The **Killam Connection** provides funding of up to $25,000 to enable UBC faculty to host an innovative and interdisciplinary research forum and graduate course focused around a theme of general interest and public importance, and including a series of invited scholars. The purpose of the Killam Connection is to provide an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to engage with leading scholars on matters of importance, and for students to gain experience developing and possibly implementing scholarly projects oriented to a public impact.

The invited scholars will share their work with graduate students, faculty, and the public, to heighten awareness of the realized and potential implications of cutting-edge research. UBC graduate students will learn about an important field of interest in an interdisciplinary context, contribute to public scholarship in the field, and earn graduate course credits.

**Background**

Funding is supported by the Killam Trusts, a legacy of Dorothy and Izaak Walton Killam, who were passionate about helping to build Canada's future by encouraging advanced study.

**Structure**

The Killam Connection will bring five national/international speakers to UBC over a term. Each speaker will lead one graduate seminar class (two to three hours). This class is flexible but would likely encompass lectures, discussions, and/or review of selected readings. These five classes will be integrated into a standard two or three credit graduate course: two credits typically involve a minimum of 26 hours of learning activities, while three credits involve a minimum of 39 hours of activities. In addition, each speaker will deliver a public lecture to the wider UBC and community. G+PS will assist with the advertisement and logistical arrangements of one of the lectures, which will be widely promoted to the public.

The Killam Connection is not intended to support an existing course, though it is possible that an existing course could be re-worked to meet the criteria and goals of the Killam Connection program. It is expected that graduate students will register for the course through a directed studies course or special topic course offered by the student’s home department. At least three different UBC Graduate Programs should support the course with faculty representation on the organizing committee. The course will consist of five invited seminar classes, five public lectures, and any other relevant activities to fulfill the requirements of a two or three-credit graduate course. Courses assigned fewer credits will be considered but require justification. A required activity will be a public scholarship project relevant to the topic at hand. Examples of public scholarship activities include an op-ed piece to stimulate public debate; a course syllabus; a public website to disseminate knowledge and/or invite dialogue or further research; a proposal for further collaborative research involving community and knowledge user partners in the research; a policy paper; or other innovative methods of engagement and research dissemination (e.g., digital media, performance, exhibitions). One or more members of the broader (non-academic) community may provide support to or lecture to the students regarding the public scholarship component.

Applications are due **May 19, 2017** and the forum can commence for the following September or January term.

**Responsibilities**

One or two faculty members will provide oversight and leadership as the forum leader or co-leaders and will strike an organizing committee.

The forum leader(s) and the organizing committee are responsible for:

* Proposing an innovative, important, and interdisciplinary topic that would be of interest to graduate students, faculty and the public
* Selecting, inviting and confirming the speakers, arranging their travel, and providing reimbursement to the speakers for their travel expenses
* Ensuring that the speakers understand their role in delivering graduate education, as well as a public lecture
* Coordinating the graduate level course (e.g., promoting course to relevant departments/faculties/graduate students; admitting students to the course; assembling the lectures, pre-readings, assignments; organizing local faculty to teach or facilitate content, ensuring the speaker content is linked with the course; evaluating students and submitting grades)
* Ensuring that the public lectures are at a time and venue accessible to the public
* Website development and promotion of the course and lectures to the UBC community and public

G+PS will provide:

* Support for promotion of the course and lectures
* Arrangements for transfer of funding to appropriate departmental PG

**Funding**

One grant of up to $25,000 will be awarded. Unsuccessful applications can be carried forward to the next year’s competition, but updated signatures will be required to confirm ongoing commitment.

The funds can be used for the following purposes:

* Travel and accommodation costs of visiting scholars (see UBC travel expenses for guidelines)
* To offset teaching or administrative workload of the forum leader(s), members of the organizing committee or other course instructors, and thus be paid to the department/unit
* Social events as part of the course (e.g., reception for the visiting scholar)

The department/graduate unit will handle the financial paperwork from the visiting scholars and will reimburse them for the agreed expenses.

**Application Process**

Please submit the following:

1. Description of the proposed course (maximum two pages).
2. Signature Page (see below)
3. Proposed budget for the course (maximum one page)
4. Outline of proposed curriculum for graduate students, including content and mode of teaching/learning, learning objectives, description of public scholar component and mode of assessment
5. Outline (including timeline) of communication plan to promote course and public lectures, including possible venues for public lectures (maximum one page)
6. Brief CV for the Forum Leader(s) and Organizing Committee (maximum 2 pages each). Relevant information might include scholarly background in the topic, experience in supporting a graduate course, and existing relationships in working with the proposed departments/units.
7. List of 5-10 potential speakers and bios (maximum one page each)
8. Optional: Any correspondence with potential speakers (e.g., email to potential speakers about the proposal and responsibilities, and interested response from potential speakers)

Instructions for how to submit an application package through UBC Workspace can be found at: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/killam-connection>, under “Application Procedures”.

Please refer questions regarding the Killam Connection program to Junnie Cheung at junnie.cheung@ubc.ca.

**Review Process**

An adjudication committee will be formed by G+PS and comprise faculty from a variety of fields.

Adjudication criteria:

1. Subject matter that is of current interest and importance to scholars, students and the broader community
2. Strong potential to attract a large number of faculty and students to participate from a range of disciplines
3. Demonstrated understanding of the field, and of the potential for impactful public scholarship
4. High caliber of invited speakers as scholars and public speakers
5. Interest of speakers (e.g., email response from speaker stating they may be interested in participating)
6. Strong potential for graduate students’ development in the content area and in public scholarship
7. Approval from the participating departments for credit of the proposed course
8. Appropriately justified budget
9. Seminar topic not currently available as a UBC graduate course
10. Potential for new initiatives and collaborations to emerge from the forum

**Killam Connection Application - Signature Page**

*Forum Leader(s):*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name:       | Dept/Unit:       |
| Email:       |
|  |
| Name:       | Dept/Unit:       |
| Email:       |

*Organizing Committee (minimum 3 in addition to Forum Leader):*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name  | Dept/Unit |
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|       |       |

*The proposed forum is of interest to our faculty and graduate students and I support the faculty involved from my department. Our department will be responsible for the financial management of the course, including reimbursement of the invited speakers.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dept Head Name  | Dept/Unit | Signature | Date |
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At least three different UBC Graduate Programs should support the course with faculty representation on the organizing committee.

*The proposed forum is of interest to our graduate students, and we will arrange for course credit (directed studies, special topics) for participating students.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grad Program Chair Name | Dept/Unit | Signature | Date |
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