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# Announcements

## New announcements

1. [**Changes to Grants Officer Points of Contact**](#_Changes_to_Grants)
2. [**Important Updates to the Joint NSERC Alliance - Mitacs Accelerate Program**](#_Important_Updates_to_1)
3. **SSHRC Connection Grants webinar**: Wednesday, May 28 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (ET) (English Session) [Join via Teams](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f063ce32-adbd-4dbb-a3bb-f632001bed7d@fbef0798-20e3-4be7-bdc8-372032610f65).
4. **NSERC Discovery Horizons webinar**: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. (ET) (English Session) [Join via Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTZmYWMzZjQtNzlkOC00NDVjLTg1ZWQtZmE4NzI5MzMxNTMy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fbef0798-20e3-4be7-bdc8-372032610f65%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3db3a27-c5a4-43d8-876d-5ea36f589848%22%7d)
5. **New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) 2025 Exploration NOI webinar**: Thursday, May 22 1:00 p.m. (ET) (English Session) [Join Link](https://track.smtpsendemail.com/9079200/c?p=shi7RT7rFfZEgIAbDt1nVzTFqZ0-XAfAPPfyuTtSw1qzNg2Y8ZUpTVVlRh7ecBBV_EFK8mYGSbdL6jW3bOnJoNLK7WqDpYMYAPMMMnS6_K-sIb3vScR65K61wVryKOR-uZ-Hl3twusyjOjo7vXnzrw4eJaF9FpaPULPAGSOSS3WwujJDIM_SwFPTZnU33ObmQiUPIAxp5q2XuTXUjXqByhVAYNpHFfRrq_REJSE7hfyT40nLU0n5I138-q9RbQvb)
6. **L2M Launch Info Session (2025 Fall) webinar:** Thursday, May 22 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (ET) or 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (ET) [Register here](https://lu.ma/lab2market).
7. Mitacs [**Globalink Research Internship (GRI)**](https://www.mitacs.ca/our-programs/globalink-research-internship-professors/?utm_campaign=GRI%20Faculty%20Call&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_FyaSkR4clT6h4ynC1a-XStbi4ZfhEh18eVrHuYbg8hH8u7R0Mvb-tYFVW1c1So2bpvBn-GC_TPcUUQ_MkW91atKWGRg&_hsmi=107960920&utm_content=107960920&utm_source=hs_email)is now accepting faculty applications for Summer 2026***.*** GRI pairs professors in Canada with top senior international undergrads for 12-week research projects from May to October. **The application deadline is June 5, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. PT.**
8. To ensure the continued impact and relevance of this funding opportunity, **NSERC is temporarily pausing the intake of applications to the Alliance International Collaboration grants program as of May 20, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. (ET)** to review and refine objectives and optimize processes. The intake of Alliance International Collaboration grants applications is expected to re-open by winter of 2025-26. [Learn more](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/AllianceInternational-AllianceInternational/faq-faq_eng.asp).
9. **New Research Infrastructure Tool from ESDC:** [PASSAGES](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/89260006)is a dynamic microsimulation model developed to provide analysts in government and elsewhere with a tool capable of supporting research into the Canadian retirement income system.

## Reminders

1. **ORS Funding Bulletin is transitioning to online version**: The ORS Funding Bulletin will be transitioning to the online-only version in the coming months. Please check out our [Online Funding Bulletin](https://research.ontariotechu.ca/faculty/funding/funding-bulletin.php) and send any feedback to [Ewa Stewart](mailto:ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca), Grants Officer. Stay tuned for further communications about the transition and instructions on how to subscribe to bulletin update notifications.
2. [**Update on ORS contacts for Mitacs program, Accelerate Internship Unit allocation and other Mitacs Program Updates.**](#_Update_on_ORS)
3. **NSERC Alliance Advantage Grant – Updates on extensions with additional funds:**  Alliance Advantage grants support research projects conducted in collaboration with partner organizations to address organizational challenges and accelerate the application of research results. NSERC has observed unprecedented demand for Alliance Advantage grants and is seeking to maximize opportunities to support new applications for partnered research. As a result, NSERC is pausing the intake of requests for extensions with additional funds, as of February 27, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. (ET). Until further notice, NSERC will not consider requests for additional one-year funding for existing Alliance Advantage grants beyond this deadline. Other extension opportunities with no additional funding remain available.
4. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is [communicating important program updates to the Aid to Scholarly Journals (ASJ) funding opportunity](https://track.smtpsendemail.com/9079200/c?p=N4l0vPP8oIlngivFEPRP7rX9muWsUaK2eGE9yPS-YvrmjIKVXJZAfXzUciiETLgm-3bWV5Am0TxCOkbirnxAFgNCTJxR1ufIlvNRO8pNUPTbsrKfKPg57-BUSD4OWvwIt7SeEWwgviWPrvfO-qwuJmLkVwvJqF1kIbPZkwXicPYpe1Z6VCcrNE33yXAU462CLJt0pU_p3yoChAyYthvgG6ZWSpfVM_X6Aj8B01I5aETfMBwQ2rMs1dfPo-rXG6CqAkpy8NRW0mebIOmBwHo3fc3AagznZxrNCum7YxDFmxY_v_6WqcLYPv5kjRDlhre13mZTdFH4zo-btk2GdtYMfw==).
5. **Guidance on the Use of AI in the Development and Review of Research Proposals**: The three federal research funding agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and SSHRC—recently released [new guidance](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/use-generative-artificial-intelligence-development-and-review-research-proposals) on the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in the development and review of research proposals submitted for grant applications.
6. [**Updates on the funding decision mechanism for Alliance grants**](#_Updates_on_the)**.**
7. CIHR requires researchers who received funding for a clinical trial in 2022 or later to register those trials and disclose the clinical trial results. Investigators must comply with this policy in order to remain eligible for funding. CIHR’s process for monitoring compliance with these requirements begins in February 2025, and they will be publicly reporting on results later this spring. Learn more: [CIHR Policy Guide – Requirements for Registration and Disclosure of Results from Clinical Trials.](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52820.html) Email questions to [clinicaltrials-essaiscliniques@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:clinicaltrials-essaiscliniques@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).
8. The Tri-Agency is seeking new members to join the Tri-agency’s “Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research.” The Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research (Reference Group) is a community group of First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals that provide advice to CIHR, SSHRC and NSERC (collectively known as the ‘Tri-agencies’) on ethically and culturally safe peer review approaches and practices for research conducted by and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. For more information about the Reference Group, or other work relating to Indigenous Research at NSERC, please visit <https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/IR-RA/index_eng.asp>
9. CIHR is updating the way they present application rankings in Notices of Recommendation (NORs) and Notices of Decision (NODs) for the Project Grant competition. This update will also be reflected in the Application Decision Results report which is provided to the administering institutions on the same day as the NOD. With these updated templates, applicants and administering institutions will be able to see the zone in which the application ranks (e.g., in the bottom 25%, between 25% and 50%, between 50% and 75%, between 75% and 90%, or 90% and above), rather than its specific ranking. [Learn more.](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/54124.html)
10. SSHRC, CIHR, and NSERC  have announced a gradual move away from the Canadian Common CV (CCV) to a [new, narrative-style CV](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/other-collaborative-activities/interagency-news-announcements-and-statements/message-tri-agency-presidents-granting-councils-transitioning-new-cv-template) for their competitions. The new CV will prioritize written descriptions of an applicant’s research contributions, allowing users to highlight a wide range of research outputs and describe their career trajectories in more detail. The format values societal research outcomes, such as influence on policy, or mentorship, alongside more traditional research outputs like publications.

1. Revisions made to [CIHR Application Administration Guide](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50805.html#g-3) to bring clarity on policy 3.6 regarding compensation for co-applicants and trainees.

# Funding Opportunities

Grants Officers will provide administrative review of grant applications to ensure completeness with agency guidelines and assist with institutional signatures.**Please notify your Grants Officer as soon as possible of your intent to apply to any opportunity and submit your application for administrative review a minimum of 10 business days** **before the agency deadline.**

**Note:** We have provided some additional details on some opportunities in the Word document version of this bulletin. Click on “ORS information and deadlines” to link to these details within the Funding Bulletin document.

## **New this month**

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| **Agency-Program** | **Internal Deadline** | **First Agency Deadline** |
| Internal Selection Process for Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) – [Early Career Researcher Awards (ERA) (Round 19)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/early-researcher-awards) – [ORS Info and Deadlines](#_Early_Researcher_Awards_1) | NOI: May 12, 2025 | TBD Summer 2025 |
| [The Royal Society of Canada](https://rsc-src.ca/en) – Call for Expression of Interest –  [ORS Info and Deadlines](#_The_Royal_Society_2) | May 27, 2025 | TBD |
| NSERC – [Discovery Horizons Grants](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/grants-subs/dh-hd_eng.asp) – [ORS Info and Deadlines](#_Lab2Market_Oceans_/) | LOI: June 2, 2025 Full: TBD | LOI: June 16, 2025 Full: October 20, 2025  (by invitation only) |
| CIHR – [Planning and Dissemination Grants – ICS](https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprtntyDtls.do?prog=4323&view=currentOpps&org=CIHR&type=EXACT&resultCount=25&sort=program&next=1&all=1&masterList=true) | June 9, 2025 | June 19, 2025 |
| SSHRC – [Connection Grants](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/connection_grants-subventions_connexion-eng.aspx) | July 21, 2025 | August 1, 2025 |
| NSERC – [Discovery Grants](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/grants-subs/dgigp-psigp_eng.asp) – ORS Info and Deadlines (TBD) | TBD | NOI: August 1, 2025 Full: November 3, 2025 |
| New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) – [Exploration Competition](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx) – [ORS Info and Deadlines](#_New_Frontiers_in_3) | TBD | NOI: August 19, 2025 Full: October 21, 2025 |

## **Current Funding Opportunities**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency-Program** | **Internal Deadline** | **First Agency Deadline** |
| NSERC – ECCC – [Call for Proposals on Plastics Science and Innovation for a Cleaner and More Sustainable Future](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/ECCC-ECCC/index_eng.asp) – [ORS Info and Deadlines](#_NSERC_-_ECCC_1) | ~~LOI: May 1, 2025~~  Full: TBD | LOI: May 15, 2025  Full: September 18, 2025 (by invitation only) |
| The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) – [Research and Grants Program Strategic Initiative: The use of medical cannabis for the treatment of work-related health conditions](https://www.wsib.ca/en/research-and-grants-program) | May 5, 2025 | May 16, 2025 |
| SSHRC – [Partnership Engage Grant](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/partnership_engage_grants-subventions_d_engagement_partenarial-eng.aspx) | June 2, 2025 | June 16, 2025 |
| SSHRC – [Destination Horizon Grant](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx) – [ORS Info and Deadlines](#_The_National_Killam_2) | NOI: September 2, 2025  Full: September 15, 2025 | September 22, 2025 |

**Ongoing Opportunities – No Deadline**

**Notify ORS of your intention to apply a minimum of 3 weeks before you intend to submit your proposal (unless otherwise specified).**

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| **Agency-Program** |
| **The Law Foundation of Ontario**: [**Responsive Call for Applications**](https://lawfoundation.on.ca/news/responsive-call-for-applications/) |
| **City Studio Durham:** [**matching students with real-world projects**](https://www.durham.ca/en/citystudio/index.aspx)   * Contact [anna.kristoffersen@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:anna.kristoffersen@ontariotechu.ca) |
| **Teaching City Oshawa:** [**addressing Oshawa’s urban issues through research and innovation**](https://www.oshawa.ca/en/business-development/teachingcity-oshawa.aspx)   * Contact [Julia.Armstrong@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:Julia.Armstrong@ontariotechu.ca) |
| **NSERC Alliance**   * NSERC Alliance:   + [Alliance Advantage](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/innovate-innover/alliance-alliance/index_eng.asp)   + [Alliance Society](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/Alliance_society-Alliance_societe/index_eng.asp)   + [Internal ORS Info](#_Mitacs_Funding_Update_1) * [NSERC Alliance International](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/AllianceInternational-AllianceInternational/index_eng.asp) – [Internal ORS Info](#_NSERC_Alliance_International_1). *(Please note: NSERC is temporarily pausing the intake of applications to the Alliance International****Collaboration grants****program as of****May 20, 2025, at 8:00 pm (ET)****to review and refine objectives and optimize processes. The intake of Alliance International Collaboration grants applications is expected to re-open by winter of 2025-26.)* |
| **NSERC** [**Idea to Innovation**](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/I2I-Innov_eng.asp) **Grant**  The objective of Idea to Innovation (I2I) grants is to accelerate the pre-competitive development of promising technology originating from the university and college sector, and to promote its transfer to a new or established Canadian company. I2I grants provide funding to college and university faculty members to support research and development projects with recognized technology transfer potential. This is achieved through defined phases by providing crucial assistance in the early stages of technology validation and market connection.   * Notify IP Officer[**(Yiming) Peter Shao**](mailto:Yiming.Shao@ontariotechu.ca)as soon as possible if you are interested in applying. * Applications must be submitted to ORS **a minimum of one month** before the NSERC deadline. * Please review [ORS information and deadlines](#_NSERC_I2I_GRANTS) below |
| **Mitacs**   * [Mitacs Accelerate](https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate) - [Internal ORS Info](#_CIHR_Project_Grant_1). * [Mitacs Business Strategy Internship (BSI)](https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/business-strategy-internship) * [Mitacs Globalink Research Award (GRA)](https://research.ontariotechu.ca/mitacs-globalink-research-award-gra.php) |
| **Ontario Centre for Innovation (OCI)**  To drive commercialization of intellectual property   * [Collaborate 2 Commercialize Program](https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/collaborate-2-commercialize/) (Previously OCI-VIP) * [OCI TalentEdgeInternship Program (TIP) - NGNP](https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/talentedge-internship-program-tip-ngnp/) * [OCI TalentEdge Fellowship Program (TFP) - OVIN](https://www.ovinhub.ca/programs/talent-development-fellowships/) |

# ORS – Internal processes, information and contacts

## Grant Submission Process

**Step 1 - Notification of Intent to Apply:**  Engage the ORS as early as possible in planning to submit any grant applications. Your Grants Officer can support your application development and ensure your proposal aligns with program guidelines and internal university policies.

**Step 2 (Optional) - Comprehensive Proposal Review**: If you would like a comprehensive review of your grant application, submit it to the appropriate Grants Officer **six to eight weeks** in advance of the agency deadline, or according to the internal deadlines noted below.

**Step 3 - Administrative Review and Internal Approvals**: To ensure internal approvals, including required institutional signatures, we require faculty members to provide grant applications and the completed [Research Grant/Contract Authorization (RGA)](https://shared.ontariotechu.ca/shared/department/research/documents/policies-and-procedure-form/rga-form-e-signatures.docx) Form **a minimum of ten business days** before the agency deadline. Grants Officers will provide administrative review of new grant applications to ensure completeness with agency guidelines and assist with institutional signatures.

## Internal Information regarding External Grants

Certain funding programs have limitations or specific application requirements. The Office of Research Services will promote specific grants that may include internal competition deadlines or other internal requirements. Faculty are strongly encouraged to review information posted by the ORS and to notify their Faculty Grants Officers regarding their intent to apply.

