

PARTEQ partnership benefits students too

As many of you may know, in November, I became the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) “feet on the ground” at Queen’s. Under this new arrangement, I have the pleasure of representing both PARTEQ as the Executive in Residence, and OCE as a Business Development Manager while I look for technology opportunities on campus. This “hybrid” approach is good news for Queen’s researchers on two fronts:

Firstly, it means that my PARTEQ colleagues and I can back up our commercialization services to you with one-stop access to a number of funding programs, covering all of the incremental stages of commercial development. As many of you know, even the earliest of commercialization activities cost money, and these activities are often not funded by basic research grants.

Secondly, this dual role enables us to help you address a valuable, yet often invisible, outcome of university research – that of nurturing and launching undergraduate, and graduate students as well as post-doctoral fellows.

Universities are a vital source of the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers and boundary-breakers. One of the ways faculty support the growth of these “highly qualified people” is by involving students in their research programs and/or applied research projects.

OCE has recognized the value of this engagement by broadening their research and commercialization programs while at the same time adding a number of funding



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programs for training and skills development.

This means that you, the researcher, may be eligible for funding to pursue practical applications of your research, as well as support for the students and post docs who are helping you advance that research.

On the research side, in addition to the usual proof of concept and collaborative research programs, OCE also makes funding available through programs such as:

- Interact – up to \$13,500 to start a university-industry research project;
- Champions of Innovation – up to \$50,000 per year for R&D on “out-there” technologies with the potential to create new markets and companies;
- Martin Walmsley Fellowship – \$50,000 per year for two years for a researcher or associated grad student/post doc to start a technologically innovative business based on OCE-funded university research.

On the training side, OCE offers

programs across the student’s educational experience:

- Connections – up to \$3,500 to connect a fourth-year student or student team with industry in a specific problem-solving project;

- International scholarships – up to \$15,000 to cover travel and accommodation for a student researcher to work for up to four months at an innovative company anywhere in the world;

- Professional Outreach Awards – OCE pays the expenses of an OCE-supported student to take part in events such as trade shows and conferences, from presenting a poster to chairing a session or staffing a trade show booth;

- Value-Added Personnel – Business training courses for students who are working on OCE-funded research. (One of these courses, on project management, will be hosted at Queen’s in April.);

- First Job – OCE will pay a company up to \$50,000 of the salary of a recent (within five years) graduate of a Master’s or PhD program.

This is by no means a complete list. There are other OCE programs that you may be eligible for. Please contact me (ext. 78355) and I would be happy to provide you with the details. Thanks to OCE’s collaboration with PARTEQ, we have the resources to help you complete the application process quickly and easily.

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