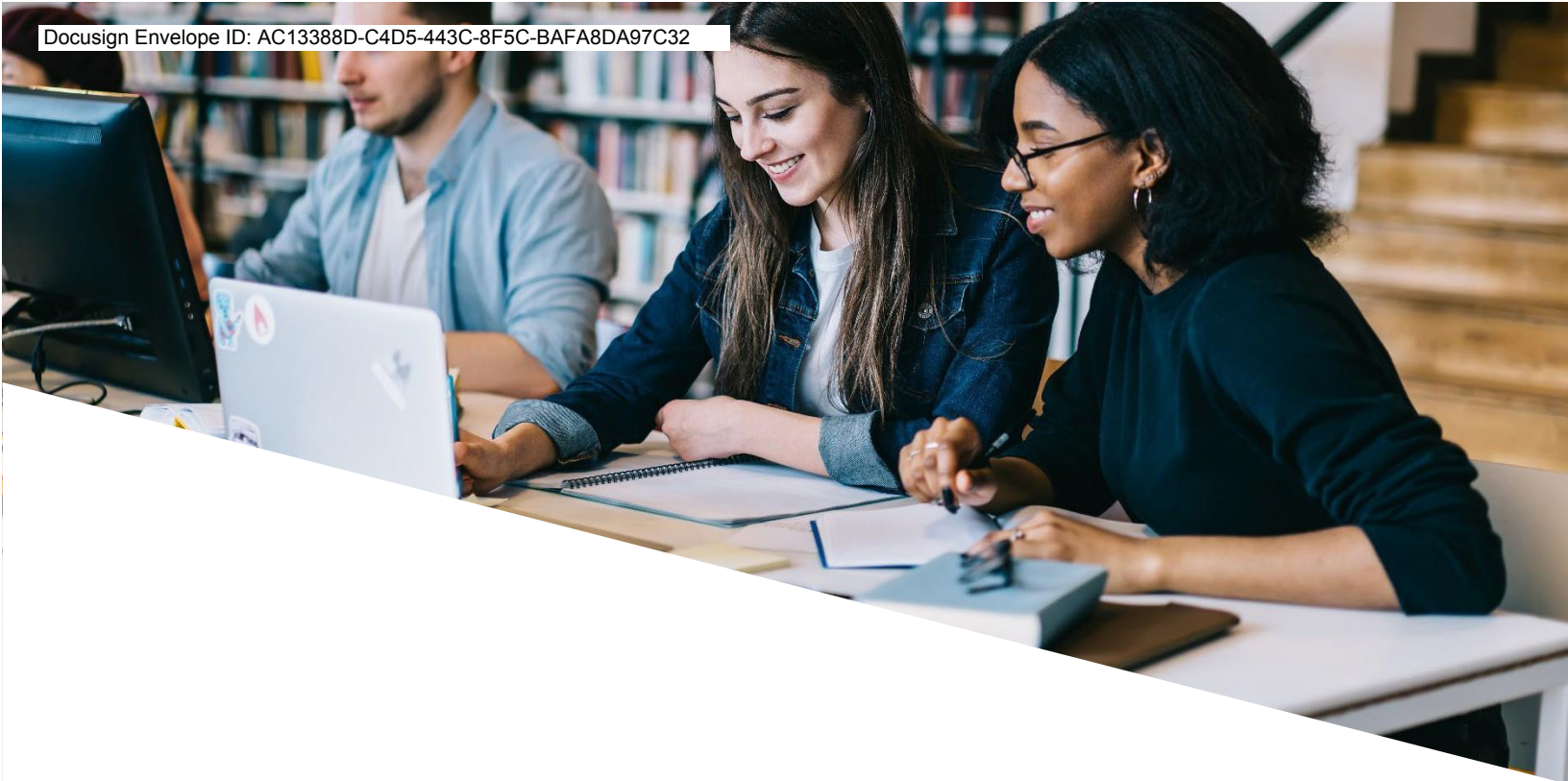
Date: July 11, 2024

Signature: 

Schedule B.4

DRI EDIA Champions Pilot Project: 2024 Call for Proposals

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DRI EDIA Champions Pilot Program

2024 Call for Proposals



**Digital Research
Alliance of Canada**

**Alliance de recherche
numérique du Canada**

DRI EDIA Champions: Call for Proposals

DRI: Digital Research Infrastructure | **EDIA:** Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility

Summary

Through the DRI EDIA Champions Pilot Program, the Digital Research Alliance of Canada (the Alliance) will fund and provide project-related training to graduate and post-graduate researchers who self-identify as belonging to equity-seeking groups, or who have a well thought out strategy, to deliver a project of their own design with the goal to connect with members of equity-seeking groups within their research community to promote and facilitate access to Alliance digital research infrastructure (DRI) services.

Successful applicants will work with the Alliance to promote and facilitate access to national Alliance DRI services within the research community to members of equity-seeking groups. Successful applicants will receive training and onboarding to Alliance DRI.

[Appendix A](#) outlines envisioned activities. Applicants will describe and expand upon proposed activities in their application, including how the activities will be undertaken, achieved, measured and reported; and how they will support the objectives of this Pilot Program.

