Call for Proposals:
Admissions Policies and Practices for Underrepresented Groups of Students

Background
Increasing access to post-secondary education has been cited as one of the main goals of the BC Transfer System. The question of access specifically pertains to the underrepresented groups of students – those who may encounter barriers when entering the post-secondary system. A recent HEQCO report identified practices at Ontario colleges for recruiting and retaining students from underrepresented groups, but also highlighted issues in defining such groups of students. In BC, no system-wide research has summarized institutional policies and practices for admitting students from underrepresented groups.

Purpose/Goal
The purpose of this project is to assess the policies and practices in the BC Transfer System institutions for admitting underrepresented (equity) groups of students.

Scope
BC Transfer System institutions

Objectives
The objectives of the study include:
1. To review available literature on defining underrepresented student groups in BC, Canada and elsewhere;
2. To analyze institutional policies (documents, websites) on admitting such groups, including the assessment of institutional commitments or any performance indicators associated with admitting and supporting underrepresented groups of students at BC Transfer System PSI’s;
3. To analyze the sources and the availability of quantitative data on equity students, including for student transfer;
4. To assess and discuss institutional practices for admitting underrepresented groups and for overcoming barriers to access in general; and
5. To identify areas for future research and the development of practices on timing (e.g., at application, registration) and methods of collecting information on equity status.

Timeline
Depending on the start date of the project, the project is expected to be completed in March to May 2018.

Budget
Maximum budget available for this project is $20,000. This figure is inclusive of all hourly charges, travel and associated costs, and GST.

BCCAT’s Proposal Template for Research Projects may be used as a guideline for submitting the proposal.