## Faculty Grants Officers - Contacts

FBIT, FSSH, FED – [Ewa Stewart](mailto:ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca) or [Amber Zapletal](mailto:amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca) as of May 20

FEAS – [Joanne Hui](mailto:joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca)

FHSci, FSci – [Raluca Dubrowski](mailto:Raluca.dubrowski@ontariotechu.ca)

# Resources

## National Security Guidelines

* NSERC Alliance – [Press Release – Jul 2021](https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-takes-action-to-protect-canadian-research-and-intellectual-property.html) / [ORS Information on Security Guidelines and FAQ](#_New_National_Security)

## Tri-Agency

* Data Management [Policy](https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97610.html) and [FAQ](https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97609.html) / Guide on [Financial Administration](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp)

## NFRF

* [Research Stories](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/stories-histoires-eng.aspx)

## SSHRC

* [News Room](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/news_room-salle_de_presse/index-eng.aspx) / [Forms](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/forms-formulaires/index-eng.aspx) / [Funding opportunities](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/index-eng.aspx) / [Competition Results](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/results-resultats/index-eng.aspx)

## NSERC

* [Latest News](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/News-Nouvelles_eng.asp) / 2030 Strategic Plan – [Engaging Stakeholders](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/NSERC2030-CRSNG2030/index_eng.asp) / [NSERC Interactive Dashboard](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/db-tb/index-eng.asp) / [Covid Updates](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/NewsDetail-DetailNouvelles_eng.asp?ID=1139)

## CIHR

* [Application Administration Guide](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50805.html) / [Policy on Identical and Essentially Identical applications](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52222.html)
* [CIHR Funding opportunities](https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/search.do?fodAgency=CIHR&fodLanguage=E&all=1&search=true&org=CIHR&sort=program&masterList=true&view=currentOpps)
* [CIHR Policy Guide](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52820.html) – Registration and disclosure from clinical trial results – [Overview](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/42405.html); [FAQs](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52810.html)

## Research Facilities Navigator

* [Research Facilities Navigator](https://navigator.innovation.ca/en?redirect=true) to find facilities in agencies across Canada open to working with you on research.
* Create [your Navigator Profile](https://navigator.innovation.ca/en/create-or-edit-your-profile?redirect=true)
* Ontario Tech University [Navigator Profiles](https://navigator.innovation.ca/en/search?f%5B0%5D=institution_uch%3A808)

## Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

* [Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan 2018 - 2025](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI-EDI/Action-Plan_Plan-dAction_eng.asp)
* NSERC [EDI Hub](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI/Index_eng.asp) / [EDI Research Guide](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/EDI_guidance-Conseils_EDI_eng.asp) / [Alliance EDI Resource](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/innovate-innover/alliance-alliance/edi_training-edi_formation_eng.asp)
* NFRF [Best Practices in EDI in Research](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx)
* SSHRC [EDI in Research Guide (Partnership Grant Pilot)](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/guides/partnership_edi_guide-partenariats_guide_edi-eng.aspx) / SSHRC EDI [Services and Information](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/edi/index-eng.aspx)
* [EDI in the Research Enterprise](#_SSHRC_Small_Research)
* NFRF EDI Research presentation – Contact ORS for copy

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Research Enterprise

Ontario Tech is committed to transforming our institutional culture and embedding Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) principles in every area of practice: in research, teaching and administration. The Office of Research Services is working with units from across the university to ready our institution for joining the [Dimensions: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Canada](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI-EDI/Dimensions_Dimensions_eng.asp) program, and we are committed to informing the Ontario Tech research community of changes in funding policy and guidelines as related to EDI principles. Review the relevant resources below and contact your faculty’s grants officer with any questions.

1. [Tri-Council 2018 Open Letter to the research community](https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97616.html)
2. Tri-council New Frontiers in Research Fund: [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx)
3. **NSERC** 
   1. [Framework on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/EDI-EDI/Action-Plan_Plan-dAction_eng.asp)
   2. [Guide for Applicants:](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/EDI/Guide_for_Applicants_EN.pdf) Considering equity, diversity and inclusion in your application
   3. [NSERC guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/EDI_guidance-Conseils_EDI_eng.asp)
4. **CIHR** 
   1. [Gender Equity Framework](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50238.html)
   2. Tools for Researchers: [How to integrate sex and gender into research](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50836.html)
5. **SSHRC**
   1. [EDI in Research Guide (Partnership Grant Pilot)](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/guides/partnership_edi_guide-partenariats_guide_edi-eng.aspx)
   2. EDI [Services and Information](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/edi/index-eng.aspx)
6. **CRC**
   1. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: [A Best Practices Guide for Recruitment, Hiring and Retention](https://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/equity-equite/best_practices-pratiques_examplaires-eng.aspx)
   2. [Unconscious bias training module](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/lms/e/bias/)
7. Ontario Tech’s [CRC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Strategy and Action Plan](https://research.ontariotechu.ca/faculty/ontario-tech-crc-equity,-diversity-and-inclusion-awareness-strategy-and-action-plan-.php)
8. **Ontario Tech is an Employer Partner with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (**[**CCDI**](http://www.ccdi.ca/)**)** which provides us with a number of benefits that will support us on our diversity journey. Key resources available include:

* [Subscribe](https://ccdi.ca/subscribe/) to the **CCDI Monthly Newsletter** – “Diversity Ink”. View [past newsletters](https://ccdi.ca/newsletters/).
* CCDI Knowledge Repository. As part of the “Members Only” portal on their website, CCDI launched an e-library with over 1,000 documents containing Canadian-specific and international diversity and inclusion research, reports, toolkits and news, which are indexed and searchable by multiple parameters (e.g. by keyword, by topic, etc.). This e-library is an evergreen resource and new content is continually being added. If you would like access the Knowledge Repository, please send an e-mail to [kr@ccdi.ca](mailto:kr@ccdi.ca) with the subject line “Knowledge Repository Access” – include your first name, last name and work e-mail address. You will receive your log-in information shortly thereafter.
* CCDI [Monthly Webinars](https://ccdi.ca/event-calendar/?category=Webinars).

## New National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships to protect Canadian Science and Research

The Government of Canada released new [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_98256.html).

These guidelines were developed in collaboration with the [Government of Canada–Universities Working Group](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_98090.html) and will integrate national security considerations into the development, evaluation and funding of research partnerships.

These guidelines are being applied immediately as a mandatory element of federal research partnership funding through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada’s (NSERC) [Alliance Grants program](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/innovate-innover/alliance-alliance/index_eng.asp) for any application involving private sector partner organizations. Foreign not-for-profit and government organizations are already ineligible partners under this program.

All applicants partnering with private sector partners for NSERC Alliance funding will be required to complete the [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships' risk assessment form](https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_98257.html) as a component of the Alliance application package submitted to the Office of Research Services and to NSERC. This requirement encompasses applications currently in development, but not yet submitted in the NSERC system, along with all new applications initiated in the system.

NSERC is currently updating all relevant instructions and resources on the [Alliance program website](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/innovate-innover/alliance-alliance/index_eng.asp) and in the [online system](https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm).

The Office of Research Services (ORS) is working to understand the new guidelines and their impact on applicants. Please anticipate further communications from ORS to assist with implementation.

**Additional Resources**

[NSERC Alliance Grants Webpage](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/index_eng.asp)

[NSERC Alliance Grants - National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](https://www.uoguelph.ca/research/alerts/content/nserc-alliance-grants-%E2%80%93-national-security-guidelines-research-partnerships)

[Safeguarding your Research Portal](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97955.html)

[NSERC Alliance - Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/faq-faq_eng.asp)

[NSERC Alliance Grant Application Checklist](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/alliance/ApplicationChecklist_e.pdf)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. [Is it mandatory for my application to include the completed risk assessment questionnaire and risk mitigation plan of the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships’ risk assessment form?](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/faq-faq_eng.asp#7)
2. [Are there types of private sector organizations involved in Alliance projects that do not trigger the need for completing the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships’ risk assessment form (e.g., Canadian—including parents, subsidiaries or affiliates—, multinational or foreign organizations)?](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/faq-faq_eng.asp#8)
3. [My Alliance project involves several partner organizations from the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. When completing the risk assessment questionnaire of the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships, do I consider only risks associated with the private sector partner organization(s)?](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/faq-faq_eng.asp#9)

# Funding Opportunity Details

version française suit.\_ \*\*Hello/Bonjour Ewa Stewart,\*\* \_Over the next few months, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) will be implementing mu…

## Changes to Grants Officer Points of Contact

The Office of Research Services (ORS) is the central co-ordination point for Ontario Tech University’s research and innovation activities. ORS supports faculty members with the following support services: grants and award development, partnerships development, research contract negotiation and execution, intellectual property support, and research ethics (animal and human) and safety services (radiation and biosafety).

***The Office of Research Services would like to inform Ontario Tech University faculty members and the relevant administrative offices of the following changes to the points of contact.***

**Research Grant Support:**

The Office of Services is pleased to welcome Amber Zapletal, who will be covering Ewa Stewart’s upcoming maternity leave. **Starting May 20**, please direct all your communications to the Grants Officer assigned to your faculty, as outlined in the table below.

**Grants Officer Faculty Divisions:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Faculty** | [**Joanne Hui**](mailto:joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca) | [**Raluca Dubrowski**](mailto:raluca.dubrowski@ontariotechu.ca) | [**Amber Zapletal**](mailto:amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca) |
| Business and Information Technology |  |  | X |
| Education |  |  | X |
| Engineering and Applied Science | X |  |  |
| Health Sciences |  | X |  |
| Science |  | X |  |
| Social Science and Humanities |  |  | X |

**The Grants Development Team:**

**Joanne Hui,**Grants Officer

Joanne received her BASc, MASc, and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Queen’s University.  Her PhD thesis focused on power electronics and maximum energy capture algorithms for wind energy systems.  Prior to joining Ontario Tech, she was a postdoctoral fellow at ePOWER at Queen’s University and a development engineer at SPARQ Systems Inc. She is passionate about research and development and is honored to support faculty in research grant development.

**Raluca Dubrowski,**Grants Officer

Raluca is passionate about research, knowledge translation/mobilization, and research administration. She holds a PhD in Psychology from York University and brings 15 years of experience in research and research administration. Before starting at Ontario Tech, she worked as a Research Manager and Research Associate at SickKids, Grants Officer at Memorial University, and a Lecturer at York University. Raluca also holds a knowledge translation professional certificate and is experienced in both knowledge translation research and practice.

**Amber Zapletal,** Grants Officer

Amber holds a BA in Geography and an MA in Sustainability Studies with a Collaborative Specialization in Aging Studies from Trent University. After graduating in 2018, Amber worked as the Research Coordinator for Trent's award-winning Rural Aging Research Program and as the Administrative Coordinator for the Trent Centre for Aging & Society. Her research focused on qualitative case studies of older volunteers and volunteer-based programs, and their impact on the sustainability of aging rural communities. In 2022, Amber went on to earn a Research Administration Certificate from Mohawk College. Amber is excited to support the faculty at Ontario Tech with their research and grant needs.

**Grant Development Services:**

**Comprehensive Review**: Grants Officers can provide a comprehensive review of grant proposals when submitted at least one month before the agency deadline.

**Administrative Review:**Grants Officers will perform a mandatory administrative review to flag any high-level issues that need to be addressed prior to submission. **Please submit your applications and the completed**[**Research Grant Application Form**](https://shared.ontariotechu.ca/shared/department/research/documents/policies-and-procedure-form/rga-form-e-signatures.docx)**a minimum of 10 business days before the agency deadline.**

**Funding Opportunities:** Please refer to our new online [funding bulletin](https://research.ontariotechu.ca/faculty/funding/funding-bulletin.php) for active grant opportunities and deadlines.

## Important Updates to the Joint NSERC Alliance - Mitacs Accelerate Program

The current [joint NSERC Alliance - Mitacs Accelerate](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/NSERC-Alliance-Mitacs_eng.asp) funding opportunity allows applicants to leverage cash contributions from partners for funding from both NSERC and Mitacs. As a result of an amended agreement between Mitacs and NSERC coming into effect on April 1, 2026, the funding structure for the joint NSERC Alliance - Mitacs Accelerate program will be changing.

The joint NSERC Alliance - Mitacs Accelerate program will continue under the current funding structure where it allows partner funds to meet the matching requirements of both NSERC and Mitacs (i.e. double leveraging of the partner cash contributions with NSERC *and* Mitacs) for the remainder of the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. Beginning April 1, 2026, partner funds can no longer be used to meet the matching requirements of both Mitacs and NSERC for new applications (i.e. partners will be required to provide funds *separately* towards the Mitacs and NSERC programs).

In order to secure double leveraging of partner funds under the program’s current funding structure with NSERC **and**Mitacs, applicants must submit a *new Mitacs streamlined application*outlining the requested Mitacs internships to NSERC, along with their NSERC application by **December 19, 2025.**

**Please notify your Grants Officer as soon as possible, but no later than August 29, 2025, if you wish to submit a joint NSERC-Mitacs application under the current funding structure.**Your Grants Officer will work with you to go over the new application requirements and the internal deadlines necessary to meet the Agency deadlines. ***Please note that participation in this joint program would also be subject to availability in our Mitacs Accelerate internship unit allocation.***

## Update on ORS contacts for Mitacs program and Accelerate Internship Unit Allocation

**Changes to ORS contacts for Mitacs programs:**

As of April 1, 2025 Ontario Tech researchers are asked to contact the **ORS Partnerships team** for all Mitacs program queries and for assistance with Mitacs application development.

Partnerships Officer contact information:

[Victoria Nash-Woolley](mailto:Victoria.Nash-Woolley@ontariotechu.ca) (FEAS)

[Anna Kristoffersen](mailto:anna.kristoffersen@ontariotechu.ca) (FS, FHS)

[Daniel Huizenga](mailto:Daniel.Huizenga@ontariotechu.ca) (FBIT, FSSH, FEd)

**FY 2025-26 Internship Unit Allocation for the Mitacs Accelerate Program:**

Due to financial constraints in the 2025/26 fiscal year, Mitacs has issued **a submission allowance for the Accelerate program**. This allowance in effect limits the total number of internship units that can be submitted for the 2025/26 fiscal year by an academic institution. In addition due to the current financial constraints, **Mitacs is encouraging projects with a high proportion of named interns (over 50% named internship units) and which are less than 2 years in duration.**

**For the 2025/26 fiscal year Ontario Tech is limited to submit a total of 105 internship units for the Accelerate Program. The 2025/26 fiscal year runs April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.**

* Internship units will be allocated to projects as they are submitted on a first come, first served basis. Once Ontario Tech’s limit of 105 internship units has been reached, no further Accelerate projects may be submitted.
* The Accelerate internship unit limit applies across all Accelerate programs including: standard Accelerate, Accelerate Entrepreneur and the joint NSERC Alliance-Mitacs Accelerate program. The Accelerate internship unit limit will also apply to any funded extensions (where the partner and Mitacs are contributing additional money for additional IUs to the project) for current active Accelerate projects.
* The internship limit applies to all internship units submitted during the 2025/26 fiscal year, regardless of when the internship units will be activated. As a result, projects with named interns which can be delivered within this fiscal period are strongly encouraged. For multi year projects, it may be preferred to break the work up into phases and only apply for the first phase during the 2025/26 fiscal year.

**\*\*Mandatory next steps *before* initiating a new Mitacs Accelerate application:**

* Given the current constraints on the Mitacs Accelerate program, all researchers are asked to connect with the appropriate [Partnerships Officer](https://research.ontariotechu.ca/contacts.php) (refer to contact list above) in ORS ***before*** initiating any Accelerate application via their online application portal and/or drafting an Accelerate application. ORS will confirm the availability of the required internship units and then connect the researcher to our Mitacs Business Development Advisor to start working on the application.