Applicants must be: (full details in Eligibility section)
<div>a) An individual who self-identifies as belonging to an equity-seeking group including women, Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), persons with disabilities, neurodiverse people, members of visible minorities/racialized groups, members of 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities, geographically isolated or first-generation post-secondary students.</div> <div>OR</div> <div>b) An individual who has a well thought out plan to promote DRI access to an equity-seeking group.</div> <div>AND</div> <div>a) A graduate or post-graduate researcher enrolled at or affiliated with Canadian post-secondary institutions, research hospitals, or non-profit organizations whose activities place them as users of Canada’s DRI ecosystem.</div> <div>OR</div>

b) A student enrolled at a college, CEGEP, institute or polytechnic who is engaged in applied research with industry or community partners (<i>eligible not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, and hospitals</i>)	
Proposed projects:	must promote the awareness and uptake of Alliance DRI to equity-seeking researchers. Appendix A outlines envisioned activities.
Award value:	maximum total of \$35,000 : \$27,000 stipend + up to \$5,000 implementation costs + up to \$3,000 travel costs
Awards available:	90 awards to be awarded
Applications per Individual:	Maximum one award per individual
Application Process:	Full Proposal
Deadline for submission of Proposal:	July 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Estimated Notice of Award / Eligibility of expenses:	August 2024
Estimated project start date:	August 2024
Project end date:	March 31, 2025

Timeline

Competition	
Activity	Deadline
Announcement of Call for Proposals	June 5, 2024
Information Session – bilingual <i>Please see webpage for details on how to attend</i>	June 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Deadline to submit questions	July 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Deadline to submit Application	July 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Adjudication Process	July 17 - August 19, 2024
Notice of Award / Eligibility of expenses begin	August 2024
Project	
First Disbursement of Award (70%)	October 2024
OLS Training	August 2024 – March 2025 (approx. 16 weeks during this timeframe)
Progress Report Due	December 15, 2024
In-person meeting and Presentation	January 2025
Project Conclusion	March 31, 2025

Final Progress Report and Financial Report Due	April 30, 2025
Second Disbursement of Award (30%)	May/June 2025 (w/in 60 days of report)

Overview

The Alliance is launching a call for proposals for the DRI EDIA Champions pilot program to fund and provide project-related training to graduate and post-graduate researchers who self-identify as belonging to equity-seeking groups, or who has a well thought out plan to promote DRI access to equity-seeking researchers, to deliver a project of their own design with the goal to connect with members of equity-seeking groups within their research community to promote and facilitate access to Alliance DRI services.

This \$3.15 million dollar funding opportunity supports a new equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) initiative focused on increasing awareness and uptake of the Alliance’s DRI by equity-seeking groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), persons with disabilities, neurodiverse people, members of visible minorities/racialized groups, members of 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities, geographically isolated or first-generation post-secondary students.

Equitable access to DRI will strengthen the Canadian research ecosystem by ensuring equity-seeking individuals are DRI-informed and capable. The Alliance empowers all researchers to lead, share knowledge and drive discovery.

What is a DRI EDIA Champion

DRI EDIA Champions will work with the Alliance to promote and facilitate access to national Alliance DRI services within the research community to members of equity-seeking groups, as proposed in their application. DRI EDIA Champions will contribute to cultivating equitable DRI access within the Canadian research ecosystem. [Appendix A](#) outlines envisioned activities.

DRI EDIA Champions will propose projects in which they:

- ▶ act as ambassadors, experts and liaisons for Alliance DRI within their home institutions and academic departments.
- ▶ lead and support local DRI training and engagement opportunities targeted to equity-seeking graduate and post-graduate and other researchers as appropriate.
- ▶ leverage their expertise and experience within local communities to help identify and meet DRI needs.

- ▶ help inform and assess DRI training and engagement activities within their home institutions and academic departments, particularly regarding barriers related to equity, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility.
- ▶ engage in a discussion of the Alliance's [Resource Allocation Competition](#) (RAC) and related processes, including a facilitated discussion of ways to improve outcomes in the EDIA context.
- ▶ support capacity building of DRI practices within their communities.

In addition, successful applicants will:

- ▶ participate in a virtual 16-week Open Science training opportunity, tailored for DRI EDIA Champions and delivered by OLS (formerly Open Life Sciences). The content will be similar to [OLS Open Seeds](#), and includes mentorship and training on applying the principles of Open Science. The time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours a week.
- ▶ attend an in-person DRI EDIA Champions meeting in Toronto with the 2024 DRI EDIA Champions, tentatively scheduled for January 2025. Funding of up to \$3,000 is available for travel costs to this meeting.
- ▶ participate in opportunities for the DRI Champions to meet virtually as a cohort throughout the award period.

It is anticipated that a DRI EDIA Champion will spend approximately 3 hours a week on average on all activities over the duration of the project term.

Benefits of participation:

Successful applicants to the DRI EDIA Champions pilot program will:

- ▶ build and hone their DRI capabilities by receiving onboarding and training from the Alliance.
- ▶ gain additional knowledge and training through partner programs, such as OLS's open science learning.
- ▶ participate in a community of practice by meeting and learning from other DRI EDIA Champions during an in-person session.
- ▶ connect with members of equity-seeking groups within their research community to promote and facilitate access to DRI services.
- ▶ provide feedback on how the Alliance can sustain, improve and grow the DRI EDIA Champions model initiated by this pilot, into a potential long-term DRI EDIA Champions Program.

What is digital research infrastructure (DRI)

The Alliance provides DRI in three distinct areas: advanced research computing (ARC), research data management (RDM) and research software (RS). The services and tools offered in these areas equip Canadian researchers with what they need to complete, store and share their work.

ARC encompasses high performance computing, storage and robust systems and standards enabling researchers to perform and record their data. The RDM infrastructure provides researchers with secure, bilingual repositories where they can access and/or store large datasets. RDM also guides the collection, documentation, storage, sharing and preservation of research data. Lastly, RS platforms are made up of tools that help facilitate the manipulation of all types of data across the lifecycle. They also support the sharing of ideas and promote the adoption of open science principles and platforms.

