

Updated October 28, 2021

## UTSC Plots for Research Guidelines

### Purpose:

The purpose of the UTSC Plots for Research initiative is to provide UTSC tenure stream research faculty and their students an opportunity to carry out research studies on the north side of campus. The research plots are 5m x 5m square plots.

### Guidelines:

1. Requests for using UTSC Plots for Research will be reviewed by a small committee that will be chaired by the Vice-Principal Research or designate. The committee will include membership from the university including member(s) of the UTSC Plots Steering Committee, Campus Farm Coordinator, representative from the UTSC Environmental Health and Safety Office, relevant departmental Chair(s) and faculty plot users or faculty with relevant expertise.
2. Application deadline will be December 15 and May 1 of each year. Should the deadline date fall on a weekend or public holiday, the submission deadline will be 5pm the next business day. Requests should be sent to [researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca), with the subject *Plots for Research*
3. Complete application package includes:
  - a) Provide details in **clear non-specialist language** using the following headings:

#### 1. Personnel

- **Name of Principal Investigator:**
- **Researcher(s) directly responsible (Post-docs, students, technicians, etc.)** *Copy and paste as many entries as necessary:*
  - Name:
  - Address:
  - Email:
  - Phone:
  - Name:
  - Address:
  - Email:
  - Phone:

#### 2. Project Details

- **Include project title and purpose of research:** Outline briefly the purpose of the research to be carried out on plot. Please limit to 100 words.
  - **How is the research going to be funded:** Specify grant or other source of funding
  - **Is this a new project or continuing work?**
  - **Supply information on methods, impact on land, other uses of the plot, and likely duration of the project.** Please limit to 100 words
  - **Expected starting date and expected completion date**
  - **Describe any risks posed by the project in relation Public Health, Security, Research Ethics, Environmental and Health & Safety (e.g. chemical safety, biosafety, etc.) Standards:** *Including the use of chemicals, biologicals, radiation, X-ray, Ultraviolet, Electromagnetic frequencies or Laser, imported soil, non-native plants/animals, imported or invasive parasites, invertebrates, genetically-modified plants or organisms and energized equipment. Additionally, including generation of hazardous waste and impact to the environment (e.g. noise, emissions and effluents to air, water or land, etc.). Indicate any compliance efforts you have worked towards with regulatory bodies.*
  - ○ **If your work requires permits, provide details and certify that you have obtained them:** Enter N/A if permits are not required
- 3. Space and Resource Requirements**
- **Field space requirements (approximate dimensions in meters):** The research plots are 5m x 5m.
  - **Type of habitat required (e.g. field, pond, forest understory):**
  - **How does your research impact other research being carried on the plots?**
  - **How would your proposed research be impacted by other research being carried on the plots?**
  - **Describe potential impacts, and restoration if necessary:** *Including tillage, fencing, use of isotopes, biocides, or fertilizers, collection/removal, addition, or moving of organisms (including propagules), and use of genetically modified organisms.*
  - **Other requirements:** *Logistical support is available for a fee on a limited basis. If you anticipate such needs, please indicate (enter NONE) if support is not required):*
  - **Are there any on-site storage requirements for equipment, tools etc?**
  - **Any other requested assistance:**  
*Use of site equipment, electricity, water delivery, etc.*
4. Please convert your complete application package to PDF format and forward it electronically in **one attachment** to [researchoffice.uts@utoronto.ca](mailto:researchoffice.uts@utoronto.ca) with the subject *Plots for Research*. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

## 5. COVID-19 Research Impact Statement:

We recognize that COVID-19 has impacted faculty research activities. Accordingly, we invite applicants to provide information on how COVID-19 has impacted their research activities. This information will be shared with program competition adjudication committees.

**Required:** Please check no more than two responses.

My proposal is for:

- 1) Recovery: The award funds research recovery (I was not able to do research, or my research activities have been reduced because of COVID-19 restrictions, and I am seeking funds to recover my research program)
- 2) Realignment: The award funds realigned research (Restrictions – past, present or anticipated – require that I adjust my research program)
- 3) Pivot: The award funds a new research agenda or method (Given restrictions and their impact on my research, I am seeking funds to pursue a new area of research)
- 4) Opportunity: The award funds COVID-19-related research
- 5) Not relevant: The award will fund ongoing or new work, and COVID-19 has no bearing on this research proposal

**Optional:** Please specify in no more than 100 words how (if at all) the COVID-19 pandemic relates to/might impact your research proposal.

## 6. Selection Criteria:

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) The project **must**:
  - Meet all safety and logistical requirements
  - Define the funds to achieve and complete proposed research
- b) **Each submission will be evaluated for**:
  - The potential impact of the plot use on the applicant's research program
  - The potential for high quality personnel (HQP) training opportunities at UTSC
  - The potential for research output (publications, policy-ready documents, international collaborations, funding leverage).

7. Brief report: Recipients must submit a brief report of one to two pages in length describing accomplishments and how the plots were used. The report should be submitted to the Office of the Vice-Principal Research each year by **November 15**. The report should be submitted to [researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca).

Acknowledgment: Support from the UTSC Research Plots initiative is to be acknowledged in any research output arising from this support.