**About the Mitacs Accelerate Program:**

The [Mitacs Accelerate](https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate) program matches an industry or not-for-profit partner’s contribution to the cost of a collaborative research project. Students and/or PDFs can receive up to $15,000 in funding for each internship unit (IU). Each IU represents $7,500 in funding from the project partner (subject to applicable tax) matched with $7,500 from Mitacs per each 4-6 month period of work completed.

The Mitacs participant completes half of their internship on-site with the industry partner and the other half at the university under faculty supervision. The Mitacs participant is responsible for completing a report about the project that is reviewed by their faculty supervisor and presented to the industry partner.

Other updates from Mitacs

This message provides updates about several changes to Mitacs’s programs and related policies:

* + - 1. Integration of Elevate into Accelerate: A new $20K Accelerate stream for postdoctoral fellows
      2. Application Template Updates
      3. Internship Limits
      4. Mitacs Program Terms and Conditions

1. Discontinuation of Elevate and the Introduction of $20K Accelerate for Postdoctoral Fellows

As part of our ongoing review and streamlining of programs, Elevate as a standalone program will be replaced with a $20,000 per internship ($60,000 per year) postdoctoral funding model within Accelerate. This change is effective April 1, 2025 for new applications. Existing Elevate applications will continue unchanged until completion of the project.

Key Transition Details:

* Final Submission Deadline for Elevate Applications: Any draft applications or those requiring sign-off in our portal must be submitted by April 30, 2025.
* New Postdoctoral Funding Model: Starting April 1, 2025, postdoctoral funding will be available through Accelerate under the new $20K per internship structure in addition to the existing $15K per internship model, providing postdoctoral fellows with $60,000 per year.

Application Process Updates:

* Please continue to refer to [our website](https://www.mitacs.ca/our-programs/accelerate/) for information about how to apply. Many Accelerate applications can be submitted through our digital process.
* Accelerate 20K for postdoctoral fellows will be completed via the non-digital application also found on [our website](https://www.mitacs.ca/our-programs/accelerate/).

2. Application Template Updates

**Accelerate Research proposal**

To streamline the application process, the Accelerate Research Proposal has been updated, making submissions simpler, easier, and reducing versioning issues. There will no longer be a separate template for Express applications, but the Express process remains in place for faster review of 1-3 IU projects. Additionally, links to Mitacs's Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Proposal Development and Mitacs's Review Responsible Conduct of Research Policy have been added to the instructions page, to provide additional guidance for applicants.

**Accelerate Budget & Invoice Schedule**

The $20K postdoctoral funding option is now included in the Accelerate Budget & Invoice Schedule.

3. Internship Limits

Interns in Accelerate and Business Strategy Internship (BSI) have historically had limits on the number of internships they can complete based on their degree level. We have removed this limit for students, noting that interns must have time in their schedule to accommodate the commitment to the internship. There are no changes for recent grads (eligible for 3 internships / 1 year of funding) or postdocs (9 internships / 3 years).

4. Mitacs Program Terms and Conditions

Mitacs’s Program Terms and Conditions, last updated in 2021, have been streamlined to improve the applicant and administrator experience and update language to increase clarity and close gaps identified in the previous version. The updated Terms and Conditions will go into effect on April 30, 2025 and will replace the current version on our website. We are also adding an updated cancellation policy that improves clarity about project cancellation rules. For more details, please see the following links:

* [Summary of Terms and Conditions s updates](https://www.mitacs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/TC_Update_External_2025.pdf?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_kvWgLKHm_1Cc7BJNsEIHhHWH_ut75ukfdWjUI0JvF5nePKJNC9Jb8wfgIH_2rQFHqgYNSdqeOWNblaVnClRunUMf1fQ&_hsmi=107061556&utm_content=107061556&utm_source=hs_email)
* [Mitacs Program Terms and Conditions for Program Participants](https://www.mitacs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/TC_Participants_2025.pdf?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--UyPrzAUKsQ__v3Zi9qC7nlmGSxDuewbK-sT8kKlXpRrPpLLxSI7xKFEW-4T3hz5NYmUvy4YvrZ10I4zwEGurhkXUWOw&_hsmi=107061556&utm_content=107061556&utm_source=hs_email)
* [Mitacs Program Terms and Conditions for Academic Institutions](https://www.mitacs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/TC_Institution_2025.pdf?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8QAn-v3zi2iKBgxeX5GcK79Qw2sDI7-YYf4t4n6S7o4OdAq33UEyR0wy4vsJ-5Jdn1cLf0h9dSsTUIZ4unARlsNOw7bw&_hsmi=107061556&utm_content=107061556&utm_source=hs_email)
* [Mitacs Project Cancellation Policy](https://www.mitacs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Mitacs_Project_Cancellation_Policy.pdf?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--E2X8NN4Ld7D9JOXubvIttrwLiS51MsRhkcNxHYeXM5cKnMTHZOSNZydH74G_OARJgPcKbVzsYdSs6UULLB8flkvnjvg&_hsmi=107061556&utm_content=107061556&utm_source=hs_email)

Should you have any questions about these updates or Mitacs’s offerings, please contact Mitacs’s Client Service & Support (CSS) team at <mailto:experience@mitacs.ca>.

## Updates on the funding decision mechanism for Alliance grants:

Alliance Advantage and Alliance Society grants support research projects conducted in collaboration with partner organizations to address organizational and societal challenges and accelerate the application of research results. Designed to be simple, modern, flexible, and responsive, the Alliance grants funding opportunity is experiencing unprecedented interest and demand.

The Alliance grants evaluation process includes a merit evaluation, along with an assessment of potential risks for Canada’s national security, when applicable. With increased demand for funds, NSERC will use the merit indicator ratings assigned to applications to select proposals for funding on a competitive basis, as outlined in the [Alliance Advantage](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/review-examen_eng.asp) and [Alliance Society](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/Alliance_society-Alliance_societe/review-examen_eng.asp) literature. The funding decisions will also consider budget availability.

Every two weeks, applications being considered for funding will be ranked according to their merit rating and funded based on available budget allocation. If an application is not initially selected for funding, it will remain in consideration for two additional funding rounds. The funding decision will be communicated within 6 weeks of the merit evaluation.

It is important to differentiate between the merit evaluation and funding decision when communicating with partners and stakeholders, as not all meritorious applications will receive funding.

This funding decision process applies to the following funding opportunities:

* Alliance Advantage grants
* Alliance Society grants
* NSERC Alliance and Alberta Innovates Campus Alberta Small Business Engagement (CASBE) Stream II
* NSERC Alliance-Mitacs Accelerate grants
* NSERC Alliance grants and Ontario Centre of Innovation Collaborate 2 Commercialize

## Release of the Federal Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)

In response to the [February 14, 2023 Tri-Ministerial statement](https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2023/02/statement-from-minister-champagne-minister-duclos-and-minister-mendicino-on-protecting-canadas-research.html), the Government of Canada has now released the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/policy-sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern), along with two accompanying lists:

* [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/sensitive-technology-research-areas) (List 1); the focus is on the **advancement** of a listed technology or its capabilities during the course of the proposed research project, rather than merely its use
* [Named Research Organizations](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/named-research-organizations) (List 2); note that this list is meant to be country-agnostic and focuses on specific threats identified with regards to the military, national defense, or state security entities that could pose a risk to our national security; it does not target or profile any group of people or country

The policy states that starting in early 2024, research grant and funding applications submitted by a university or affiliated research institution to the federal granting councils and the Canada Foundation for Innovation involving research that advances a **sensitive technology research area** (List 1) will not be funded if any of the **researchers** involved in **activities supported by the grant** are **affiliated** with, or **in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a university, research institute or laboratory** connected to military, national defense, or state security **entities** that could pose a risk to Canada’s national security (List 2).

[Definitions](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/policy-sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern#section3) are provided in the policy and more information can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/frequently-asked-questions-faq-policy-sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern).

Some key points:

* Policy applies to Tri-Agency (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR), New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), Canada Research Chairs (CRC) and Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) research grants
* Policy does not apply to Tri-Agency student/postdoctoral scholarships and fellowships
* Implementation is expected to begin with funding opportunities that open May 1, 2024 or later
* Both lists are evergreen and could be updated in the future; it is likely that the STRA list will become more specific over time while the NRO list could eventually include other research organizations
* There will be a common attestation form used across agencies; the form is expected to be published in March and more information will be available at that time
* Validation of the attestations will be conducted by national security departments and agencies in collaboration with the relevant funding organization(s) through a random sampling of funded applications. Any misrepresentation may constitute a breach of the [Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research](https://rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/framework-cadre-2021.html) (RCR). Recourse for breaches of the RCR Framework varies by severity, intentionality, and impact of the breach, but may include and is not limited to: withholding installments of and/or termination of the grant; a requirement to reimburse funds; and ineligibility to hold/apply for federal funding, for a defined period of time or permanently
* The STRAC policy and attestation process is distinct from the [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/national-security-guidelines-research-partnerships/national-security-guidelines-research-partnerships-risk-assessment-form) and Risk Assessment Form, and in some cases both will apply (eg. NSERC Alliance)
* The [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships’ Annex A](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/national-security-guidelines-research-partnerships#annex-a) has been updated to align with the new list of [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/sensitive-technology-research-areas)
* Effective immediately, for any NSERC Alliance applications that are referred for advice from Canada’s national security departments and agencies following the [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships’ Risk Assessment Review Process](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/risk-assessment-review-process), the national security assessment conducted will consider research affiliations of concern

We encourage you to consult the list of [Named Research Organizations](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/named-research-organizations) and proactively assess whether you have any affiliations or are in receipt of funding from any named entities that may lead to eligibility issues once the policy is implemented.

If you have any questions, or concerns about a new or existing affiliation, please contact **Erin Dwyer, Manager – Safeguarding Research (**[erin.dwyer@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:erin.dwyer@ontariotechu.ca)**)**.

## Early Researcher Awards (ERA) Round 19 (2025)

**Internal Notice of Intent – Deadline: May 12, 2025**

**Full application – TBD Summer 2025**

We are expecting the Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) to launch Round 19 of the [Early Researcher Awards](https://www.ontario.ca/page/early-researcher-awards" \o "https://www.ontario.ca/page/early-researcher-awards" \t "_blank)in the next few weeks, with the deadline expected to be in summer 2025 (last year the deadline was July 25). The ERA program is highly competitive and targets applicants who are exceptional early-career researchers in Ontario, helping them to build their research teams.

To ensure adequate time to prepare quality applications, the Office of Research Services is launching the internal selection process in advance of the official sponsor announcement as we do not anticipate significant changes to the program architecture.

MCURES Early Researcher Awards Funding (Total value: $190,000):

* + $100,000 from MCURES over 5 years to support salaries, benefits, and essential and reasonable travel for HQP carrying out the proposed research project. Funds cannot be used for supplies, equipment, or facility operation.
  + $50,000 institutional match over 5 years to support eligible research costs.
  + $40,000 from MCURES over 5 years for indirect costs of research (overhead).

Faculty Members interested in applying internally should review the information in this document and the [ERA full application guidelines](https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/dataset/8dfa2ecb-a7fd-484c-aadf-925335f4bfb8/resource/9d2f8e32-137a-401c-8130-a76341a2dd37/download/0026e_guide.pdf)prior to applying.

**Applicant Eligibility**

The ERA program is open to researchers who:

* are **full-time** faculty members with tenured or tenure-track positions;
* have started their independent academic research career on or after **January 1, 2019\***; and
* have completed their first Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, Medical Doctor or terminal degree on or after **January 1, 2014\***.
* have not already held an Early Researcher Award
* are not a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair

\*This is the anticipated applicant eligibility cut off date based on previous rounds. *Final eligibility of the selected candidates will be confirmed once the Ministry launches ERA Round 19 and posts updated guidelines.*

**What Makes a Strong Candidate?**

A strong candidate is someone who:

* **is actively conducting research**
* has an “**exceptional level” of grant funding**; current/previous research activities **supported by peer-reviewed funding**- many successful applicants already **hold research funds from a Tri-Council Agency**(or other nationally recognized source).
* **demonstrates academic independence**from previous supervisors – many awardees are **3-5 years from first academic appointment**– and can provide two strong arm’s length reference letters.
* is an “emerging leader” in the field, has a **strong record of publication and experience training HQP,**as well as evidence of publishing with students and student involvement in conference papers.
* can write a proposal in which the proposed research program is well-defined, with specific objectives, and must have significant benefits to Ontario.
* Can propose a training program that exposes the research team to exciting and challenging projects.

**When is it Premature to Apply?**

It is premature to apply for faculty:

* who have limited research experience and chance to demonstrate potential, publish, or train HQP
* who have only held internal start-up funding; funding has not been received from the federal granting councils
* whose current or recent research activities remain closely linked to former supervisor (Ph.D. or Post-Doc)
* who would have difficulty obtaining strong arm’s length letters of reference from referees with international stature (two arm’s length letters are required)

**The review panel scores applicants on:**

* Excellence of the researcher (40%)
* Quality of research (30%)
* Development of research talent (HQP) (20%)
* Strategic value for Ontario (10%)

**Internal Selection Committee and Process**

Similar to previous rounds, the Vice-President Research and Innovation (VPRI) is launching an internal process to identify applicants interested in submitting an ERA application to the Ministry. Eligible applicants are invited to submit an Internal Notice of Intent for consideration by the internal committee.**Based on the recommendations of the committee, and subject to the institutional budget for matching funds, the VPRI will select only the most competitive candidate(s) to put forward a full ERA application to the Ministry.**The decision of the VPRI is final with no process for appeal.

Internal applications will be reviewed by a committee, comprised of:

* Vice-President Research and Innovation, or designate;
* Ontario Tech Faculty Deans or designates;
* One or two members of the Office of Research Services (non-voting);

**Assessment Criteria**

The internal committee will assess the application’s fit with the ERA program objectives and assessment criteria and make recommendations to the VPRI.

NOIs will be evaluated based on the following criteria that reflect the objectives of the ERA program:

1. **Excellence of the Researcher (40%)**

* academic and employment record
* research grants and awards received
* publication record
* other areas of research productivity
* researcher current and potential standing for excellence in the research field based on research plans
* independence from previous supervisor regarding publication record
* independent peer-reviewed funding

1. **Quality of Research (30%):**

* excellence of proposed research
* originality of proposed research
* clarity of research proposal
* relevance of methodology

1. **Development of Research Talent (20%):**

* development of research knowledge of members of research team
* skills development of team
* training is unique and leading edge
* past experience in HQP training
* clearly demonstrate commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) when developing the research teams

1. **Strategic Value for Ontario (10%)**

* Commercialization benefits
* Economic benefits
* Societal and/or cultural benefits

**How to Apply:**

A complete application for consideration by the Ontario Tech internal committee consists of:

1. Internal ERA Notice of Intent Form
2. Tri-Agency CV (Including “Research Contributions” attachment, if submitting NSERC Form 100 or SSHRC CV)

The NOI and CV must be submitted as a **single PDF** to [ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:kamla.rossmcgregor@ontariotechu.ca) by **May 12, 2025** using the subject line: **2025 Ontario ERA NOI – (Applicant Name)**.

**Please Note:** The internal NOI represents a fraction of the work required for a full ERA application. For the Ministry ERA application, the successful candidate(s) will need to provide a comprehensive CV adhering to Ministry formatting requirements, letters of reference, a completed application form and a six-page proposal. Please read the full [ERA application requirements](https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/dataset/8dfa2ecb-a7fd-484c-aadf-925335f4bfb8/resource/9d2f8e32-137a-401c-8130-a76341a2dd37/download/0026e_guide.pdf)before committing to applying.