The needs of the Canadian research community are as diverse as they are complex. The Alliance website describes Alliance ARC, RDM and RS here: <https://alliancecan.ca/en/our-services>.

DRI EDIA Champions will receive onboarding and training related to the Alliance DRI tools and services available.

Why Build a Community of DRI EDIA Champions

The DRI EDIA Champions pilot program seeks to support a community of DRI EDIA Champions in collectively addressing inequities in DRI access. DRI EDIA Champions will be supported in using their insights and expertise on the barriers that equity-seeking individuals may face related to EDIA in the context of DRI. This pilot program intends to serve equity-seeking individuals by equipping the DRI EDIA Champions with the training, knowledge, and tools to support their research and their research communities.

Current graduate and post-graduate researchers will soon be early career researchers. They also provide support to mid- and late-career researchers as research assistants, laboratory staff, and a variety of other research-related positions. The DRI EDIA Champions Pilot Program will help to ensure that early career PIs who are or work closely with equity-seeking individuals have the DRI skills and knowledge to succeed within their research fields, and to help ensure that DRI access and utilization are not barriers to success.

This funding call provides an opportunity to develop a DRI EDIA Champions model and related Community of Practice in Canada at a national scale.

Desired Outcomes

Successful applicants will receive training and onboarding to Alliance DRI with the following goals:

- ▶ to create awareness of existing DRI.
- ▶ to gain knowledge of DRI access options and opportunities.
- ▶ to build capacity to utilize DRI.
- ▶ to develop insight on opportunities and barriers to leveraging DRI.

Outcomes of the projects will be determined by the DRI EDIA Champions' activities identified by applicants. Outputs typically include one or more of:

- ▶ Disseminations, publications, presentations, communications, activities and their underlying data and/or code, documentation, resulting from the Project.

DRI EDIA Champions funding applications will describe and expand upon proposed activities, including how these activities will be undertaken, achieved, measured and reported, and how they will support the objectives of this Pilot Program. This funding call is intended to support new activities or notably expand and/or innovate current activities of the DRI EDIA Champion. As an overarching outcome, this pilot program is intended to foster relationships among cohort members, and to gather and report information to strengthen a DRI EDIA Champions Community of Practice and inform future initiatives.

Measures of Success

- ▶ A cohort of DRI EDIA Champions individually and/or collaboratively develops, promotes, contributes to, and/or delivers on a range of DRI EDIA engagement activities over the course of the Pilot.
- ▶ DRI EDIA Champions activities increase awareness of and engagement with Alliance DRI among equity-seeking researchers, as measured by means identified in the applications.
- ▶ A National Community of Practice is established, relationships are built and information is gathered to inform parameters for a potential future DRI EDIA Champions Program.

Eligibility

Applicant eligibility

This competition is open to graduate or post-graduate researchers who are affiliated with an eligible institution and will propose a project to promote the awareness and uptake of Alliance DRI to an equity-seeking audience.

Equity-seeking includes:

- Women
- Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis)
- Person living with a visible or invisible disability
- Members of 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities
- Members of racialized groups
- Neurodiverse
- Geographically isolated
- First-generation post-secondary students
- Other, may be suggested in the application form

To be eligible, an Applicant must:

- ▶ Meet **one** of the following criteria:
 - a graduate or post-graduate researcher enrolled at a Canadian university.
 - a student enrolled at a Canadian college, CÉGEP, institute or polytechnic engaged in applied research with industry or community partners.
- ▶ Self-identify as **one** or both of the following:
 - a member of an equity-seeking group
 - an individual with a well-thought-out strategy to reach out to an equity-seeking group.
- ▶ Be affiliated with an eligible Canadian institution and must maintain such an affiliation for the duration of the award period.
- ▶ Identify a mentor from their institution or audience community, who agrees to provide support with the EDIA aspect of the project. The Applicant is required to demonstrate that EDIA expertise is in place to support the project. The mentor may also provide support with facilitation of other aspects of the project. The mentor may be a colleague or other appropriate individual; it is not required that the mentor be the Applicant's supervisor.

- ▶ Submit only one application; multiple applications will not be accepted.

Applicants are **not** required to hold Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status.

Eligible Canadian institutions

The following are eligible Canadian institutions or organizations ("institution") which includes the designation of one individual at the vice-president level to be responsible for the oversight of the award funds:

- ▶ Post-secondary institutions (universities, colleges, CEGEP, institute or polytechnic)
- ▶ Research hospitals
- ▶ Non-profit organizations that are positioned within the DRI ecosystem

We welcome and encourage submissions from Applicants affiliated with small institutions, Indigenous research groups, and other organizations that are not traditionally heavy users of the Alliance's DRI resources.

Federal Government institutions and agencies (Federal departments, agencies or Crown corporations, including their research facilities), provincial or municipal organizations, and non-profits situated in Canada that are a vested stakeholder of Canada's DRI and whose activities depend upon the Alliance are encouraged as Project Collaborators. Collaborations with international partners and private sector organizations within the project will be accepted.

The Alliance will not accept "designated projects" as defined in the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2021* ("CEAA") and projects carried out on "federal lands" as defined in the CEAA. Exceptions will be on a case-by-case basis and approval must be obtained from the Minister before any negotiations between the Alliance and the Applicant occurs.

Eligible projects

Applicants must propose a project that promotes the engagement with and uptake of Alliance DRI among equity-seeking researchers. [Appendix A](#) outlines the envisioned activities, which fall under the following categories:

- ▶ Training/mentoring
- ▶ Promoting/advancing DRI
- ▶ Addressing disciplinary challenges
- ▶ Driving culture change
- ▶ Informing future initiatives

- ▶ Other: will be considered

The project must be carried out in Canada.

