

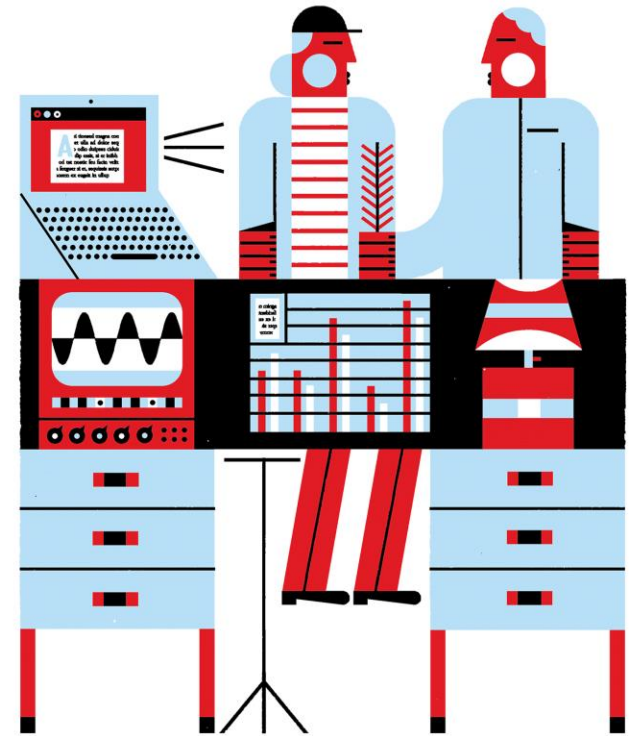


NSERC News, Discovery Grant 2024 Competition Results, & Alliance Updates

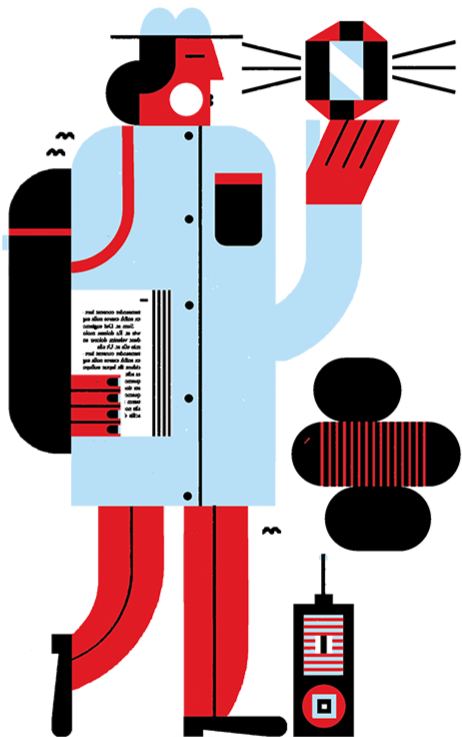
Presented by: Jean-Marc David & Sylvain Langlois

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1507
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Budget 2024



Budget 2024

Investing in Homegrown Research Talent

- **\$825 million over five years**, starting in 2024-25, with \$199.8 million per year ongoing, to **increase the annual value of master's and doctoral student scholarships** to \$27,000 and \$40,000, respectively, **and post-doctoral fellowships** to \$70,000.
- This will also increase the number of research scholarships and fellowships provided, building to approximately **1720 more graduate students or fellows benefiting each year**.
- To make it easier for students and fellows to access support, the enhanced suite of scholarships and fellowship programs will be **streamlined into one talent program**.

Budget 2024

Enhancing Research Support

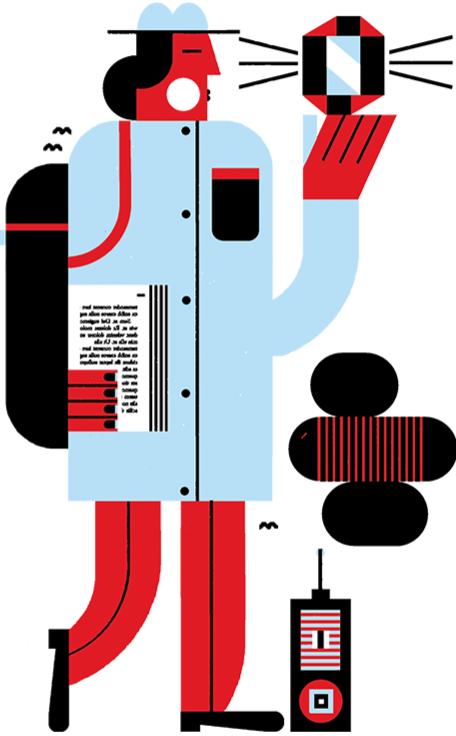
- To increase core research grant funding and support Canadian researchers, Budget 2024 proposes to provide **\$1.8 billion over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$748.3 million per year ongoing to SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR.**
- Budget 2024 also proposes to provide a further **\$26.9 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$26.6 million in remaining amortization and \$6.6 million ongoing,** to the granting councils to establish an improved and **harmonized grant management system.**
- **\$30 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, to support Indigenous participation in research,** with \$10 million each for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit partners.

