



## **TRU Sustainability Research Grant for Students Terms of Reference (2025-2026)**

### What is the award for?

The purpose of this award is to encourage interdisciplinary research and expand knowledge of sustainability and sustainable development and practices, defined in terms of TRU's four pillars of sustainability: environmental, social, economic and cultural.

There will be four awards during the 2025-2026 school year each of \$2500.

### Do I qualify to apply?

In order to be considered for a Sustainability Award, you must;

- Be a full-time student at TRU enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate program;
- Have completed a minimum of 60 credits of undergraduate study at the time of application;
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Students who do not meet the GPA requirement may apply but must include an explanation of the circumstances leading to a lower GPA;
- Have a TRU faculty member who is willing to mentor you and guide your project;
- Have not previously received a similar TRU Sustainability Research Grant Award.

### How do I get started?

If you are interested in applying, first speak with a faculty mentor. You will need a TRU faculty member to agree to be your Faculty Mentor to supervise and guide your application and project.

Applications are adjudicated by an internal committee who will advise applicants and their mentors of the results within three weeks of the application deadline.

### What do I need to do to apply?

The application includes (total of 4 pages max.):

- Research project: An outline of the short term and long-term goals of the project (maximum one page)
- Project description, including justification for the research, methodology, anticipated outcomes, plans for knowledge dissemination. (maximum two pages)
- Proposed Budget, Justification & Timeline (maximum one page)
  - The proposed budget and timelines are required to determine the feasibility of the project and to ensure proposed expenses are eligible.
  - A maximum of 16% of the grant award (\$400) can be allocated as a stipend. Remaining costs must be reconciled against associated receipts that pay for the

- direct costs of the research. The faculty supervisor must confirm in the final report that all costs are properly reconciled against receipts.
- If costs outlined in the submitted budget change more than 20%, then the change must be approved in writing by the TRU Sustainability Office.

The application must be supported by:

- Letter of Support from a TRU faculty mentor who has agreed to supervise the project
- Unofficial Transcript(s)

The application **deadline is Sunday March 22, 2026**. Hard copy applications will not be accepted. The Sustainability Office aims to provide results within three weeks of this deadline.

Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their research project with Warren Asuchak and James Gordon from the TRU Sustainability Office before submitting: [wasuchak@tru.ca](mailto:wasuchak@tru.ca); [jgordon@tru.ca](mailto:jgordon@tru.ca). This is a voluntary discussion to help members of the Sustainability Office learn what applicants are proposing and identify opportunities for alignment with existing TRU initiatives.

#### Terms of the Award

Two installments:

1 <sup>st</sup> installment issued at time of approval	\$1500
2 <sup>nd</sup> installment issued upon submission of final report	\$1000

The faculty member supervisor controls the distribution to the student of all funds, and is responsible for creating a new ROMEO file and seeking ethics approval (if required) to access the funds. The funding is available for 12 months from the date applicants are notified of winning the award. A final research report must be submitted two months after completion of project that details the findings of the research. This report will be made publicly available through [TRUSpace](#): TRU's open access digital archive. Doing so allows for a permanent, public repository of sustainability research conducted at TRU. This is an important requirement of the TRU Sustainability Research Grant Fund program.

#### **Other Dates and Deadlines:**

The application deadline is March 22, 2026, however, applicants are welcome to submit a voluntary Pre-Proposal of their project (500-word max summary) by February 18, 2026 in order to receive feedback on it, which will be emailed back by February 25, 2026. Pre-Proposals can be emailed, with the subject line *Pre-Proposal - TRU Sustainability Research Grant for Students*, to: [jgordon@tru.ca](mailto:jgordon@tru.ca) AND [sustain@tru.ca](mailto:sustain@tru.ca).