

Call for Proposals 2017: Collaborative Coastal Research

Proposals are invited from qualified individuals seeking financial support to undertake collaborative research projects that focus on understanding and implementing conservation and sustainable development in coastal areas. Specifically, the Robin Rigby Trust supports individuals who (1) are undertaking community-centred coastal research in collaboration with appropriate coastal communities, coastal research organizations, and/or coastal-focused non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and (2) are either (i) based in Canada and carrying out their project overseas, or (ii) based outside Canada and travelling to Atlantic Canada for their project. The Trust supports partnerships undertaking small-scale "do-able" projects developed in response to local needs, that aim to (a) better understand coastal ecosystems and the value of their biodiversity and conservation, (b) effectively address coastal environmental and resource management problems, (c) assist in developing coastal areas responsibly, and/or (d) improve the livelihoods of those living along the coast.

Background

Patricia Robin Rigby (Feb 28, 1977 - Dec 9, 2007) had the opportunity to live and study in a variety of cultures and geographical areas. Her research and professional work benefited greatly from this international experience, which enabled her to appreciate the need to adopt alternative resource use strategies within varied local frameworks. Established by Robin's parents, Doug and Mary Rigby, the Robin Rigby Trust extends the benefits Robin had to other young people involved in the identification, sustainable use, and conservation of coastal and nearshore natural resources, so they can engage in meaningful international interactions, and carry out the kind of research and development work Robin loved. Over the course of several years, the Robin Rigby Trust has supported a wide range of individuals in carrying out meaningful projects with coastal communities around the world. To read about the recipients and their projects, please visit the website <http://robinrigbyfund.info/>.



Eligibility and Criteria

- Applicants must be qualified individuals who are either current university students (either graduate or undergraduate) or recent university graduates [in the first 5 years following their highest degree, and now either early-career university employees (faculty, instructor, support staff) or affiliated with a coastal, environmental or development-oriented non-governmental organization (NGO)].
- Applicants can be from any discipline or an interdisciplinary field. For example, eligible areas of interest and experience include (but are not limited to) coastal biodiversity studies, marine species identification, coastal resource management, policy studies relating to coastal community well-being, and coastal community social and economic development.
- It is essential that proposals focus on engaging directly and closely with one or more specific local-level communities, and aim to 'make a difference' for the local people. Proposals should be designed to produce direct benefits to the community(ies) in addressing environmental, socio-economic and/or coastal management issues, and in potentially developing corresponding research methods, products and services. Proposals that (1) reflect a participatory approach to the research, and (2) focus on developing regions and/or indigenous communities, are preferred.
- Applicants must demonstrate the presence of strong and well-established collaborative linkages (or convincing potential for such linkages) between the applicant and one or more partners at the location where the applicant intends to work. Partners may be coastal communities, local-level coastal research organizations (not universities, colleges or governmental bodies) and/or coastal-focused NGOs in the region of the community(ies) involved. If collaboration is with an organization, the work must be directly in and with coastal communities; the applicant must demonstrate in detail how this will take place.
- Applicants in Canada must demonstrate (1) the importance to them of the opportunity to conduct research overseas, (2) how working collaboratively with an overseas partner (see above for eligible categories of partners) will generate concrete positive outcomes for the applicant, and (3) how

community-centred partners, and any other beneficiaries, outside Canada will be helped through collaboration with the applicant.

- **Applicants outside Canada** must demonstrate (1) the importance to them of the opportunity to carry out a research project in Atlantic Canada, (2) how working with partners in Atlantic Canada (see above for eligible categories of partners) will generate concrete positive outcomes for the applicant, and (3) how community-centred partners, and any other beneficiaries, whether in Canada or overseas, will gain from collaborating with the applicant.
- Preference will be given to proposals that (1) provide the opportunity to link with and contribute to other ongoing activities in the project location, and/or to extend those activities to a new country/location, and/or (2) include (or demonstrate the potential for) leveraging additional funds, in-kind contributions or non-monetary benefits beyond those provided by the Trust.
- Proposed projects should normally commence between April and August of the calendar year following the application deadline. Applicants must demonstrate that the project can be completed within a time period of preferably one year, and not more than two years.
- Since the Trust has limited funds annually, and wishes to support multiple awards each year, funds requested in proposals should typically be in the range \$6,000-\$15,000 over a 1-year period. The Trust views positively proposals that are efficient in their planned use of funds.

Application Format

Applicants should submit only the following two items:

(1) A proposal (maximum 6 pages) that describes and “makes the case” for the project. While there is no standard application form, applicants must organize their submission into the 5 sections described below, in the order stated, with no additional materials except the Letter of Support (see below). Page limits are as indicated, and Times New Roman 12pt font, 1 inch (2.5 cm) margins and single spacing must be used throughout. Be sure to show your name, the project title and the page number on each page. Proposals that do not follow these formatting rules and page limits will be rejected.

- a) Description of the proposed project, including its rationale, the approach to be used, and a clear time frame for the activities involved (2 pages);
- b) Detailed description of the collaboration with a suitable coastal community, coastal research organizations or coastal-focused non-governmental organization (1 page);
- c) Expected outcomes both for the applicant and the community/organization, and a statement of how the proposal advances the goals of the Robin Rigby Trust (1 page);
- d) A project budget (1 page) indicating the overall funding request. Specific proposed budget items and estimates of these must be presented in a table, with explanations of each item. Additional anticipated funding or in-kind contributions from other sources are strongly encouraged and should be noted. Both a ‘minimal’ and a ‘desirable’ budget should be provided. Successful applicants will subsequently develop a detailed budget for review by the Trust;
- e) Brief description of the applicant, including motivation to carry out a project abroad, academic background and current status; experience and skills relevant to the proposed research; overseas experience, if any, and/or interests in international interactions; relevant interests and activities; and full contact information (1 page).

(2) Letter of Support (maximum 2 pages) from the applicant’s primary partner in the proposal (coastal community, NGO or eligible research organization, as above) located at the applicant’s travel destination, describing clearly and concretely the importance of, commitment to, and involvement in the proposed project. Note that this must be a formal letter of support, not an e-mail message or other informal format, and must be provided as an attachment to the application, at the time of submission. If the formal letter is in a language other than English, a translation must be provided in addition to the original formal letter.

Those interested in applying to the Trust should consult www.smu.ca/academics/robin-rigby-trust.html for any updates and visit the website <http://robinrigbyfund.info/> to examine reports on previous projects.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to: robinrigbytrust@smu.ca. Only if e-mail submission is not possible, submissions may be mailed to: Robin Rigby Trust, c/o Development Office, Saint Mary’s University, 923 Robie Street, Halifax, NS B3H3C3 Canada.

Application Deadline

The deadline for the current round of proposals is October 31, 2017.