Project proposals must include appropriate KPIs and Outputs.

Applicants must provide proof, in the form of a letter from their academic supervisor (a template is provided in the application form), attesting that the supervisor is in support of the proposed activities and that the applicant has the capacity to complete the described activities.

Applicants must provide proof, in the form of a letter from their institution (a template is provided in the application form), attesting that the applicant has secured appropriate approvals to submit the proposed project, and that the funding will be applied against eligible costs.

Applicants must identify and provide a letter (a template is provided in the application form) from a mentor from the Applicant's institution or identified community, who agrees to provide support with some facilitation of the project, particularly the EDIA aspect of the project. The mentor may be a colleague or other appropriate individual; it is not required that the mentor be the Applicant's supervisor.

Eligible expenses

The DRI EDIA Champions Program award is intended to be used for the **stipend** of the Applicant in the amount of \$27,000. An additional amount for justifiable project implementation is available up to \$5,000 and an additional travel amount up to \$3,000 is available for travel to the meeting. Implementation costs must be directly commensurate with the planned activities.

Project implementation expenses that exceed the limit of \$5,000 with a strong rationale will be considered on a case by case basis. Project implementation costs are logistical and productional costs related to attending or organizing conferences, workshops, training, consultation meetings, and production of training and engagement material. Costs related to these activities include but are not limited to: conference registration fees, travel and lodging away from home, hospitality expenditures, print and design costs, goods and services purchase for activity implementation, gifts, honoraria and incentives for community members.

Travel expenses are for successful applicants to attend an in-person meeting, to be held in Toronto and include all relevant expenses related to travel (e.g., airfare, accommodation, meals). Funding up to \$3,000 is available for travel costs to this meeting. Travel costs that exceed the maximum with a justifiable reason will be considered on a case by case basis. Travel expense maximums are limited by region as outlined below:

Eligible Travel Expenses by Region

Region	Maximum Travel Allowance
Greater Toronto Area	\$1,500 <i>maximum</i>
Northern and Isolated Regions	\$3,000 <i>maximum may be exceeded upon request in application form</i>
All other regions in Canada	\$3,000 <i>maximum</i>

Summary of Eligible Expenses

Stipend	\$27,000*
Project Implementation costs	\$5,000 <i>maximum</i>
Travel costs to in-person meeting	\$3,000 <i>maximum</i>
Total	\$35,000

Guiding principles:

All eligible expenses must:

- ▶ be a direct cost of the project for which the funds were awarded.
- ▶ be effective and economical. Travel and lodging expenses must be reasonable and at economy rate.

Value and Duration

Approximately 90 awards will be issued; each award has a stipend of \$27,000, plus up to \$5,000 for project implementation costs and up to \$3,000 for travel to the in-person meeting. The final awarded pool of projects will be comprised of a diverse cohort of researchers who will take on the role of DRI EDIA Champions:

Application Process

Applications will be accepted in both official languages (English and French) through the Alliance's online intake here: <https://alliance.smapply.ca/>. Special needs for accessibility will be accommodated for Applicants upon request.

Applicants must complete the application form in accordance with the guidelines set out in this document and with the instructions in the Application Form. Applications must be submitted through the online intake platform by the Applicant.

By submitting an application for funding consideration, the Applicant and its institution acknowledge that the terms and conditions outlined in Appendix B – Award Funding Agreement, are non-negotiable.

Applicants needing assistance while preparing their application **must communicate directly with the Alliance** well in advance of the application deadline to the following email address: programs-programmes@alliancecan.ca. Failure to submit questions or seek assistance through this email address may result in the Applicant's application becoming disqualified and no longer considered for funding.

Evaluation and Adjudication

Evaluation criteria and scoring

Applications are adjudicated and available funds awarded through a competitive merit-review process. The Alliance bases its funding decisions on the recommendations of the adjudication committee and on the funds available.

Proposals will be funded with a national approach. Funding will cover Canada, with representation from all provinces and territories, as possible, and with official languages included. The Alliance will also prioritize broad representation of institution size and equity-seeking groups.

A preference for projects will be applied when making final award recommendations for projects that focus on the principles of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility ("EDIA") which include the appropriate internationally accepted best practice principles [FAIR](#), [FAIR4RS](#), [OCAP](#), and [CARE](#) Principles.

The adjudication committee may consist of national and international DRI experts and can include experts from other sectors as needed. Participants in the review process, if not in a conflict of interest with the applicant, are asked to evaluate the Application based on the evaluation criteria below.

For Indigenous Applications, [SSHRC's Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#) will be referenced to help guide the adjudication committee to build understanding of Indigenous research and research-related activities and to assist committee members in interpreting the Alliance's specific evaluation criteria in the context of Indigenous research. If the Alliance receives enough Indigenous Applications, it may establish a distinct adjudication committee.

The following criteria and scoring scheme are used to evaluate the applications:

- ▶ Applicant Expertise and Commitment 25%
- ▶ About the Equity-seeking Community Engagement 20%
- ▶ Project Plan, Activities and Feasibility 45%
- ▶ Proposed Project Outcomes 10%

Obligations of a Successful Applicant

- ▶ Within ten (10) working days of receipt of notification of award of funding, the Applicant must provide a fully completed and signed Award Agreement (refer to Appendix B – Award Funding Agreement) with the Alliance by an authorized representative from the institution with which the Applicant is affiliated.
- ▶ Participate in a virtual Open Science training program.
- ▶ Participate in an in-person meeting in Toronto, Ontario, tentatively scheduled for January 2025.
- ▶ Participate in scheduled virtual meetings with the Alliance, both individually and as part of the national cohort, to advance Pilot objectives.
- ▶ Deliver on the obligations outlined in the application during the term of the Agreement.