Budget 2024

Enhancing Research Support (Coordination)

- To provide better coordination across the federally funded research ecosystem, Budget 2024 announces the government will create **a new capstone research funding organization. The granting councils will continue to exist within this new organization**, and continue supporting excellence in investigator-driven research, including linkages with the Health portfolio. This new organization and structure will also help to advance **internationally collaborative, multi-disciplinary, and mission-driven research**.
- The government will create an **advisory Council on Science and Innovation**. This Council will be made up of leaders from the academic, industry, and not-for-profit sectors, and be responsible for a **national science and innovation strategy** to guide priority setting and increase the impact of these significant federal investments.

Research Security



New Tri-Agency Guidance on Research Security

Inter-agency

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Tri-agency financial administration

Research security

Tri-Agency Guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy)

Tri-Agency Guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP)

Resources

- This new webpage provides guidance regarding the implementation of research security measures by the federal granting agencies (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR).
- We encourage all members of the research community to familiarize themselves with this guidance, and as well as the linked policies, guidelines, and resources
- **On this page:**
 - [General guidance and guiding principles](#)
 - [Tri-Agency Guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC Policy\)](#)
 - [Tri-Agency Guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships \(NSGRP\)](#)
 - [Resources](#)

The Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)

Overview of the STRAC Policy:

- On January 16, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) (STRAC Policy).
- The policy operates using two lists that **must be used in conjunction** — a list of [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](#) (STRA) and a list of [Named Research Organizations](#) (NRO).
- The granting agencies and the CFI are implementing the policy in harmonized manner, starting with funding opportunities launching as of **May 1st, 2024**.
- At the application stage, applicants will be asked to identify if the research supported by their grant will aim to **advance a STRA**. If it will not aim to advance a STRA, no action is required.
- If the grant aims to **advance a STRA**, researchers with named roles (applicant, co-applicants, collaborators) on the application must complete **attestation forms** to certify their compliance. In addition, for the duration of the grant, no researchers involved in activities supported by the grant can be affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from an **NRO**.
- Contact researchsecurity@nserc-crsng.gc.ca for questions

Discovery Grant Results

Résultats de subventions à la découverte



2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Thank You!