**Timeline:**

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| **Action** | **Deadline** |
| Interested applicants will submit a NOI and CV to the Office of Research Services (ORS) | May 12 |
| ORS will collate the NOIs submitted and provide copies to the VPRI and Deans for review | By May 14 |
| VPRI or designate will meet with the Deans collectively to review and select the most competitive candidate(s) to be put forward | Week of May 26 |
| ORS will notify applicants of internal results | ~May 30 |
| ORS will work closely with those chosen to move forward to ministry competition to develop competitive applications | June 2 – to ministry deadline in the summer  \***Please note**\* selected candidates will receive a more detailed application development timeline at the time of the notification of the NOI approval. |
| ORS submits complete application package(s) to Ministry | TBD summer 2025 |

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this funding opportunity before you submit your NOI to the internal competition, please contact [Ewa Stewart](mailto:ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca) in the Office of Research Services.

## The Royal Society of Canada – Call for Expressions of Interest

* RSC Fellowship
* Membership in the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

**Deadline: May 27, 2025**

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| **Overview** |

As of 2023, Ontario Tech University has achieved Institutional Membership in the [Royal Society of Canada](https://rsc-src.ca/en). The Royal Society of Canada was established by Royal Charter in 1883 as a learned society in Canada comparable to the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences, the French Académie Française, and the British Royal Society. The mandate of the Royal Society is “to serve Canada and Canadians by recognizing Canada’s leading intellectuals, scholars, researchers and artists and, by mobilizing them in open discussion and debate, to advance knowledge, encourage integrated interdisciplinary understandings and address issues that are critical to Canada and Canadians.” The RSC consists of three bilingual Academies embracing a broad range of scholarly disciplines and artistic fields: Academy I: Academy of Arts and Humanities, Academy II: Academy of Social Sciences, and Academy III: Academy of Science (including Applied Sciences and Engineering, Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Biological Sciences, Medical Sciences and Mathematical and Physical Sciences), as well as the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

There are three classes of Members in the RSC:

1. **Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC)** – a **lifetime achievement distinction** based on a sustained career with accomplishments of exceptional distinction in the arts, humanities, social sciences, or sciences. Fellows are lifetime appointments and generally come close to the end of one’s career.
2. **Members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists** – this is **an early-career distinction** for individuals who have demonstrated a high level of achievement and excellence in the arts, humanities, social sciences, or sciences in the first 15 years of their professional career. Membership is for a term of seven years.
3. **Institutional Members** – comprised of public and private organizations. Ontario Tech University was made an Institutional Member of the RSC in 2023.

The RSC will soon announce the next round call for nominations for Fellows (FRSC) to the three academies and for members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists (nominations expected to be due around December 15, 2025). The FRSC and College Memberships are highly competitive and target applicants who are recognized as leaders in inclusive excellence in research and innovation, mobilized to utilize their interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding to openly discuss and debate complex and timely issues of national significance.

As an institutional member of the Royal Society, Ontario Tech University is able to institutionally nominate candidates both for the prestigious lifetime recognition (Fellowship), and the early-career distinction (College Membership). ORS is launching an internal selection process for fellowship and college nominations. We encourage potential candidates to discuss their Expression of Interest with their Dean. We encourage Individuals from all equity-deserving groups to apply.

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| **Nominee Eligibility and Selection Criteria** |

1.      The RSC Fellowship nomination

                    i.     **Who is eligible?**

* + Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents for 3 years at time of nomination
  + Academics in the arts, the humanities, the social sciences and the sciences with exceptional and original publications, intellectual achievements, and creative activities.

**ii.     Who makes a strong candidate?** Individuals who:

* + Are Full Professors who are experts in their field and have made significant national and international impact in their discipline with original and innovative contribution over the course of a lengthy career,
  + Have developed a national and international reputation for their practical or theoretical contributions to their field, and
  + Have publications in top-rated journals; published scholarly books; translated works into foreign languages; been invited to give influential or named lectureships at Canadian or international universities or other similar fora; been elected to significant international academic bodies; served on advisory panels of leading international agencies and non-governmental organizations; and have performances or juried exhibitions.

Please consult the full [RSC Guide to Nominating Fellows](https://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/RSC%20Guide%20to%20Nominating%20Fellows%202025_5.pdf) for more information.

2.      College Membership nomination

                      i.     **Who is eligible?**Individuals who are:

* + Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents, and
  + Demonstrate a high level of achievement at an early-career stage (within 15 years of obtaining their PhD or equivalent qualification)

                     ii.     **Who makes a strong candidate?** Individuals who:

* + Have made original and significant impact to their discipline and/or communities nationally and/or internationally,
  + Have developed a national and international reputation for their practical or theoretical contributions to their field,
  + Have demonstrated excellence through awards and prizes for their scholarship, election to significant international scholarly bodies, publication in top-rated international and foreign journals, translation of technical papers or other materials into foreign languages, invitations to give named lectureships at foreign universities, service on scientific advisory panels of leading international agencies and NGOs, and like indicia (such as, in certain disciplines, citation indexes) of impact and reputation.

Please consult the full [RSC College member nomination procedure](https://rsc-src.ca/en/fellows-members/college-members/college-nominations/components-nomination) for more information.

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| **Expression of Interest – Preliminary Dossier for Internal Selection** |

Interested Faculty Members should discuss their potential nomination with their Dean and prepare their Preliminary Dossier using the templates provided. Please submit the complete Application Form and Dossier to Ewa Stewart, Grants Officer ([ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca)) by May 27, 2025.

**Fellowship Nomination Preliminary Dossier**

* Application Form with Checklist, signed by your Dean
* Short Citation – introduces the nominee and briefly summarizes the appraisal (70 words)
* Detailed Appraisal – a detailed description of the candidate’s exceptional achievements and impact (1,200 words)
* Recent Tri-Agency CV
* Names and contact information of Potential Referees and a brief justification for why each individual is an appropriate referee:
* 6 referees for Academy of Arts & Humanities
* 6 referees for Academy of Social Sciences
* 8 referees for Academy of Science

Please note: **Referees should be outstanding in their own right, with significant national and international reputations.**They should be experts in the candidate’s field. They should have direct knowledge of the candidate’s work and be able to describe the significance, impact and originality of the candidate’s career. International referees are valued, as the nominee’s national and international reputation is a primary determinant.

**Membership in the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists Preliminary Dossier**

* Application form with Checklist, signed by your Dean
* Short Citation – outlines the candidate’s original contributions to research and scholarship (70 words)
* Detailed Appraisal – a detailed description of the candidate’s achievements and impact (1200 words max)
* Candidate Statement – a brief reflection on how the candidate plans to contribute to the College in the seven-year term (500 words max)
* Current CV (10 pages max)
* List of Names & Contact Info for five potential referees and a brief justification for why each individual is an appropriate referee

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| **EOI Adjudication and Full Nomination Process** |

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by a **multi-disciplinary Selection Committee** comprised of a few Ontario Tech full professors and Office of Research Services representatives (non-voting).

The Selection Committee will review the submitted Preliminary Dossiers and select the two most competitive candidates to move forward to be nominated for Fellowship and the two most competitive candidates to be nominated for membership in the College.

The tentative timeline for development of the full nomination package is:

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|  | **Application Development Step** | **Due Date** |  |
|  | ORS will notify successful EOI candidates | By June 23, 2025 |  |
|  | Nominees to submit a Full Application Dossier Draft 1 to ORS | July 21, 2025 |  |
|  | ORS will provide feedback to the nominees to revise their application | August 1, 2025 |  |
|  | ORS will reach out to potential referees. (Please note that we will send confirmed referees the first draft nomination Dossier to inform their reference letter.) | August 1 – September 15, 2025 |  |
|  | Nominees to submit final Full Application Dossier to ORS | November 4, 2025 |  |
|  | Reference letters are due to ORS | October 1 – November 4, 2025 |  |
|  | ORS makes any final comments and nominees make final changes to nomination dossier | November 11, 2025 – December 1, 2025 |  |
|  | ORS will collate the Nominee’s Complete Nomination Dossier and submit to the RSC | ~December 15, 2025 (*RSC deadline hasn’t been set yet*) |  |
| **Questions?** | | | |

Ewa Stewart, Grants Officer

[ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca)

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## NSERC Discovery Horizons Grants

**Sponsor/agency:** NSERC

**Program:** [Discovery Horizons Grants](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/DH-HD_eng.asp)

**Description**

The [Discovery Horizons program](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/DH-HD_eng.asp) provides NSERC’s entry-point to the tri-agency interdisciplinary peer-review mechanism. It supports Discovery research projects that would significantly benefit from being assessed by a tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review committee, and aims to:

1. Answer NSE research questions that are best addressed through interdisciplinary approaches
2. Advance NSE disciplines through cross fertilization and new ways of thinking about research questions; ideas and frameworks; approaches and methods; platforms, tools and infrastructure; people, partners and trainees
3. Provide leading-edge NSE training for highly qualified personnel (HQP) in interdisciplinary research environments

**Program Summary**

**Deadlines:** **June 2, 2025:** ORS deadline for admin review + RGA (mandatory)

**June 16, 2025**: LOI Agency Deadline

**TBD:** ORS deadline for Full Application (by invitation only) administrative review

**October 20, 2025**: Full Application Agency Deadline

**Value:** From $50K to $100K per year (depending on team composition)

**Indirect Costs:** n/a

**Duration:** Up to 5 years

**How to Apply:**

Notify your grants officer of your intent to apply.

**Letter of Intent**

The LOI is mandatory and includes a brief summary (2,500 characters max) and responses to the four points below. Reviewers will assess program fit, to identify a limited number of LOI applicants who will be invited (no later than August 16) to submit a full application. The application is submitted *by****the applicant***through the [Convergence Portal](https://www.convergence.gc.ca/en/).

1. Explain how your project would benefit from being assessed by a tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review committee, as opposed to a joint review by [NSERC's Discovery Grants](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/grants-subs/dgigp-psigp_eng.asp) evaluation groups (1,000 characters max)
2. Demonstrate that the interdisciplinary approach is essential to achieving the project goals (1,000 characters max)
3. Describe how the interdisciplinary approach enriches HQP training (1,000 characters max)
4. Demonstrate that the interdisciplinary elements are integrated and inseparable (i.e., not sub-projects that could be reviewed on their own merit) (1,000 characters max)

See the [instructions for completing a letter of intent](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/convergence/Instructions-Instructions/DH-HD_eng.asp) for more details.

**Full Application**

Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal and will receive further guidance on application requirements with that invitation. Full applications will need to address [the selection criteria](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/DH-HD_eng.asp#:~:text=similarly%20ranked%20LOIs.-,Full%20application,-Full%20applications%20will)in a 10-page (max) research proposal.

**Contact:** **ORS Grants Officer**   
EAS: [joanne.hui@ntariotechu.ca](mailto:joanne.hui@ntariotechu.ca)

HSC, SCI: [raluca.dubrowski@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:raluca.dubrowski@ontariotechu.ca)

BIT, SSH, EDU: [ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:ewa.stewart@ontariotechu.ca) or [amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca) as of May 20, 2025

**NSERC Program Contact**   
 [horizons@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:horizons@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

**Program information:**

[Program Website](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/DH-HD_eng.asp)

**Webinars:** Please click on the links below to join the meetings hosted by NSERC. A short presentation of the program will precede a Q&A session. The webinar will be recorded and distributed after the session.

* [French session](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Y2MwOTBjNTMtOWY1OS00YWI2LTgxNDMtNDMxMGQyYTY1ZTRi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fbef0798-20e3-4be7-bdc8-372032610f65%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3db3a27-c5a4-43d8-876d-5ea36f589848%22%7d): May 20, 2025, 10:00 - 11:30 am ET
* [English session](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTZmYWMzZjQtNzlkOC00NDVjLTg1ZWQtZmE4NzI5MzMxNTMy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fbef0798-20e3-4be7-bdc8-372032610f65%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b3db3a27-c5a4-43d8-876d-5ea36f589848%22%7d): May 20, 2025, 12:00 - 1:30 pm ET

**Eligibility**

**Subject Matter**

An eligible proposal must meet **both of the following criteria**:

1. Its primary objective must be to advance knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering
2. It must integrate or transcend disciplines in ways that would significantly benefit from peer review by a tri-agency interdisciplinary committee

Note that **proposals that solely rely on the use of existing NSE methods and/or tools, while not advancing knowledge within an NSE field are not eligible** for Discovery Horizons.

The  [tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review committee](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52470.html) will assess projects submitted to all three federal granting agencies. Applications should be submitted to the agency that is responsible for the dominant research discipline(s) or area(s). Refer to  [Selecting the appropriate federal granting agency](http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FEE7261A-1), and the [Addendum to the guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/Addendum-Addenda_eng.asp) for further information.

Research involving Indigenous Peoples and communities is particularly welcome in Discovery Horizons. Such research can be in any field or discipline, but it must be conducted by, grounded in or engaged with First Nations, Inuit, Métis and/or urban Indigenous communities, societies and/or individuals.

Applications must indicate that the funds requested from the Discovery Horizons program will be for expenses that are distinct from those covered by support from other sources. For funding applied for, you must indicate that there will be no duplication of funding for the same expense(s) and explain how funds will be used if all applications are successful.

**If you have any concerns about applicant or subject matter eligibility, please contact your Grants Officer.**

**Applicant and co-applicants**

Individuals who plan on submitting a Discovery Grant NOI for the current competition may participate in a Discovery Horizons LOI as an applicant or co-applicant. However, they will need to choose which program they wish to pursue before proceeding to the full application stage, as a full application may be only submitted to one program.

Both individuals and teams may apply to the Discovery Horizons program. The applicant and any co-applicants must all be eligible to hold NSERC funding. One person must be designated to administer the grant; this person is the “applicant” and is responsible for completing and submitting the full application on behalf of the team.

Consult the [Eligibility requirements for faculty to apply for or hold grant funds](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Eligibility-Admissibilite/faculty-corpsprof_eng.asp) (Sections 1.1, 2.1, 3 and 4 for university faculty) to ensure that you can participate in this grant program as an applicant or a co-applicant. If you are an adjunct professor, see the Note on adjunct professors section.

While the research team is expected to have significant expertise in NSE research, not all members need to engage in research in the NSE. College faculty members who meet the relevant eligibility criteria can participate in Discovery Horizons as co-applicants. For an adjunct professor, the same eligibility requirements apply as the Discovery Grants program.

There are no requirements with respect to team size or composition. However, **individuals are only allowed to hold or apply for one Discovery Horizons grant as either an applicant or co-applicant. Additionally, individuals participating in a Discovery Horizons grant as an applicant or co-applicant cannot hold both a Discovery Grant and Discovery Horizons grant.**

Note that the applicant may add or remove invitations to co-applicants and collaborators at both phases of the application process (LOI and full application).

**Collaborators**

Collaborators contribute to the execution of research activities but do not have access to grant funds.

Any individual whose contributions to the project will be supervised by a member of the research team and/or by another collaborator cannot be considered a collaborator.