Reporting

- ▶ Progress report: The DRI EDIA Champion is responsible for updating the Alliance on the project activities and findings in a mid-point report. Due **December 15, 2024**.
- ▶ Final report: The DRI EDIA Champion is responsible for updating the Alliance on the project activities and findings in a final report. Due **April 30, 2025**.
- ▶ Financial reports: Institutions will be required to submit a final financial report to the Alliance on **April 30, 2025**.
- ▶ Indigenous Data Sovereignty: The Alliance is committed to Indigenous data sovereignty. Projects by and in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit, Métis and other Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations must be co-developed and approved by those involved. As appropriate, Project outputs are expected to articulate how they will address Indigenous data sovereignty.

FAQ

Access [Frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#) on the Alliance website.

Contact Information

For more information about the application process, contact us at programs-programmes@alliancecan.ca.

Appendix A: Activities Envisioned for DRI EDIA Champions under the Pilot Project

This section highlights some examples of possible proposals to be submitted to the DRI EDIA Champions Pilot. Activities envisioned as part of this funding call could include but would not be limited to those listed below; the examples below are designed to inspire concrete DRI EDIA Champions proposals. While the examples below describe the nature of the DRI EDIA Champions applications for funding, proposals must also expand upon these activities (or other Pilot-aligned activities identified by applicants). How these activities will be undertaken, achieved, measured, and reported on, as well as how they will support the objectives of this Pilot should also be included in your proposal.

Training/Mentoring

Your proposal could:

- ▶ aim at the development of discipline specific DRI training for researchers within your entourage.
- ▶ centre around incorporating aspects of the Alliance DRI tools into the classroom.
- ▶ be geared around the [Open Life Science](#) (OLS) training and make recommendations on how to bring that into your community.
- ▶ centre around [CODATA RDA](#) training and propose ways to mentor students through their use.
- ▶ be surrounding cloud computing and access to its services. Perhaps the proposal could assess its scope and make recommendations that make access to cloud computing more usable by your community.
- ▶ be to assess the use of Jupyter notebooks and facilitate its use for your community.
- ▶ be that you work with individuals or the Alliance to develop focused documentation of DRI services that are relevant to a variety of communities.

Promoting/Advancing ARC, RDM or RS

- ▶ You have long thought that data produced by research projects within your institution could be managed., particularly those data that relate to your equity group. Your proposal could speak to this by proposing to build consensus within your community that could result in recommendations that would promote sets of values, data management

principles and/or governance that respond to the concerns that are gleaned from your community.

- ▶ Your proposal could aim at promoting best practices within your community related to either ARC, RDM or RS.
- ▶ Your proposal could centre around contributing real-world example or narratives that illustrate the impact of the Alliance's DRI has on scientific outcomes in Canada.
- ▶ A proposal related to high performance computing (HPC) could be as simple as identifying the level of awareness for Alliance DRI resources within your community and develop a plan that bridges gaps and enables better access to the Alliance HPC environment.
- ▶ Your HPC proposal could include the development of documentation that is accessible (video, audio etc.) to your community group with the intention of increasing accessibility from your community to the Alliance DRI.
- ▶ Proposals could be to assess the process for submissions to the [Resource Allocation Competition](#) process and make recommendations to the Alliance about how best to improve and/or make accommodations.

Addressing Disciplinary Challenges

- ▶ You are a graduate student working in the Ocean and Rivers research domain. Your proposal could be about how to transcend disciplinary challenges vis-a-vis collaboration with other groups. For example, in order to build a respectful relation with First Nations communities and their traditional knowledge, a solution on how to incorporate Biocultural labels in the data management systems needs to be found.
- ▶ Your proposal could help identify, and take steps, to address challenges associated with the diversity of research practices within and across disciplines.
- ▶ HPC is sometimes a tool that is overlooked by some researcher disciplines. Your proposal could be to identify and address common challenges for its use within your community.

Driving Culture Change

- ▶ Your proposal could aim at fostering relationships that contribute to strengthening the EDIA Champions community within Canada.
- ▶ Your proposal could highlight activities such as exploring, documenting and connecting EDIA Champions. This could include identifying synergies, supporting knowledge transfer and building EDIA capacity in Canada.

- ▶ Promote the positive progression of the culture of RDM practices at your university and, in particular, within your equity group. This could include the development of a DRI EDIA data champion to create awareness of the use of RDM tools at the Alliance including the DMP Assistant.
- ▶ You are a graduate student and have discovered how the use of Galaxy or AI has enhanced your research outputs. Your proposal could be to advance awareness and understanding of how these tools can be leveraged within your community.

Informing Future Initiatives

- ▶ Your proposal could help the Alliance better identify the skills, resources and policy gaps that need to be addressed going forward.
- ▶ You have reviewed the call for participation for partner organizations for the [Controlled Access Management for Research Data](#) project. While the call is in its early stages, you are thrilled at the prospect of offering this to your community. Your proposal could be about stirring interest from your community to participate or, how someone in your community could benefit from it.
- ▶ Your proposal could be about better understanding how the Alliance resources connect with your community and how your proposal could facilitate those connections within your community.

