

Answers to questions from chat log during Apr 29/22 session

(for any inconsistencies between answers given verbally during live presentation and the information below, please note that the information provided below takes precedence)

- After research project is completed, in order to zero out grant balance, what situation that RTA staff could help to transfer the grant balance, or it needs to be done through an actual expense/salary transfer by department? Thanks.

A: It depends on the granting agency and the terms and conditions within our agreement with the sponsor (or the guidelines from the sponsor's program), as well as the nature of the transactions involved. For Tri-Agency grants, CIHR and all of the TIPS programs require refund of unspent funds upon expiry; NSERC and SSHRC programs may allow unspent balances under certain circumstances to be retained by the University. For non-Tri-Agency grants, whether or not residual funds are to be refunded is dependent upon the agreement we have with the sponsor. In cases where there are expenses that were incurred during the active period of the grant and were charged to another grant in error (or as a temporary arrangement), the Department should put through the expense transfer; please let Research Finance know if this is the case, so that any financial reporting to be prepared can capture these expenses. In cases where a refund to the sponsor is required, Research Finance will coordinate with the PI/Department to confirm no further expenses need to be put through before the Research Finance Officer prepares the refund. For situations where the residual funds can be retained by the University, Research Finance will confirm with the PI/Department that no further expenses need to be put through, and then the Research Finance Officer will handle the transfer to the GRF (if it's NSERC or SSHRC and eligible to be moved to GRF) or to PI's FD220 unrestricted GR worktag (if residual balance is eligible to be retained, and net of any overhead assessable).

- What kinds of situation that department can issue invoice(s) to sponsor?

A: Normally, the blue Research Project Budget (RPB) form from RISE will indicate when Department is responsible for issuing invoices to sponsor. As a general rule, these are situations where PI/Department needs to meet certain milestones, or where invoicing is on the basis of samples analyzed/research subjects enrolled, or other conditions where the PI/Department has the key information required to establish the parameters for the invoice. We do ask that any invoices generated by Department to please be provided to Research Finance A/R Team for tracking and payment identification purposes.

- Can cellphone and computer be charged to NSERC grant if PI can justify them?

A: Eligibility for expenses to be charged to NSERC grants follows the principles and directives as provided for in TAGFA. As long as the expense conforms to the requirements in TAGFA (in particular, if the PI can establish how the expense represents a direct cost to the grant's activities), then yes, it's possible that these can be deemed eligible.

- Can PI have more than one unrestricted grant?

A: Yes and no - PI may have more than one FD220 unrestricted grant with a non-2099 end date (ie. one where the end date is on the basis of the notice of award from the sponsor - external or UBC-based), but PI may only have one FD220 grant worktag with 2099 end date.