**Additional Information**

**Answers to frequently asked questions:**

1. Can applicants who hold a Discovery Grant submit a LOI to Discovery Horizons?

*Given the hyper competition seen in the first 2 years of the Discovery Horizons pilot (842 and 411 Letters of Intent received in year 1 and year 2) and the overall goals of the program, we aligned the Discovery Horizons pilot with the Discovery Grants program in year 3.* *Active DG holders are therefore not eligible. However, if their DG expires in 2025 or are automatically extended without additional NSERC funds they can apply to DH.*

1. Can applicant and co-applicant who hold a Discovery Horizons grant since 2022 and 2023 apply to Discovery Grants in future years?

*The change in eligibility is forward facing only, meaning that grantees from the 2022 and 2023 DH competition are still eligible to apply to the DG program while holding their DH grant.*

1. Can applicants who are applying for a Discovery Grant in Fall 2025 submit a LOI to Discovery Horizons?

*Individuals can apply to both programs, i.e. submit an LOI to DH and a NOI to DG, but those invited to submit a full proposal to DH will have to choose which program they would like to submit a full application, depending on the nature of the proposed research.*

1. Can applicants who hold a Discovery Development Grant submit a LOI to Discovery Horizons?

*Yes, those holding a Discovery Development Grant are eligible to apply for Discovery Horizons.*

1. Can co-applicants be from non-NSE disciplines (Economics, Sociology …)

*As long as the faculty members meet all eligibility requirements they can be from any departments. However, in the Discovery Horizons proposal, they must work towards advancing knowledge in the NSE.*

1. Can outstanding Discovery Grant installments be declined to accept Discovery Horizons funding?

*DG holders must terminate their DGs before the June 16th deadline for submission of a Letter of Intent to DH. Termination of a grant is final, should their DH LOI or application not be successful, they will not be able to reinstate their DG grant, nor will they be able to apply to the current DG competition. They will have to wait till next summer to apply to either DG or DH program again.*

1. Can applicants hold a Discovery Horizons and a Discovery Grant, Subatomic Physics (SAP) individual or SAP project fund?

*SAP Individual and SAP Project funds holders are not eligible to apply for DH.*

1. Is it mandatory for applicants to have research activities involving Indigenous peoples and communities?

*Applicants are welcome to submit applications involving Indigenous peoples and communities, but it is not a mandatory requirement for Discovery Horizons.*

1. Does the application need to have all three components: (1) social sciences and humanities, (2) natural sciences and engineering, and (3) health and wellness?

*No, Discovery Horizons applications must be rooted in the NSE and integrate elements from the social sciences and humanities and/or health and wellness.*

1. How does the Discovery Horizons Program and the Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review process differ from the interdisciplinary research funded under the New Frontiers in Research Fund?

*Although the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) was also created to fund interdisciplinary research in response to the Fundamental Science Review’s recommendations, it is focused on high-risk, high-reward, and fast-breaking research and supports research that proposes novel interdisciplinary approaches that bring together disciplines that do not traditionally work together. Please see the* [*New Frontiers in Research Fund website*](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/index-eng.aspx) *for more details. Discovery Horizons, as well the other funding opportunities reviewed by the Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee will complement NFRF by focusing instead on investigator-initiated interdisciplinary research projects that are aligned with the core funding programs at each of the three major funding councils, including research projects that use existing interdisciplinary approaches.*

1. Can I submit the same application to more than one of the funding opportunities participating in the Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee?

*No, applicants may not submit identical or essentially identical applications to more than one funding opportunity participating in the pilot of the Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee, NSERC’s Discovery Horizons, SSHRC’s Insight Grants and CIHR’s Project Grants. In addition, all applications must meet the eligibility requirements and guidelines of the funding opportunity to which they apply, including those related to multiple applications. As a result, it is important to consult the funding opportunity’s webpage.*

1. How do I determine which funding opportunity to apply in order to have my application reviewed by the Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee?

*Applicants should apply to the agency funding opportunity that supports the dominant research area of the proposal.*

1. Will interdisciplinary applications that fall entirely within the research areas of one agency be considered by the Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee?

*No, applications that fall entirely within the research areas of one agency should be directed towards existing committees or evaluation groups, based on the practice and criteria of each agency. For example, interdisciplinary research solely within the natural sciences and engineering, with no social science, humanities, health, and/or wellness components should be directed towards another NSERC program, such as the Discovery Grants Program.*

1. Can a non-NSE applicant be the lead applicant on the Discovery Horizons Application?

*Assuming that they meet all the eligibility criteria, yes a non-NSE researcher together with NSE researcher(s) may be eligible to apply for an NSERC Discovery Horizons grant as long as the research activities proposed respond to the three objectives of the NSERC Discovery Horizons pilot Program. For eligibility related questions you may contact* [*ELIGIBILITY@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA*](mailto:ELIGIBILITY@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA)

**Resources**

* [tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review mechanism](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52470.html)
* [Instructions for completing the letter of intent](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/convergence/Instructions-Instructions/DH-HD_eng.asp)
* [Instructions for completing a full application](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/convergence/Instructions-Instructions/DHFull-HDFull_eng.asp) (will be updated in August 2025)
* [Peer review guide – Tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review committee](https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52544.html)
* [Selecting the appropriate federal granting agency](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html)
* [Addendum to the guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/Addendum-Addenda_eng.asp)
* [Guidelines for the preparation and review of applications in interdisciplinary research](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/prepInterdiscip-prepInterdiscip_eng.asp)
* [Guidelines for the preparation and review of applications in engineering and the applied sciences](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/prepEngAS-prepGenSA_eng.asp)
* [NSERC guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/EDI_guidance-Conseils_EDI_eng.asp)

## New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) 2025 Exploration Competition

**Sponsor/agency:** NFRF

**Program:** [Exploration Competition](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx)

**Description**

The goal of the [Exploration stream](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx) is to inspire **high-risk**, **high-reward** and **interdisciplinary** research.

Exploration grants support research that pushes boundaries into exciting new areas. Researchers are encouraged to think “outside of the box,” undertake research that would defy current paradigms, and bring disciplines together in unexpected ways and from bold, innovative perspectives. With the Exploration stream, there is recognition that innovation often carries risk; proposals for high-risk research projects that have the potential to deliver game-changing impacts are strongly encouraged.

Exploration stream grants support projects that:

* **bring disciplines together** beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches;
* propose to **explore something new**, which **might fail**; and
* have the **potential for significant impact**.

**Program Summary**

**Deadlines:** **TBD:** ORS deadline to submit NOI in the Convergence Portal (no RGA required)

**August 19, 2025**: NOI Agency Deadline

**TBD:** ORS deadline for administrative review

**October 21, 2025**: Full Application Agency Deadline

**Value:** Up to $125,000 per year ($100,000 for direct costs; $25,000 for overhead)

**Indirect Costs:** $25,000

**Duration:** Up to 2 years

**How to Apply:**

* 1. Notify your grants officer of your intent to apply.
  2. All applicants must complete the notice of intent to apply and submit a full application through the [Convergence Portal](https://www.convergence.gc.ca/).
  3. See the [Notice of Intent to Apply Guide](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/guide_NOI-guide_AIPD-eng.aspx)and the [Full Application Guide](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4)for more information. Other useful resources to assist in the completion of your application include [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx)and the [evaluation matrices](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx).

**Contact:** **ORS Grants Officer**   
Amber Zapletal ([amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca))

**NFRF Program Contact**   
[NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca](mailto:NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca)

**Program information:**

[Program Website](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#9)

[FAQs](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/faq-eng.aspx)

[NOI webinar](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx) – May 22, 2025 1:00pm (ET) (English Session), 10:00am (ET) French Session

[Full application webinar](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx) – September 9, 2025 1:00pm (ET)

**Eligibility**

**Subject Matter**

Exploration grants support projects that are high risk, high reward and interdisciplinary. They may involve disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for funding across the three agencies.  Applications are encouraged from all Faculties.

To meet the minimum requirement to be considered interdisciplinary, a proposed research project must combine elements from at least two different disciplines (as defined by a [group-level classification](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/CRDC_Web_EF.xlsx) based on the [Canadian Research and Development Classification](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/crdc-ccrd-eng.aspx)). Note that projects that integrate two disciplines with a long and established tradition of working together (e.g., biology and chemistry or psychology and education) may satisfy the above requirement but not meet the expectations of the program. The onus is on the applicant to explain the novelty of the interdisciplinary approach to justify the fit to program. Interdisciplinarity is evaluated by a multidisciplinary review panel.

Applications for projects that are the same or similar, in whole or in part, to ones that have been funded by other federal research granting agency programs should not be submitted to the NFRF program. Applications for projects the same as or similar to projects that have been unsuccessful in receiving funding from other agency programs may be submitted to the NFRF program in cases where the lack of success is due to the high-risk and/or interdisciplinary nature of the project, rather than limited funds in a highly competitive pool.

**Applicant**

To encourage projects that push the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, proposals must be submitted by research teams with at least two individuals. In addition to a [nominated principal investigator](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4c) (NPI), the team must include either a [co-principal investigator](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4d) (co-PI) or a [co-applicant](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4e). Teams may include one co-PI and any number of co-applicants and/or [collaborators](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4f).

To ensure that Exploration grants support high-risk, high-reward projects across the broadest spectrum of disciplines, individuals can participate in **only one application of the NFRF Exploration grants stream** at a time, as either an NPI, co-PI or co-applicant. If an NPI, co-PI or co-applicant also had such a role on a previous Exploration grant-funded project**, their final report for the previous project must be submitted and approved at least one month before the full application deadline for the present Exploration competition**. Should the final report from a previous grant not be submitted, the individual(s) will be removed from the application, and the application may be removed if the research team no longer meets minimum requirements. These restrictions do not apply to collaborators, to the NFRF Transformation and International streams, or to special calls. An individual may simultaneously apply for or be an award holder as a NPI, co-PI or co-applicant for grants under separate streams (Exploration, Transformation, International and special calls).

Other research team members, such as trainees (graduate and other students, postdoctoral fellows, etc.) and research personnel (research associates, technicians, etc.), can participate in the project’s research activities, but are not invited as participants through the Convergence Portal.

A proposal is considered to be led by early career researchers (ECRs) if both the NPI and co-PI (if applicable) are ECRs. An ECR is a researcher within five years from the start date of their first research-related appointment, minus the length of any eligible delays in research (e.g., illness, maternity, parental), as of the first day of the month in which the competition is launched (April 1, 2025, for this Exploration competition), where:

* “research-related appointments” are defined as those where an individual has the autonomy to conduct research independently;
* all eligible leaves (e.g., maternity, parental, medical, bereavement) are credited at twice the amount of time taken; and
* professional leaves (e.g., training, sabbatical, administrative) are not credited.

Research interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., closures) are recognized as, and may be counted as, an eligible delay (credited at twice the amount of time) beginning March 1, 2020.

If a first academic appointment was a part-time appointment/position, years of experience are counted at 50%, until the researcher’s appointment to a full-time academic position. More details are available in the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/faq-eng.aspx).

**Co-applicants**

Co-applicants contribute to the execution of the research project, and their related research activities may be supported by grant funds.

Co-applicants may be, but are not limited to, researchers and professors, practitioners, policy-makers, educators, decision-makers, health-care administrators, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, community leaders, or individuals working for a charity. If the co-applicant is a researcher or professor, they **must** be considered an [independent researcher](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4c1).

Co-applicants may be affiliated with a Canadian or international organization, but **must not** be affiliated with a federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government department or a for-profit organization. Students, postdoctoral fellows and research associates are **not eligible** to participate as co-applicants.

**Collaborators**

Collaborators contribute to the execution of research activities, but their research activities are not supported by grant funds.

Collaborators do not need to be affiliated with an eligible institution. Any individual who will contribute to the project is eligible to be a collaborator.

Collaborators may include individuals affiliated with a federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government department or a for-profit organization. They may also be affiliated with a Canadian or international organization.

Any individual whose contributions to the project will be supervised by the NPI, co-PI, co-applicant and/or another collaborator cannot be considered a collaborator.

**Resources**

* [Notice of Intent to Apply Guide](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/guide_NOI-guide_AIPD-eng.aspx)
* [Full Application Guide](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4)
* [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx)
* [Merit Indicators](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx)
* [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/faq-eng.aspx)

## NSERC - ECCC Call for Proposals on Plastics Science and Innovation for a Cleaner and More Sustainable Future

**Sponsor/agency:** [NSERC](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index_eng.asp) (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) and [ECCC](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change.html) (Environment and Climate Change Canada)

**Program:** Plastics Science and Innovation for a Cleaner and More Sustainable Future

**Description**

NSERC and ECCC are collaborating to advance scientific knowledge to achieve Canada’s zero plastic waste targets and inform the advancement of plastics science policy and regulatory measures. The NSERC – ECCC Call for proposals on Plastics Science and Innovation for a Cleaner and More Sustainable Future aligns with [Canada’s Plastics Science Agenda](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/canada-science-plastic-agenda.html)and the Government of Canada’s [Science assessment of plastic pollution](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html). This is an important element of Canada’s comprehensive [Zero Plastic Waste](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/reduce-plastic-waste.html)agenda.

This call focuses on research that advances the science around plastic designs and alternatives, the sustainable use of plastics, and plastic waste diversion and recovery. It builds on a previous collaboration to support research to detect and characterize plastics in the environment and the exposure and effects of plastics on wildlife and human health.

* **Theme 1:** Detection, quantification and characterization of plastics in the environment
* **Theme 2:** Impacts on Wildlife, Human Health and the Environment
* **Theme 3:** Plastic Design and Alternatives
* **Theme 4:** Sustainable Use of Plastics
* **Theme 5:** Waste Diversion and Recovery

**Program Summary**

**Deadlines:** **May 1, 2025:** ORS internal Administrative Review and [Research Grants Authorization (RGA) Form](https://shared.ontariotechu.ca/shared/department/research/documents/policies-and-procedure-form/rga-form-e-signatures.docx) deadline

**May 15, 2025:** NSERC deadline 8:00 p.m. (ET)

**September 18, 2025 (*if invited*):** NSERC deadline 8:00 p.m. (ET). *For those invited to submit a full application, a timeline for a comprehensive review will be provided.*

**Value:** $50,000 to $200,000 per year

**Indirect Costs:** N/A

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

**How to Apply:**

1. Notify your grants officer of your intent to apply as soon as possible.
2. Submit your letter of intent (LOI) created via the [NSERC’s online system](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp) and [Research Grants Authorization (RGA) Form](https://shared.ontariotechu.ca/shared/department/research/documents/policies-and-procedure-form/rga-form-e-signatures.docx) signed by your Dean to [joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca) for an Administrative Review by **May 1, 2025**.
   * 1. Note: you must use the provided [LOI template](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/ECCC-ECCC/_docs/LOI-Template-INDEX-e.docx). The [LOI template](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/ECCC-ECCC/_docs/LOI-Template-INDEX-e.docx) (**5 pages maximum, excluding references**) must be uploaded as the Proposal attachment in the Form 101. Applicants and co-applicants must also provide their personal data form with CCV attachment (NSERC – Form 100A)
3. The principal applicant must submit your letter of intent (LOI) to NSERC via [NSERC’s online system](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp) by **May 15, 2025, before 8:00 p.m. (ET)**

**Contact:** ORS Grants Officer: [joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:joanne.hui@ontariotechu.ca)

NSERC Program Contact: [RP-Initiatives-PR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:RP-Initiatives-PR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca?subject=NSERC-ECCC:)

**Program information:**

[**Call for Proposals on Plastics Science and Innovation for a Cleaner and More Sustainable Future**](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/ECCC-ECCC/index_eng.asp)

**Eligibility**

**Subject Matter**

The proposed research project must address at least one of the following  [Canada’s Plastics Science Agenda (CaPSA)](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/canada-science-plastic-agenda.html) themes:

* **Theme 1: Detection, quantification and characterization of plastics in the environment**

Studies that generate new or build on the existing body of scientific research from Theme 1:

Where research was previously undertaken to strengthen the science concerning Theme 1, focused research that complements and furthers this knowledge is encouraged. For example, alignment of methodologies and comparability of data for identifying and assessing the toxicity of plastics; enhanced methods to monitor and detect different types of macroplastics, microplastics and nanoplastics.