Additional Examples of DRI EDIA Champions Proposals

- ▶ Your proposal could be about conducting a survey aimed at better understanding the awareness the EDIA community have about the Alliance and its resources.
- ▶ You use Alliance DRI and would like to better know who to reach your community so that they too can benefit from these resources. Your proposal would include a plan on how to inform your community.
- ▶ You use the Alliance frequently, but accessibility to certain tools could be optimized using different mechanisms. Your proposal could be about better knowing and addressing accessibility challenges.
- ▶ Parents and caregivers in science struggle with time. Your proposal could focus on many aspects of these challenges including better knowing the common or specific challenges, addressing the challenge by introducing new ways of overcoming structural biases or creating awareness that these challenges exist.

Appendix B – Award Funding Agreement

Access the *Alliance Funding Agreement – English*

[End of Schedule B – remainder of page intentionally left blank]

SCHEDULE C

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

- 1.1 Recipient acknowledges that the total governmental assistance for the Project shall not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the eligible Project costs. Recipient shall inform the Alliance promptly and in writing of any further federal, provincial, or municipal assistance to be received by it for the Project no later than fifteen (15) business days after the Recipient enters into an agreement to receive such assistance. The Alliance shall have the right to reduce the amount of the funding provided under this Agreement by an amount equal to any such government assistance or by the fair market value (as determined by the Alliance or its auditors) of any non-cash government assistance. Recipient covenants that it shall not pay any portion of the amount paid by the Alliance hereunder as a contribution to a federal government institution.
- 1.2 Recipient shall keep accurate books, statements, accounts, and records pertaining to this Agreement and the Project and will preserve all such records for a period of seven (7) years following the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- 1.3 The Alliance, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (the "**Minister**"), the Auditor General of Canada, and their respective auditors or nominees shall have the right to perform audits and other inquiries on the Project and this Agreement. Recipient undertakes to provide all necessary access and reasonable assistance, in a timely manner, during any such audit or inquiry, including, without limitation, full and complete access to all the accounts, financial statements, records, data, and supporting documentation relating to the Project, this Agreement or the use of funds provided under this Agreement and all financial or other information deemed necessary to complete the audit, and reasonable access to Recipient's premises, and to release to the Alliance, for the purpose of releasing to the Auditor General of Canada, all records held by Recipient or its agents or contractors relating to the Project and the use of funds provided under this Agreement.
- 1.4 Subject to securing any necessary governmental or third-party consents or authorizations disclosed by Recipient to the Alliance prior to the date of this Agreement, Recipient consents to participating, cooperating and collaborating in any program evaluation, report, consultation or other review which the Alliance, the Minister or their respective nominees may initiate and conduct in relation to this Agreement or the Project. Recipient shall use its best efforts to obtain all such necessary governmental or third-party consents or authorizations. Recipient further consents to being contacted by the Minister in relation to success stories in connection with this Agreement or the Project.
- 1.5 Recipient acknowledges and agrees that the Alliance may make one or more announcements or publish information on its website or in promotional materials concerning this Agreement and the Project stating the name of Recipient, a description of the Project and the Maximum Contribution Amount without the consent of Recipient.
- 1.6 Recipient will in all public communications (including but not limited to web sites, publications, news releases, presentations, annual reports, on-site signage) concerning the Project or this Agreement acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada in a form that is in accordance with the Federal Identity Program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/government-communications/federal-identity-program/manual.html>) where requested, and to terminate any such acknowledgement upon request of the Alliance. Recipient shall give reasonable prior notice to the Alliance of all proposed public announcements or ceremonies relating to the Project. Where the Minister or a representative of the Minister wishes to participate in such an announcement or ceremony, Recipient will cooperate with the representative in respect of such announcement or ceremony.

- 1.7 Recipient shall ensure that each individual designated by Recipient to work on the Project shall give consent for the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal information in connection with the Project or this Agreement prior to any such collection, use, or disclosure. Such personal information may include the names, positions and contact information (business addresses, phone numbers and email addresses) for such individuals and such other information as a party determines is necessary for carrying out the Project or this Agreement.

2. RECIPIENT REPRESENTATIONS AND COVENANTS

- 2.1 Recipient, to the best of its knowledge, represents and warrants to and covenants with the Alliance and acknowledges and confirms that the Alliance is relying on such representations, warranties and covenants in connection with the entry into this Agreement:

- (a) Recipient has the requisite power and authority, and has met all legal requirements, necessary to enter into, deliver and perform this Agreement;
- (b) the entering into, delivery and performance of this Agreement, and its execution by the undersigned signatory, have been duly and validly authorized and when executed and delivered, this Agreement will constitute a legal, valid, and binding obligation of Recipient enforceable in accordance with its terms;
- (c) to the best of Recipient's knowledge, the execution and delivery of this Agreement, and the performance by Recipient of its obligations hereunder will not, with or without the giving of notice or the passage of time or both: (i) violate any provisions of any constating or governance document of Recipient; (ii) violate any judgment, decree, order or award of any court, government agency, regulatory authority or arbitrator; or (iii) conflict with or result in the breach or termination of any material term or provision of, or constitute a default under, or cause any acceleration under, any license, permit, concession, franchise, indenture, mortgage, lease, equipment lease, contract, permit, deed of trust or any other instrument or agreement by which it is bound;
- (d) to the best of Recipient's knowledge, Recipient is under no obligation or prohibition, nor is it subject to or threatened by any actions, suits or proceedings which could or would prevent compliance with this Agreement;
- (e) the Project is technically and financially sound and Recipient has sufficient capacity to successfully carry out the Project;
- (f) in fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement, Recipient shall operate in accordance with the values of diversity, equity and inclusion;
- (g) no more than half of the membership and Board of Directors or any similar body of Recipient is composed of representatives or agents of the federal government;
- (h) where lobbyists are utilized, they shall be registered in accordance with the *Lobbying Act* (Canada) and that no actual or potential conflict of interest exists nor any contingency fee arrangement;
- (i) any former public servant or public office holder that derives benefit from this Agreement shall be in compliance with the "Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector", the "Policy on Conflict of Interest and Post-Employment" and the *Conflict of Interest Act* (Canada);
- (j) the Project is not a "designated project" being carried out on "federal lands" as such terms are defined under the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019*; and

- (k) Recipient shall comply with all federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and other applicable laws governing Recipient, including but not limited to, statutes, regulations, by-laws, rules, ordinances and decrees.

3. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

3.1 The parties acknowledge and agree that intellectual property ("**IP**") developed by either party or arising from the activities undertaken by either party may be subject to terms and conditions derived from funding regulations or contracts applicable to research projects or activities. The parties, therefore, agree that the following provisions shall be subject to the terms and conditions resulting from said contracts or regulations that may be applicable to each specific activity. In addition:

- (a) The parties acknowledge and agree that IP developed by Recipient or Recipient's employees, agents, contractors, etc. will be owned and treated in accordance with Recipient's internal policies.
- (b) The parties acknowledge and agree that IP developed by the Alliance will be owned by the Alliance and treated in accordance with the Alliance's internal policies.
- (c) Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, IP generated jointly by both parties shall be jointly owned and, in such circumstances, the parties shall agree in writing on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership as well as on possible protection measures of such IP.
- (d) No right or license is granted hereunder to a party in respect of the IP of the other party.
- (e) Any IP that is proprietary to that party and that is conceived, created or developed prior to, or independent of, the Project shall remain the exclusive property of such party.

3.2 Each party (the "**Receiving Party**") agrees that it is responsible for maintaining confidentiality of any information provided by the other party ("**Disclosing Party**") that is designated in writing as confidential or that the Receiving Party reasonably should have known under the circumstances was confidential ("**Confidential Information**"), provided that Confidential Information will not include (a) information which is publicly available at the time of disclosure or subsequently becomes publicly available through no act of the Receiving Party; (b) information which is disclosed to the Receiving Party by a third party which did not disclose it in violation of a duty of confidentiality; (c) information which was known to the Receiving Party before such information was provided to them or their representatives by or on behalf of Disclosing Party; (d) information which was developed by an employee, agent or contractor of the Receiving Party independent of (and without any knowledge of) any information disclosed to the Receiving Party or any of or its representatives by or on behalf of the Disclosing Party; (e) disclosures which are required to be made by the Receiving Party under legal process by subpoena or other court order or other applicable laws or regulations (provided that the Receiving Party makes reasonable efforts to provide copies of such information to or informs the Disclosing Party before or at the time of disclosure or as soon as possible thereafter); (f) information disclosed to the Minister in accordance with, and subject to, one or more agreements between the Minister and the Alliance; or (g) information permitted to be disclosed under Section 1.5 of this Schedule C.

3.3 Notwithstanding anything contained herein, each party may disclose Confidential Information to its officers, employees, consultants, agents, and students on a need-to-know basis to facilitate performance of the Project, provided that such persons agree to be bound by terms at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

3.4 All obligations of confidence and non-use created under this Agreement shall terminate three (3) years from the completion or termination of this Agreement. Upon written request of the Disclosing

Party, the Receiving Party agrees to return all copies of Confidential Information to the Disclosing Party; provided, however, that the Receiving Party shall be entitled to retain one (1) archival copy of all Confidential Information solely to ensure compliance with their rights and obligations hereunder.

- 3.5 In the event that either of the parties desires to publish or present the results of the Project, the parties shall co-operate in determining the scope of the proposed publication, including data to be included and the interpretation of the data, and shall acknowledge the contribution of the each of the parties and its researchers all in accordance with the customary standard of practice for academic research.

4. **INSURANCE AND LIABILITY**

- 4.1 Insurance. Unless otherwise stated in Schedule B, Recipient will maintain during the term of this Agreement commercially reasonable insurance with respect to its activities relating to the Project.

- 4.2 Indemnification of the Alliance. Recipient will indemnify and hold harmless the Alliance, the Minister, the Federal Government of Canada and their respective employees, officers, directors and representatives (collectively, the "**Indemnified Parties**") against any and all loss, cost (including legal fees on a solicitor-client basis and court costs), damage, injury, liability, claim, penalty, fine, interest or cause of action to the extent arising from the acts or omissions of Recipient or its employees, officers, directors or representatives in the course of the performance of this Agreement or the Project.

- 4.3 Limitation of Liability.

- (a) To the greatest extent permitted by applicable law, the Indemnified Parties shall not be responsible or liable to Recipient, or to anyone claiming by, through or under Recipient, or to any third party, for any loss, cost (including legal fees or court costs), damage, injury, liability, claim, penalty, fine, interest or cause of action arising out of this Agreement or the Project, and, in any event, the Indemnified Parties' liability under or in relation to this Agreement or the Project will not exceed the Maximum Contribution Amount to be advanced by the Alliance to Recipient under this Agreement.
- (b) In no event will a party be liable to the other party for any indirect or consequential loss or damage, loss of actual or anticipated profit, interest or revenue, or anticipated savings or business, or damage to goodwill or brand equity, even if the first party is advised in advance of the possibility of any such losses or damages.

