

On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities Program (OCEA)



Ontario Centres of
Excellence
Where Next Happens

Program Overview:

As part of the Ontario Youth Jobs Strategy, the OCEA program will invest \$5 million over two years to ignite and build on entrepreneurial activities in Ontario's universities and colleges. The program supports the initiation and expansion of on-campus entrepreneurship capacity in institutions that have demonstrated and/or are willing to make strong commitments to entrepreneurship.

The OCEA program aims to foster the adoption of global best practices in student entrepreneurship; reduce barriers for student and recent graduate entrepreneurs to pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations; integrate with regional business support resources; and provide experiential learning opportunities for the next generation of innovators. The program helps student entrepreneurs transfer knowledge and intellectual property from Ontario post-secondary research institutions to the economy.

KEY DATES (First Call):

Program Launch: Feb. 10

Application deadline: March 25

Final decision and notifications: Week of May 5

A second call (dates TBD) will take place.

It is anticipated that the funding allocation for this program will range from \$100,000 and \$200,000 per project.

Eligibility Criteria

- Ontario post-secondary institutions are eligible applicants.
- Application must be submitted with a RIC as a co-applicant.
- Must tie into a broader campus-wide entrepreneurship strategy (e.g., courses, business plan competitions, and other incubation initiatives).
- Must have a strong community component (leveraging alumni, open access facilities and resources to all youth – even those with no institutional affiliation, etc.).
- Must be regionally coordinated with the non-academic entrepreneurship community (e.g., Sector Innovation Centres, Angel Networks, other Regional Innovation Centres, Small Business Enterprise Centres, etc.) to ensure strategies and programs are aligned and integrated with Ontario's existing investments in innovation, commercialization and entrepreneurship
- Must coordinate with the Campus Linked Accelerator (CLA) in the region, where appropriate, to leverage regional resources and avoid overlap or duplication.



- Preference will be given to an application that is a coordinated, joint application with other post-secondary institutions (colleges and universities) in the regional innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- A post-secondary institution can only be identified in one OCEA application (i.e., you cannot be a lead in one application and then identified in another application).

How to apply

- An Ontario post-secondary institution along with the RIC submits an application containing a completed proposal form; a proposed budget and evidence of leverage; and third-party letters of support.
- Applicants are required to contact an OCE Business Development Manager to open an application through our Management Information System (MIS).
- The link to access the online application form will be sent to the applicant by an assigned OCE Business Development contact.
- OCE Business Development Managers work with individual applicants to develop their application and formal presentation.
- Applications are reviewed by an internal OCE committee for eligibility and completeness; ineligible and incomplete applications will not be processed.
- Successful applicants must sign a contract with OCE.
- Successful applicants must provide quarterly and annual reporting to OCE both during the program funding period and subsequently as may be required. Deadline for submission is March 25, 2014.

Full details of this program including general inquiries about the program, eligibility, funding, timelines, application process, etc. are available on OCE's [website](#).

For assistance, please contact:

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