* **Theme 2: Impacts on Wildlife, Human Health and the Environment**

Advancing scientific knowledge of the current research under Theme 2:

Research that complements and furthers knowledge about the impacts of plastics on wildlife, human health and/or the environment in various ecosystems (e.g., terrestrial) and/or compartments (e.g., air); risk assessment frameworks on the impacts of plastics and plastic additives on key indictor/receptor species; risks from plastic particles and chemicals, etc.

* **Theme 3: Plastic Design and Alternatives**

1. Investigating plastic designs and alternatives from sustainably sourced materials that are also less harmful/toxic to the environment and humans:  
     
   Research that aims to better understand the potential environmental impacts of alternatives to conventional plastics. For example, improving our understanding of biodegradation and developing appropriate testing methods; exploring and assessing the entire life cycle of a broader range of bio-based materials, from raw material extraction to end-of-life disposal; and assessing potential scenarios and suitability of applications of bioplastics in various sectors, including the innovation and use of second and third generation feedstocks.
2. Improving end-of-life options, including greater value retention (e.g., reuse, repair, remanufacturing, recycling and composting) to lessen environmental impacts, reduce waste and enable circularity:  
     
   Research that aims to better understand and improve end-of-life value retention prospects of plastics and alternatives through design. For example, improving value retention (remanufacture, refurbishment) outcomes for plastics; establishing a plastics classification system that improves retention prospects.

* **Theme 4: Sustainable Use of Plastics**

Contributing knowledge to inter-disciplinary sustainability science on the interactions affecting the use, needs and behaviours concerning plastics and the impacts on humans and the environment:  
  
Research that aims to generate knowledge about the inter-disciplinary impacts of plastics, behavioural insights, as well as the challenge of sustainability, to meet the needs of present and future generations to maximize societal benefits, including the social, economic, health, and environmental factors, while minimizing harm. For example, behavioural insights research on the use of plastics, plastic alternatives, or reducing plastic use, etc.; research that spans multiple, integrated disciplines such as, but not limited to, behavioural science, food science, human health, and plastics science, to investigate the impacts of plastic packaging on bacteria growth and foodborne illnesses.

* **Theme 5: Waste Diversion and Recovery**

1. Examining the supplementary or cumulative impacts of recycled/reusable plastics:  
     
   Research that addresses the effects/impacts of recycled and reusable plastics and the potential harms via exposure to these plastics. For example, studies about the toxicity/harms of recycled plastics and the risks from microplastics, additives, or contaminants under varying conditions (e.g., hot, cold, acidic, etc.).
2. Generating new knowledge and improving techniques on the removal of plastics from various environmental compartments:  
     
   Research that aims to understand, assess and improve the removal of nanoplastics and microplastics from the environment (soil, water, air). For example, microplastic removal during wastewater treatment; improving our understanding of the underlying mechanisms of microplastics biodegradation in the environment.

**Applicant/Co-Applicant**

* Canadian university researchers working as a team or in partnership with private, not-for-profit or public-sector collaborators;
* College faculty can participate as co-applicants.
* Researchers can only be on ONE application as an applicant or co-applicant.
* Academic researchers in fields other than the NSE can co-applicants for this call if they meet [NSERC’s eligibility criteria for faculty](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/eligibility-admissibilite/faculty-corpsprof_eng.asp). **Research costs for these collaborations can represent up to 30% of the total project costs and must be specifically identified in the project budget justification**.

**Partner Organization**

You may involve partnering organizations in your project. Your partner organizations can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors. **However, for the purposes of this funding call, foreign companies will not be accepted**. Cash contributions are not required. However, each partner organization must actively play a role in the project and support it through in-kind contributions.

The [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/national-security-guidelines-research-partnerships) apply to NSERC grant applications involving one or more partner organizations from the private sector, including when they participate alongside other partner organizations from the public and/or not-for-profit sectors. For such partnerships, you and your post-secondary institution are required to complete a [risk assessment form](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/national-security-guidelines-research-partnership/national-security-guidelines-research-partnerships-risk-assessment-form) for your research project and submit it as an integral part of your Alliance application.

**Additional Information**

Please note that funding recipients could be asked to participate in ECCC’s Plastics Science Symposium in Ottawa, ON, and should build travel costs into their proposal.

Instructions for submitting your LOI documents and information to NSERC:

1. Log in to [NSERC’s online system](https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm) and select Form 101 - Grant from the drop-down menu
2. Select Research partnerships programs, then Alliance grants
3. For the Proposal type field, select Letter of Intent
4. For the Type of call field, select [ECCC - Plastics] from the drop-down menu
5. Complete the sections of Form 101 for the letter of intent (LOI)

**Resources**

* [NSERC’s online system](https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm)
* [Canada’s Plastics Science Agenda (CaPSA)](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/canada-science-plastic-agenda.html)

## SSHRC Destination Horizon

**Sponsor/agency:** SSHRC

**Program:** [Destination Horizon](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx)

**\*Please note there is a mandatory internal NOI step for this opportunity as Ontario Tech can submit a maximum of 3 applications.**

**Description**

SSHRC has launched a new funding opportunity called the [Destination Horizon Grants](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx). Valued at $15,000 for one year, these grants are intended to support researchers affiliated with eligible Canadian postsecondary institutions to build capacity, foster existing partnerships, and further develop networks and/or consortia with European Union and other “[associated countries](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en)” researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to [Horizon Europe—Pillar II calls for proposals](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/ised/en/horizon-europe).

This funding opportunity follows the [agreement signed by the Government of Canada and the European Commission](https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2024/07/03/joint-statement-prime-minister-trudeau-and-president-von-der-ley) allowing for increased Canadian participation in Horizon Europe under Pillar 2. This agreement provides Canadians with greater access to Horizon Europe.

Destination Horizon Grants proposals are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/umbrella_programs-programme_cadre/connection-connexion-eng.aspx) and **must be led by an applicant whose main area of research is in a social sciences and humanities discipline, and the proposed research must involve disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding and align with** [**SSHRC subject matter eligibility**](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx)**.**

Destination Horizon Grants are not intended to support implementation of Horizon Europe projects. Instead, the grants support activities between researchers that facilitate:

* disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges;
* scholarly exchanges;
* intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
* international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges between researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions and researchers, students and non-academic partners from the EU and other associated countries.

**Program Summary**

**Deadlines:** **September 2, 2025:** Mandatory ORS Notice of Intent (NOI) deadline

**September 15, 2025:** Mandatory ORS internal administrative review deadline. Please submit the complete application and signed RGA form

**September 22, 2025:** External SSHRC deadline for full application. Application must be submitted by 9 am (ET) in the Convergence Portal

**Value:** Up to $15,000  
**100% cash match required from host institution**

**Indirect Costs:** n/a

**Duration:** 1 year

**How to Apply:**

1. Notify [Amber Zapletal](mailto:amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca) of your intent to apply.
2. Review the [program guidelines](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx), including the eligibility requirements.
3. Discuss your intent to apply with your Faculty Dean and secure required [cash matching contributions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx#3) (see below for details).
4. Submit internal NOI form signed by your Dean by September 2, 2025
5. Applicants will be notified by September 5 whether they have been selected to move forward to the national competition.
6. Submit application and RGA form signed by your Dean to your grant officer by September 15 for administrative review.
7. Prepare and submit an application through the [Convergence Portal](https://prod.auth.convergence.gc.ca/prodconv.onmicrosoft.com/b2c_1a_shz_signup_signin_mfa/oauth2/v2.0/authorize?client_id=06355998-a224-46e5-a6a9-fa5e6272fe2f&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.convergence.gc.ca%2Fsignin-aad-b2c_1&response_type=code%20id_token&scope=openid&state=OpenIdConnect.AuthenticationProperties%3DuOzMkC7MocqAm2wpY9JbgCPJxrFzZ0KRUcgJkHIobqfABeyeCx8y1X01dMt9L6b-fBj7_kUYLDpk3gLpcO3KWD0iT0_WT9Le4PXAe0Mf3ZNWbsH8eNu0GQLg7H8hgrGzm-QxYidPm5jGPTCnALsUwU8h9beuw4mbv0kAB5ULT_x6175NrUptGIcBgqZYcUmYRymZBLtQBcWyHhC2MtjyCKDuhB8Lf57eR_LtKDA3pH4IMi9H0rH9Fo7SNG-XByQ2xZ-zjRypYcU7ahKaaG8XfNOf5brRC8TmQq_UJo9HKN-Uc6M8zshBOC5il78aPbYntKTPsBGmB0o1CvrC5rEYBu_fzTjmniloKr2oN5zoze6lFTvU9Al45-Q-JcX6KdgmMQ6wuCCjN2kKMfnomPF2st1R2E3uJOBnuBHyArd5nuEqFOI6xmZMvKOOt8xzEQNVIP7pw08OA9egpqw1dhDYRdWscRHb51FKQhh2hG5ryYo&response_mode=form_post&nonce=638690066171752860.ZjdkODIyOWEtNGQxNS00NWMzLTk4MjktNDcxMTdmMWMyNWI5NTBkMzJiYTAtOWRiZi00NGZlLWJiOWYtMWI2MjVhMTUzNGQw&ui_locales=en-US&x-client-SKU=ID_NET472&x-client-ver=6.35.0.0) following the [application instructions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/destination-horizon/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx).

**Contact:** **ORS Grants Officer**   
Amber Zapletal ([amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca))

SSHRC Program Contact   
[partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

**Program information:**

[Program Website](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx)

**Internal Ontario Tech Selection Process**

Since Ontario Tech can only submit three applications per deadline to SSHRC, we are implementing a mandatory internal Notice of Intent step to assess potential applicants’ eligibility for the program and, if necessary, select three applications to submit to the national competition. A Grants Officer will review submitted NOIs for program eligibility and if more than three eligible applications are submitted, ORS will randomly select the three applications to move forward to the national competition (in line with [SSHRC’s selection process](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx#6) for this program). If SSHRC continues this pilot program in 2026, any eligible applicants not selected to move forward in the current round will be given priority to apply in the subsequent round.

Please complete the attached Notice of Intent form, including the Dean’s signature to show approval of faculty cash matching contributions, and submit to [Amber Zapletal](mailto:amber.zapletal@ontariotechu.ca) by September 2, 2025

**Eligibility**

**Subject Matter**

Most SSHRC funding is awarded through open competitions. Proposals can involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding. See the guidelines on [subject matter eligibility](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx) for more information.

Projects whose primary objective is to conduct research activities (e.g., literature reviews, field work, data collection, interviews) are not eligible for funding under this funding opportunity.

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must demonstrate:

* their eligible affiliation and primary affiliation in the social sciences or humanities;
* their readiness to further develop networks and/or consortia with EU and other associated countries’ researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to a Horizon Europe—Pillar II call;
* eligible budget requests; and
* 100% matching cash contributions from the host institution.

**Applicant**

Applications can be submitted by an individual researcher or a team of researchers (consisting of one [applicant](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a1) and one or more [co-applicants](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a4) and/or [collaborators](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a5)).

Applicants must be affiliated with a [Canadian postsecondary institution](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/policies-politiques/statements-enonces/institutional_eligibility-admissibilite_etablissements-eng.aspx) that holds institutional eligibility at the time of application. Researchers who maintain an affiliation with a Canadian institution that holds institutional eligibility, but whose primary affiliation is with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution, are not eligible for [applicant](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a1) status.

Applicants who have received a SSHRC grant of any type but have failed to submit an [achievement report](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/using-utiliser/achievement-realisation/reports-rapports-eng.aspx) by the deadline specified in their Notice of Award are not eligible to apply for another SSHRC grant until they have submitted the report.

**Postdoctoral researchers** and **students** are not eligible for applicant or co-applicant status for a Destination Horizon Grant.

**Federal scientists** affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution must demonstrate that their proposed research or research-related activity is not related to either the mandate of their employer or the normal duties for which they receive payment from that employer.

If the proposal falls within the mandate of the federal government and the research or research-related activity is performed in government facilities, funding can only be allocated for student salaries, stipends and travel costs.

**Co-Applicant**

Individuals are eligible to be [co-applicants](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a4) if they are formally affiliated with any of the following:

* Canadian: eligible postsecondary institution; not-for-profit organization; philanthropic foundation; think tank; or municipal, territorial or provincial government.
* International: postsecondary institution.

**Additional Information**

**Multiple applications and holding multiple awards**

Individuals can, as an [applicant](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a1), only hold one Destination Horizon Grant. There is no limit to how many competitions an individual, as an applicant, may apply to.

A postsecondary institution may only submit up to three Destination Horizon Grant applications for a given deadline.

**Resources**

* [Destination Horizon Grant Program Guidelines](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/destination_horizon-eng.aspx)
* [Application Instructions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/destination-horizon/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx)
* [Guidelines for Effective Research Training](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/policies-politiques/effective_research_training-formation_en_recherche_efficace-eng.aspx)
* [Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/policies-politiques/knowledge_mobilisation-mobilisation_des_connaissances-eng.aspx)
* [Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/policies-politiques/cash_inkind-especes_en_nature-eng.aspx)
* SSHRC’s [Indigenous Research Statement of Principles](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/policies-politiques/statements-enonces/aboriginal_research-recherche_autochtone-eng.aspx) and [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/merit_review-evaluation_du_merite/guidelines_research-lignes_directrices_recherche-eng.aspx) for applications involving [Indigenous research](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a11)
* [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp)

## Mitacs Accelerate

**Deadline**: Continuous Intake

*\*A hard copy of the complete application package and a* [*Research Grant/Contract Authorization (RGA) Form*](https://shared.uoit.ca/shared/department/research/documents/Research-Grant-Authorization-August-2011.doc) *with all required signatures* ***must*** *be submitted to the ORS contact.*

**Description:** Through Mitacs-Accelerate, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from over 50 universities apply their specialized expertise to business-related research challenges. Armed with the very latest tools, techniques, and innovations, the intern (a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow) brings a new perspective to a problem faced by an industry partner.

* Interns spend approximately half of the time on-site with the industry partner; the remainder is spent at the university advancing the research under the guidance of a faculty supervisor.
* Open to all disciplines and all industry sectors, projects can span a wide range of areas, including: manufacturing, technical innovation, business prOCIsses, IT, social sciences, design, and more.

**Eligibility:**  The intern must be a graduate student or post-doctoral fellow enrolled at a Canadian university. Eligible PDF’s must (1) have completed all requirements of his/her first doctoral degree no more than five years before the application submission date; and (2) be officially accepted for post-doctoral studies at a Canadian university.

Effective January 2015, Accelerate is open to both for-profit businesses and not-for-profit (NFP) organizations, such as industry associations, charitable organizations, and economic development organizations. All projects in collaboration with an NFP partner must demonstrate an economic or productivity orientation. Examples include creating new jobs, reducing costs of goods or services, or increasing productivity in an industry. Eligibility of applications involving Not For Profit organizations should be discussed with Mitacs in advance of submission.