5. **TERMINATION**

- 5.1 The Alliance may terminate this Agreement (without prejudice to its other rights and remedies) with immediate effect by written notice to Recipient if Recipient commits a material breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement and, in the case of a remediable breach, fails to remedy it within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice from the Alliance specifying the breach and requiring it to be remedied.
- 5.2 A party may, upon written notice to each other party other than the Affected Party, terminate this Agreement if another party ("Affected Party") becomes the subject of a petition in bankruptcy or any other proceeding relating to insolvency, receivership, liquidation, dissolution, or assignment for the benefit of creditors.
- 5.3 Sections 1.1 to 1.7, 2.1(a) to 2.1(d), 3, 4, 5, and 6.3 to 6.13 of this Schedule C and all other provisions of this Agreement which are either expressed to survive its termination or, from their

nature or context, it is contemplated that they are to survive termination, will remain in full force and effect notwithstanding expiration or termination of this Agreement.

- 5.4 Notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement, Recipient shall remain responsible for the completion and delivery to the Alliance of all deliverables and reports which were completed or were due, or relate to a period ending, prior to such termination. If the Alliance terminates this Agreement for cause under Section 5.1 of this Schedule C, Recipient will indemnify the Alliance from and against any and all losses, costs, damages, claims or other liabilities of the Alliance resulting from Recipient's breach of the terms of this Agreement.

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1 Force Majeure. Neither party shall be held responsible to the other party for any default or delay in the execution of its obligations caused by circumstances beyond its control. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, natural disasters, epidemics, pandemics (including the 2020 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and any reoccurrence or resurgence thereof), strikes, fires, war and insurrections and actions of government or regulatory bodies, which prevent a party from performing under the Agreement shall be deemed to constitute force majeure, provided however that the party that is excused from performance takes all commercially reasonable measures necessary to prevent, control or limit the effect of the force majeure so that performance may resume as soon as possible. Where performance is delayed due to legal or public health constraints arising from COVID-19, dates or times of performance shall be extended to the extent of delays excused by this clause, provided that the party whose performance is affected notifies the other promptly of the existence and nature of such delay shall, so far as practicable, use commercially reasonable efforts to minimize and mitigate the extent, effect and period of any such delay or non-performance.
- 6.2 Notices. All notices, reports, requests, consents and other communications between the parties pertaining to matters related to this Agreement shall be in writing, shall specifically refer to this Agreement and shall be deemed duly received when actually received by mail or personal delivery, mailed by registered or certified mail to the receiving party or when transmitted by email, at the address set out in Schedule B or to such other address which may later be designated by written notice from either party.
- 6.3 No Waiver. No waiver or failure by either party to enforce their right or insist on strict performance of this Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the parties from subsequently enforcing their rights or insist on strict performance under the Agreement. No waiver or failure to strictly enforce rights shall affect the validity of this Agreement.
- 6.4 Severability. If any term or provision of this Agreement is invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other term or provision of this Agreement, or invalidate or render unenforceable such term or provision in any other jurisdiction.
- 6.5 Independent Contractor. For the purpose of this Agreement, each party shall be, and shall be deemed to be, an independent contractor and not an agent or employee of the other party.
- 6.6 Not an Agent. In no event will the Alliance be acting as an agent of the Crown (including, without limitation, the Minister or the Federal Government of Canada) for the purpose of this Agreement or in making any decisions.
- 6.7 Assignment. Recipient may not assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Alliance, such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

- 6.8 Headings. The headings contained in this Agreement are for convenience and reference only and shall not define or limit the scope, or affect the interpretation, of its provisions.
- 6.9 Entire Agreement. This Agreement, together with the Schedules, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the Alliance and Recipient with respect to the Project, and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous understandings and agreements with respect to the subject matter. Any modification to this Agreement must be agreed to in writing signed by authorized representatives of the Alliance and Recipient.
- 6.10 Internal Conflict. If the provisions of this Agreement conflict with the provisions of any Schedule or Appendix, the conflict will be resolved in the following order of precedence: this Agreement, Schedule B, Schedule C, and Schedule A.
- 6.11 Currency. All monies referred to in this Agreement are expressed in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise stated.
- 6.12 Language. Les parties ont requis que cette entente soit rédigée en anglais. The parties have requested that this Agreement be drafted in English.
- 6.13 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario, and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein. The parties irrevocably attorn to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Ontario with respect to any disputes concerning this Agreement.
- 6.14 Electronic Signatures and Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts and by facsimile or electronic means, each of such counterparts when executed shall constitute an original document, and such counterparts when taken together shall constitute one and the same document. Each party agrees that an electronic signature of a party included in this Agreement is intended to have the same force and effect as a manual signature. Delivery of an executed copy of this Agreement by facsimile or electronic transmission constitutes valid and effective delivery.
- 6.15 Extended Meanings. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless there is something in the subject matter or context inconsistent therewith: words denoting the singular include the plural, and vice versa; words denoting any gender include all genders; and where such changes apply, the rest of the sentence is to be construed as if the necessary grammatical and terminological changes had been made.

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Certificate Of Completion

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Status: Completed

Subject: (335) DRI EDIA Champions AFA

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Vanessa Moodley

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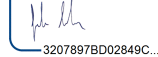
Signer Events

Julien St-Pierre

vanessa.moodley@alliancecan.ca

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Dawn Wood

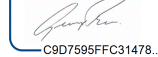
dawn.wood@alliancecan.ca

Director, Program Management & Administration

Digital Research Alliance of Canada

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Lisa Cechetto

researchoffice@uwo.ca

Executive Director, Western Research

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Robert Mercer

mercer@csd.uwo.ca

Professor

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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events		
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	10/8/2024 12:08:19 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:56 AM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 12:27:30 PM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 6:23:29 PM
Envelope Updated	Security Checked	10/8/2024 6:23:29 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	10/22/2024 1:31:36 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	10/22/2024 1:32:06 PM
Completed	Security Checked	10/22/2024 1:32:10 PM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure		

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