Organizations which are not eligible to be partners include:

* Funding agencies
* University-based research centres
* Foreign companies

**Value:** Each 4-month internship project receives $15,000 in direct funding, with the partner organization and Mitacs each providing $7,500. The $15,000 will be provided to the intern’s academic supervisor as a research grant. It is required that the intern receive a stipend of a minimum of $10,000 of the total grant per 4-month internship. Any funds over and above the intern stipend will be used to support research related to the internship.

**Details:** <https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate>

**Contact:** If you have any questions, or are interested in applying, please contact Hayley McKay, Mitacs Business Development Advisor at [hmckay@mitacs.ca](mailto:hmckay@mitacs.ca) or your Faculty Grants Officer.

NSERC Alliance Grants

[**Alliance Advantage**](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/index_eng.asp) **(formerly Alliance Option 1)**

We would like to bring your attention to the [Alliance Advantage resources webpage](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013oSUw36kEiNfZq3Dy9kD_PM5jHd2s4wGkaHgP0V3TyQQ7rG4-39ZyW4bKU3Apw3eeCt_r3VpSrGLkYrgHV3h9YwTkKJXakapM-YAP8b-AIJSh3K4wYO_2MY8aaCYN4pyXjmeqyEP_25vgKoc-uqC7fiV7GGfu2CWmgp114Mwixq0Tuwk4N5uZn1rYTbBF2uY1fvqLag1Wfe-WqaIUx5XKK6S6EKbOtApOF9N4cL2XDmTri5kmqVlfA==&c=_xlVlPyN1RStxWmkYdbf1TJTB9VyMUEtHVfsb17ngFRUT7TlxocOcQ==&ch=C-9ylrYTz6GRO_jTf6Dx-CdJrzB6epkPG18namqZyCJkRUIVAnRG5Q==) that has a number of resources that are available to support you in preparing an Alliance proposal, which are outlined below. In addition to the [Frequently asked questions](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013oSUw36kEiNfZq3Dy9kD_PM5jHd2s4wGkaHgP0V3TyQQ7rG4-39ZyTvoYRqd0T7wowsatPq88A2yWu7fj8W2VhO1egjCfN3KetbRBwryV2wWulYAggmbQLzYniA40dPSK28AMe8mZzCcZywanE7pkkL0odqOWJg1pBPoAWt1MZQOwgylY9huCpYOEm7mn1leJAfiaJKyXhzxBgjhJEIq7BACQTM6QN2x&c=_xlVlPyN1RStxWmkYdbf1TJTB9VyMUEtHVfsb17ngFRUT7TlxocOcQ==&ch=C-9ylrYTz6GRO_jTf6Dx-CdJrzB6epkPG18namqZyCJkRUIVAnRG5Q==) webpage, [NSERC staff](mailto:Alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca) also remain available to answer any questions you may have.

[Alliance grant application checklist](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013oSUw36kEiNfZq3Dy9kD_PM5jHd2s4wGkaHgP0V3TyQQ7rG4-39ZyW4bKU3Apw3eAihSWU4HNuIVjcc7RSjTmvXxVlkHov0VjsRRXmnHHj-aQAuL0aXxzTpR38QuDmixeV-Miaz6zz-lV3Ko-pCjAa-qs9en_W_i8oawv9hHVvKFALiyyRX6I8Nhz-LXvw_sJQxoQpc_k_g_-51gMyNbGQ==&c=_xlVlPyN1RStxWmkYdbf1TJTB9VyMUEtHVfsb17ngFRUT7TlxocOcQ==&ch=C-9ylrYTz6GRO_jTf6Dx-CdJrzB6epkPG18namqZyCJkRUIVAnRG5Q==)

[Equity, diversity and inclusion in the training plan](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013oSUw36kEiNfZq3Dy9kD_PM5jHd2s4wGkaHgP0V3TyQQ7rG4-39ZyW4bKU3Apw3eha3u5ApsI7yECaAwzTBibm7JGnWbkpyvPo5MBQJVFjKmCVtTuBJmJAIvN7F0IyabWF_no9jNz3lskzOVJ4Ll-9BsH1qec0KumKpGojJy23JqJ90CwZ_YlY0t0REEeKpDrYqyM-siqCc=&c=_xlVlPyN1RStxWmkYdbf1TJTB9VyMUEtHVfsb17ngFRUT7TlxocOcQ==&ch=C-9ylrYTz6GRO_jTf6Dx-CdJrzB6epkPG18namqZyCJkRUIVAnRG5Q==)

[Partner organization self-assessment tool](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013oSUw36kEiNfZq3Dy9kD_PM5jHd2s4wGkaHgP0V3TyQQ7rG4-39ZyW4bKU3Apw3etMHIF2mcrKOIrAwrkRq-BIsUyMgfFfHGwzv1j94jieK6hK4U6d5FNWolUl-exFI7v-7Tq_qvsUo39rx91uNZyYrZMZocFGRf5hpqXZ6tt8ZrQAdh7tESmPMObhLTr0SdHJpUXUQDlNJQ41vFSgeoE9KmLOh0pf0Z&c=_xlVlPyN1RStxWmkYdbf1TJTB9VyMUEtHVfsb17ngFRUT7TlxocOcQ==&ch=C-9ylrYTz6GRO_jTf6Dx-CdJrzB6epkPG18namqZyCJkRUIVAnRG5Q==)

[Instructions to external reviewers](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/instructions_external_reviewers-instructions_evaluatrices_evaluateurs_externes_eng.asp)

[**Alliance Society**](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/Alliance_society-Alliance_societe/index_eng.asp) **(formerly Alliance Option 2)**

To support you in preparing an Alliance Society proposal, NSERC has a [Alliance Society resource webpage](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/Alliance_society-Alliance_societe/resources-ressources_eng.asp)that helps applicants and partner organizations determine whether the project they are envisioning meets the requirements. In addition, the Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP) Selection Committee Review Instructions are now available online. This will help applicants understand how the committee determines whether Alliance Society applications meet the characteristics and whether they will proceed to the next step of the evaluation.

[Alliance Society overview pamphlet](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013oSUw36kEiNfZq3Dy9kD_PM5jHd2s4wGkaHgP0V3TyQQ7rG4-39ZyTvoYRqd0T7wtEcscu5ZTKJpv7LFfpOfE5SiOeKSk4t3CdItfXOKFAy3LgXY6AqL9FxT-bFSPEy2gL3wl3y-qH0pduL53vIj41qbbMwRA0l69673jS_Y5ARHuN6BMBIH883LAmMbza6ApFufGJfHDo9HrZRXo-Qqcw==&c=_xlVlPyN1RStxWmkYdbf1TJTB9VyMUEtHVfsb17ngFRUT7TlxocOcQ==&ch=C-9ylrYTz6GRO_jTf6Dx-CdJrzB6epkPG18namqZyCJkRUIVAnRG5Q==)

[Alliance Society public impact value proposition (PIVP) selection committee review instructions](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013oSUw36kEiNfZq3Dy9kD_PM5jHd2s4wGkaHgP0V3TyQQ7rG4-39ZyTvoYRqd0T7w7PW8rhaXddE8rhk73SfbhCRlCxvirn8CaF3VJeYTaz2gnmo6D1BkFyyjq7VQB1Gn4ApXZQFvW4SmVlQitkArLuzMUPX0SRrfdjLwoTRlaqPINkTqotufIP_QpFrYaHaFIKxQgLnzQTgWtrauTx8IXwOexbkBhuvtpgGIQHMpLq5Uuie6-EGJAg==&c=_xlVlPyN1RStxWmkYdbf1TJTB9VyMUEtHVfsb17ngFRUT7TlxocOcQ==&ch=C-9ylrYTz6GRO_jTf6Dx-CdJrzB6epkPG18namqZyCJkRUIVAnRG5Q==)

**Updates to Alliance Grants and literature**

The Alliance literature was recently updated on December 5, 2023 to reflect program changes. It aims to streamline and clarify various points, as well as to provide access to additional resources based on feedback and questions from the community. Key changes are summarized below, but we strongly encourage you to review the updated literature before submitting an application.

**Updates (see** [**link**](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/NewsDetail-DetailNouvelles_eng.asp?ID=1433) **for Latest news)**

* The **page limits for proposals** have been revised, as shown in the “Proposal sections and length” table in the [Instructions for completing an application](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/101/alliance_eng.asp)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Section | Average annual request | | |
|  | **Suggested number of pages per section** | | |
|  | **Up to $75,000/year\*** | **$75,001 to $300,000/year** | **$300,001 to $1,000,000/year** |
| **Background** | 0.5 | 0.75 | 1 |
| **Partnership** | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| **Research plan** | 1.5 | 4 | 11 |
| **Team** | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| **Training plan\*\*** | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| **Impacts and benefits to Canada** | 1 | 1.25 | 2 |
|  | **Maximum total number of pages** | | |
|  | 7 | 11 | 27 |
| **Public impact value proposition (PIVP): Alliance Society applications only** | Add three pages to the maximum above for the PIVP (see [proposal template](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/alliance/Proposal_Template-Alliance_Grants2_e.docx)) | | |

\*For Alliance Advantage applications, if there is no existing NSERC peer review for the applicant or one of the co-applicants (with the exception of co-applicants who are Early Career Researchers), external reviewers with expertise directly related to the proposal will be used, and you may submit a maximum of 11 pages.

\*\*NSERC encourages you to dedicate approximately one page of your proposal to describe how equity, diversity and inclusion are considered in your training plan.

* The [Alliance grants (Advantage and Society) application checklist](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/alliance/ApplicationChecklist_e.pdf) has been updated.
* To reduce turnaround times, NSERC is changing the threshold at which it will consider an internal review for Alliance Advantage projects from an annual request of $20,000 to $75,000. Internal reviews are typically completed more quickly than external assessments. For more information, see [Alliance Advantage – Review of your application](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/review-examen_eng.asp).
* The Alliance grants [proposal template](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/alliance/Proposal_Template-Alliance_Grants2_e.docx) has changed to reflect the revised, streamlined merit criteria. However, applicants with a proposal under way may use the previous proposal template until March 31, 2024.
* Extensions with funding - One of the barriers to continued collaborations is the time limit on grants. To date, NSERC has extended grants automatically for one year (and by request in extenuating circumstances), but these extensions did not involve additional funding. Now, Alliance Advantage grants may be extended for an additional year with funding, to allow universities and their partners to take advantage of new research directions that arise during a project. For more information, see [Alliance Advantage – During your research project](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/post_award-apres_loctroi_eng.asp).
* A greater range of partners can now be recognized for cost sharing in Alliance grants. Potential partner organizations now include:
  + all registered charities
  + unions
  + registered companies

Additionally, industrial associations and producer groups have been more clearly differentiated to better recognize the unique role that each type of organization plays in the research and innovation ecosystem.

The requirement that partner organizations must operate from their own offices or facilities has been relaxed in light of the expansion of virtual work. Provided the partner can exploit the research results and interact with highly qualified personnel, NSERC will consider a partner organization that works virtually. For more information, see [Alliance Advantage – Partner organizations](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/partners-partenaires_eng.asp)or [Alliance Society – Partner organizations](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/Alliance_society-Alliance_societe/partners-partenaires_eng.asp).

* Conflict of interest guidelines - These guidelines have changed to provide flexible access to NSERC Alliance grants while ensuring that funds are used responsibly and that all research participants are protected. Institutions will now manage conflicts of interest and put mitigation plans in place according to their own policies. For more information, see [Alliance Advantage – Partner organizations](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/partners-partenaires_eng.asp)or [Alliance Society – Partner organizations](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/Alliance_society-Alliance_societe/partners-partenaires_eng.asp).
* The [merit criteria](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/alliance/Merit_Indicators-Alliance_Grants2_e.pdf) used to evaluate applications have been streamlined, with the number of sub-criteria reduced from 11 to 8. The changes will make assessment more clear-cut for both applicants and reviewers.
* In support of early career researchers (ECRs), NSERC is launching a pilot initiative to offer 200 vouchers of $10,000 each to replace some or all of the required cash contributions from partner organizations in an Alliance Advantage grant. Since NSERC matches partner contributions in a 2:1 ratio, the $10,000 voucher will be matched with $20,000, for a total of $30,000. The deadline to signal interest for a voucher is February 22, 2024. If more than 200 ECRs express interest, NSERC will randomly select 200 recipients. For more information, see [Alliance Advantage – Funding your research project](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/funding-financement_eng.asp).
* To help more ECRs participate in Alliance Advantage grants, they will no longer be required to hold an active peer-reviewed grant from NSERC as a condition for internal review when they are co-applicants for small Alliance Advantage grants (now up to $75,000 annually). This will encourage established researchers to mentor ECRs as co-applicants and provide ECRs opportunities to build relationships with partners. For more information, [see Alliance Advantage – Review of your application](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/alliance-alliance/review-examen_eng.asp).
* New modules have been added to the online system to streamline the application process. In the Partnership module, applicants will attest their compliance with the new conflict of interest guidelines and indicate if their partnership involves a private sector organization. For private sector partnerships, applicants must attach the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships’ risk assessment form to its dedicated upload module. These new modules are captured in the validation step to help ensure that submission requirements are met.

If you have any questions or comments about Alliance grants please contact your Grant Officer or [Alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:Alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca) and sign up on the [Alliance webpage](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rTSzix1ImIZt6CWaivrMl462-4hH0V7XxsRIGNAAqeUeIeVhyPvXO6RHqe4RDjouGu_fVHA3kcHEFs6vITh0cp-rbdng4dZMkk4EpBMVKpYKkraSKSOG9A1YFOgdUhOtantz90_gzCPFfffzCKbSSBkAjp7eW6S2HL0JZxXLakwz6QEIx87fqx4fm_GkrXS0pLichWvixFXN_UE7r4JWs68LH6-71LGH&c=FwrUeyp5ITwHl6gOOuSM43cntWVr4W-onjyh-WpwCVQrUzgXErgm7g==&ch=OUNp-eufRNFap8SJl3a_JKvEkq6Pc6CH0bXgpd-TlkXt_M-VA6w8Mw==) to be added to the mailing list so you can stay up to date on the latest information.

## NSERC Alliance International

**Description**

Alliance International will provide support for researchers in Canada to **work with leading international researchers from the academic sector**, and to establish and grow international research collaborations and projects that have a high potential for impact in NSE disciplines. The overall objectives are to: 1) allow Canadian researchers to initiate the development of international collaborations; and 2) provide support for Canadian researchers participating in international collaborative projects of global importance and benefit to Canada.

**Streams**

Alliance International offers two grant types:

* **Alliance International Catalyst grants** will provide up to $25,000 for one year to support Canadian researchers in initiating international research collaborations in the NSE disciplines.
* **Alliance International Collaboration grants** will provide up to $100,000 per year for up to three years, allowing Canadian researchers to participate in international projects and leverage the best international expertise to help address research challenges in the NSE disciplines of impact and benefit for Canada. The amount you can request for an Alliance International Collaboration grant will depend on the amount of funding obtained by your international academic collaborator(s) from their own national funding agency. The funding secured by your international collaborator(s) will be recognized for cost sharing purposes. This contribution must be at least equal to the amount requested from NSERC. Please note that all amounts are in Canadian dollars. *PLEASE NOTE: To ensure the continued impact and relevance of this funding opportunity, NSERC is temporarily pausing the intake of applications to the Alliance International Collaboration grants program as of May 20, 2025, at 8:00 pm (ET) to review and refine objectives and optimize processes. The intake of Alliance International Collaboration grants applications is expected to re-open by winter of 2025-26.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Deadlines** | Alliance International is a new, permanent stream of Alliance. There is no deadline to apply and grants will be awarded throughout the year. |
| **Application limits** | Catalyst grants: Limit of one application within a 12-month period as either applicant or co-applicant. It is expected that a maximum of 100 grants will be awarded per year  Collaboration grants: Limit of one application within a 12-month period as either applicant or co-applicant  Limits apply to each stream individually. Ie. you can apply for one Catalyst grant and one Collaboration grant in the same 12-month period |
| **Value** | Catalyst grants: up to $25,000  Collaboration grants: up to $100,000 per year |
| **Duration** | Catalyst grants: 1 year  Collaboration grants: up to 3 years |
| **International academic partner contribution** | Catalyst grants: N/A  Collaboration grants: Peer-reviewed funding at least equal to the amount requested from NSERC |
| **Applicant eligibility** | Principal applicants and Canadian co-applicants must hold an active peer-reviewed grant, as primary applicant, at the time of application |
| **Partner eligibility** | Non-academic partner organizations are not required |
| **How to apply** | 1. Notify your Grants Officer of your intent to apply. ORS will confirm partner and project eligibility. 2. Following the [instructions for completing an Alliance International application](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/101/allianceinternational_eng.asp), fill out the [proposal template](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/alliance/Proposal_Template-Alliance_International_Grants_e.docx) and complete the other sections of your application.    * **This template is different from the regular Alliance application template; ensure you are using the correct template (see attached)**    * Select “International” under “type of call” when completing Form 101 in the online system 3. Submit your completed application and supporting documents, including the [personal data form with CCV attachment](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/100/100A_eng.asp), for the principal applicant and all co-applicants through [NSERC’s online system](https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm). |
| **For more information** | Consult the [program website](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/AllianceInternational-AllianceInternational/index_eng.asp), contact [allianceinternational@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:allianceinternational@nserc-crsng.gc.ca) or your Faculty Grants Officer: |

**Subject Matter**

You can apply to support any R&D project that seeks to respond to a research challenge in the natural sciences or engineering (see [Selecting the appropriate federal granting agency](http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html?OpenDocument)). However, you cannot use Alliance International to support secret or contract research.

Developing and implementing policies or directly applying your research results may depend on socio-economic or other requirements, as well as scientific understanding beyond the natural sciences and engineering (NSE). You are encouraged to collaborate with academic researchers in fields other than the NSE. Such researchers may be co-applicants for Alliance International if they meet [NSERC’s eligibility criteria for faculty](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/eligibility-admissibilite/faculty-corpsprof_eng.asp). Research costs for these collaborations can represent up to 30% of the project costs and must be specifically identified in the project budget justification.

**Resources**

* [Completing an application — form 101 instructions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/101/allianceinternational_eng.asp)
* [Personal data form with CCV attachment — form 100A instructions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/100/100A_eng.asp)
* [Alliance International application checklist](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/Professors-Professeurs/AIChecklist_e.pdf)
* [Equity, diversity and inclusion in your training plan](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/alliance/EDI-TrainingPlan_e.pdf)
* [Safeguarding Your Research portal](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97955.html)

NSERC Alliance – OCI C2C Joint Funding

NSERC and Ontario Centres of Innovation (OCI) recently announced a partnership that will enable joint leveraging of funds from Ontario-based small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through the both [NSERC Alliance](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/C2C-CPC_eng.asp)and [OCI C2C](https://www.oc-innovation.ca/programs/voucher-for-innovation-and-productivity-vip/)(previously OCI-VIP) programs, via a single application.

This program is ideal for **natural science and engineering** projects with an **Ontario SME** who is providing **$10-15K cash** (plus overhead and an equal amount in-kind) for a **one-year** project. Note that Universities are only eligible for “C2C Alliance”.

Project details:

* Overall cash match of 4:1 (2:2:1 for NSERC:OCI:partner)
* Partner cash contribution: $10-15K (plus 35% overhead, as per Ontario Tech policy) plus an equal amount (or more) in-kind
* NSERC/OCI contribution: $20-30K **each**
* Total project cash: $50-75K
* Maximum project duration: 12 months

Applicant eligibility:

* Must hold an active NSERC or OCI peer-reviewed grant

Partner eligibility:

* For-profit SME with Ontario R&D and/or manufacturing operations related directly to the project, and the capacity to exploit the research results
* 5-499 global full-time employees
* In operation for a minimum of two years

How to apply:

1. PI discusses project idea with OCI Business Development Manager (BDM)
2. PI, partner, and OCI BDM complete one-page project summary
3. OCI BDM presents project opportunity at OCI-NSERC weekly meeting for discussion and evaluation
4. If invited to submit a full application, PI and partner complete proposal in [NSERC portal](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/onlineservices-servicesenligne/index_eng.asp)
   * [Form 101](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/101/alliance_eng.asp) – joint proposal template (available upon request)
   * [Form 100A](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/100/100A_eng.asp)
   * [Partner Organization Form](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/Alliance_Partner-Alliance_Partenaires_eng.asp)
5. OCI BDM opens application in OCI portal with basic information

Steps 1-3 are **mandatory**. Do not create a joint Alliance-C2C application in the NSERC portal until you are invited to do so.

Review process:

* 4-8 weeks
* NSERC and OCI will issue a joint decision

If you have any questions, or are interested in applying, please contact your Grants Officer.

## NSERC I2I GRANTS

**Sponsor/Agency:** NSERC

**Program:** Idea to Innovation (I2I) grants

**Description:**

[I2I grants](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/I2I-Innov_eng.asp) are intended to accelerate the pre-competitive development of promising technology originating from the university and college sector, and to promote its transfer to a new or established Canadian company. I2I grants provide funding to college and university faculty members to support research and development projects with recognized technology transfer potential. This is achieved through defined phases by providing crucial assistance in the early stages of technology validation and market connection.

There are **four distinct funding options**, characterized by the maturity of the technology and the sponsorship of an early-stage investment entity or industrial partner. In the **market assessment phase**, NSERC will share costs of an independent and professional market study with Ontario Tech. In **phase I**, the direct costs of research will be entirely supported by NSERC; in phase II, they will be shared with an early-stage investment entity (**phase IIa**) or a company (**phase IIb**). The technology development may begin with a phase I project (reduction-to-practice stage), followed by a phase II project (technology enhancement); or, if the development is at a later stage, it can start directly with a phase II project. In any case, the combination of phase I and phase II will be limited to a maximum of three years of funding for any given project, and to one grant per phase for the same technology or intellectual property (IP).

**Discoveries must be disclosed by the investigators according to Ontario Tech policy, and the IP must be managed by ORS.** All proposals will be developed in close collaboration with the ORS IP Officer. To comply with I2I program requirements, which include matching cash contributions, IP protection, market promotion, etc., IP rights should be assigned to Ontario Tech.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Program Summary | |
| Deadlines | **Deadlines**   * NSERC: **June 20, 2025**    + IP Officer review: **May 23, 2025**   + Administrative check (upload to NSERC portal): **TBD** * NSERC: **September 22, 2025**   + IP Officer review: **August 25, 2023**   + Administrative check (upload to NSERC portal): **TBD**   **Important**: Applications **must be submitted to the IP officer one month prior to the NSERC deadline**, otherwise the applications will be considered for next NSERC deadline. |
| Value | **Market assessment:** NSERC $15,000 (75% of project costs) + Ontario Tech $5,000 for Technology Transfer Activities  **Phase I\***: NSERC $125,000 (100% of project costs)   * Phase Ib Supplement\*: NSERC $60,000 (100% of project costs)   **Phase IIa\*:** NSERC$125,000 (67% of project costs) + Partner $62,500 (33% of project costs)  **Phase IIb\*:** NSERC $350,000 (50% of project costs) + Partner 50% of direct costs through in-kind and cash.   * 40% of the Partner contribution must be cash.   *\*****Note for technology transfer activities****: Half the cost supported by NSERC up to a maximum of 10% of the award. Institution or partner must cover the other half. (e.g. Phase I - $125,000: NSERC will support a maximum of $12,500 for tech transfer activities and Institution/partner must provide: $12,500).* |
| Duration | **Market assessment:** up to one year  **Phase I:** up to one year   * **Phase Ib Supplement:** 6 months   **Phase IIa:** from 6 to 18 months  **Phase IIb:** up to two years |
| How to Apply | 1. Notify the IP Officer as soon as possible if you are interested in applying. 2. Review the program guidelines (see below), including the eligibility and evaluation criteria. 3. Submit a completed and signed [Invention Disclosure Form](https://research.ontariotechu.ca/faculty/intellectual-property/index.php) to the IP Officer. The IP Officer will assess which I2I phase is appropriate, and follow up with you regarding the IP assignment. 4. Obtain letters of support that demonstrate market need (market assessment and phase I) and interest from a potential (market assessment and phase I) or actual (phase II) sponsor. 5. Complete NSERC Forms 100 and 101. Phase II applications will also require Form 183A. See detailed instructions [here](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/101/i2i_eng.asp). 6. Submit completed NSERC forms with any supplementary documents to the IP Officer for review **one month prior to the desired NSERC cohort deadline**. 7. Submit completed NSERC forms through the [NSERC online system](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/onlineservices-servicesenligne/index_eng.asp) with any supplementary documents (e.g., letters of support, offers of service, signed research agreements, CVs of business mentors) **at least one week prior to the NSERC deadline**. |
| For more information | **(Yiming) Peter Shao**  **IP Officer, ORS**  Yiming.Shao@ontariotechu.ca |

**Eligibility:**

*Eligible activities*

Eligible research and development activities include:

* refining and implementing designs
* verifying application
* conducting field studies
* preparing demonstrations
* building prototypes
* performing beta trials

Eligible technology transfer activities include:

* consulting fees to develop the strategy to protect the technology’s commercial value
* market investigations
* consulting fees for business plan, market survey, etc.
* business mentoring by experienced entrepreneurs
* sharing of patenting expenses
* expenses associated with creating a partnership (such as travel, etc.)

**ORS must agree that these expenses for technology transfer activities are justified, and commit to covering at least half of their cost.**  Note that for Phase I, Phase Ib, Phase IIa and Phase IIb applications, NSERC may provide technology transfer support up to a maximum of 10% of the total requested amount (i.e., the NSERC contribution will be no more than $12,500 for a $125,000 requested budget). Staff activities are not considered an eligible expense and cannot be used to leverage NSERC funds. Technology transfer expenses related to the proposed technology and incurred previously will not be considered in the cost-sharing of proposed activities.

*Phase eligibility*

**Market assessment phase:** Market assessment projects are designed to enable institutions to conduct a market study for a product, process or technology they plan to develop. The market assessment should precede a phase I proposal if the applicant has not yet developed an understanding of the potential market. It is to be conducted by an experienced professional such as an outside consulting firm. An **offer of service** from the consultant listing the scope, deliverables and other relevant elements is required.

**Phase I:** Phase I reduction-to-practice projects are designed to advance promising technologies in order to attract early-stage investment and/or to build valuable intellectual property (e.g., strengthening the commercial value of the technology, broadening patent claims or strengthening licensing opportunities) in anticipation of transferring the technology to a new or established company. Phase I proposals must be based on strong scientific evidence and present the following elements:

* **The technology must be sufficiently mature.** One of the main reasons why phase I proposals are rejected is that the technology is at too early a stage to be eligible for the I2I grants. The basic parameters of the concept must have already been explored, and sufficient testing should have been done to assess the potential of the innovation to work in a “product” environment or for its intended purpose. **This represents at least technology readiness level (TRL) 4.**
* **There must be a clearly identified and well-described potential market.** A market assessment should have been performed and a technology transfer plan consistent with it developed. Meaningful **letters of support** from potential receptors, end-users/clients and industrial value-chain players may be very useful.
* Involvement of experienced business mentors is recommended when the team is planning to spin off a new company.

Note: NSERC offers an I2I phase Ib supplement. This funding of up to $60,000 for six months can be made available for *successfully completed phase I projects* with high promise to secure an investor or a licensing company.

**Phase II:** Phase II projects are designed to provide scientific or engineering evidence that establishes the technical feasibility and market definition of the technology, process or product. **The science must be substantiated to the point that its end product is easily identifiable, and for phase IIb a prototype or equivalent (TRL 6) must be in existence.** Phase II projects require an early-stage investment entity (phase IIa) or a company (phase IIb) to share the costs of the project. The sponsor is expected to participate actively in planning the project. See below for sponsor eligibility requirements, and refer to the [NSERC page](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/I2I-Innov_eng.asp) for further cost-sharing and other requirements for phases IIa and IIb.

*Eligible sponsors for Phase II*

For Phase II, NSERC will evaluate the eligibility of sponsors before accepting proposals for review. The following organizations may be considered as eligible partners:

**Early-stage investment group:** This term refers to either venture capital, a seed capital funding entity, angel investors, university technology transfer corporations, incubators, or other similar funding or technology transfer organizations. Organizations that have received public funds as seed funding, but are functioning in a competitive environment and are required to achieve self-sufficiency within a pre-determined time period, may be considered as equivalent to industry.

**Companies:** Normally, participating companies must be Canadian. Companies outside Canada may also be considered as partners provided they can demonstrate that there will be clear and direct benefits to the Canadian economy as a result of their participation. As partners, companies must demonstrate that they have, or have the potential to acquire, the capability to commercialize the technology under development.

**Researcher-owned companies:** Situations in which the researcher is a part owner are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and the company’s stage of development will be taken into consideration in determining eligibility. The commercial activity must conform to the institution’s established policies relating to the disclosure of commercial interest and conflict of interest.

**Additional Information:**

*Tech transfer and IP strategy*

All proposals must include a technology transfer plan, appropriate to the maturity of the technology, that describes how the work will proceed through the next stages in the validation process up to eventual market entry. The ORS will work with the applicant(s) in evaluating and protecting the new technology, service or process; developing proposals; preparing a technology transfer approach; making business contacts; and negotiating licensing or other such arrangements with potential partners.

For all phases except the market assessment, the projects must describe the IP strategy to protect the commercial value of the technology and relate it to the technology transfer plan. Projects should demonstrate how the IP strategy and execution will contribute to the technology transfer or future business the technology may support.

*Evaluation criteria*

Phase I and phase II applications will be evaluated against the following criteria. A subset of the selection criteria, plus additional ones specifically related to market assessment, will be used to review the market assessment applications.

* **Scientific/technical merit**
  + Scientific basis for the expected commercial application
  + Clarity and focus of research objectives
  + Novelty, technical complexity, technical risk and feasibility
  + Appropriateness of work plan, milestones, deliverables and decision points
* **Team expertise and project management**
  + Breadth and depth of team expertise in the proposed fields of activity
  + Business experience or available support
  + Adequacy of personnel and material resources allocated for research and technology transfer activities
  + Quality of project management
* **Potential for technology transfer and commercial benefits** 
  + Commitment of the institution through its technology transfer office (or equivalent)
  + Appropriateness of the technology management and transfer plan
  + Anticipated benefits for a Canadian company
  + Justification of the benefits of NSERC financing
* **Market assessment**
  + Signs of market interest
  + Relevant essential questions have been incorporated into the market analysis
  + Appropriateness of the consultant and statement of work
  + Suitability of the proposed primary research

**Resources:**

* [I2I grants main page](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/I2I-Innov_eng.asp)
* [Instructions for completing Form 101](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/101/i2i_eng.asp)
* [Instructions for completing Form 100](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/100/100_eng.asp)