Almost 4,000 Discovery Research Program Applications received

480+ Evaluation Group (EG) Members

700+ internal reviewers

5,000+ external reviewers

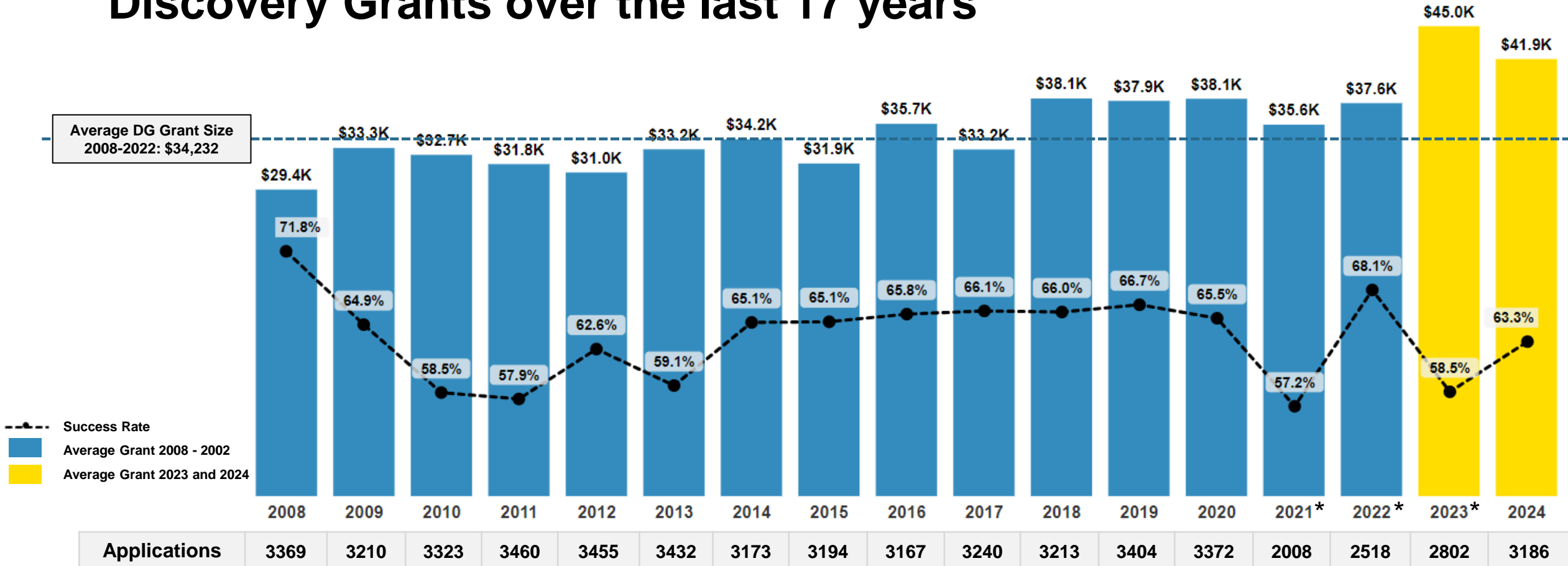
Research Grants and Scholarships

Discovery Research Program Results CY2024

- The Discovery Grants invested over \$421M in awards, along with \$72M in COVID-19 extensions with funds, totaling more than \$493M in investments
 - 63% overall success rate; average grant size \$42k
 - The Competition 2024 experienced a 14% increase in applications (n = 3,186) compared to Competition 2023, the size of a typical pre-pandemic competition
- The Subatomic Physics Grants (individual, project, major resources support, and research tools and instruments) invested over \$18.5M in new awards
 - 52 applications across all categories; 38 awards
 - 53.7% overall funding rate
- The Research Tools and Instruments Grants invested over \$25.1M in new awards
 - 666 applications; 199 awards
 - 29.9% overall success rate

2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

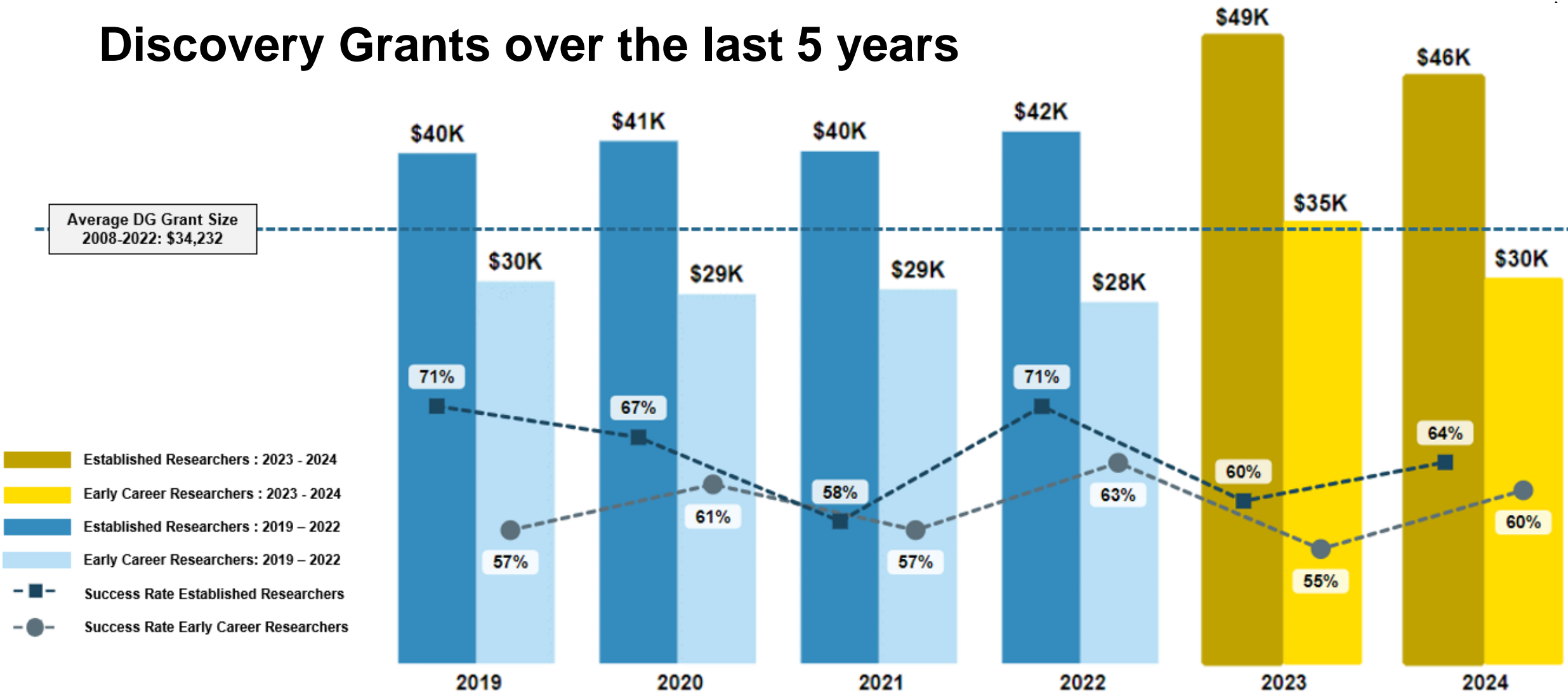
Discovery Grants over the last 17 years



*Pools of applicants differ from a typical year, due to COVID-19 one-time extensions with funds provided to eligible DG holders

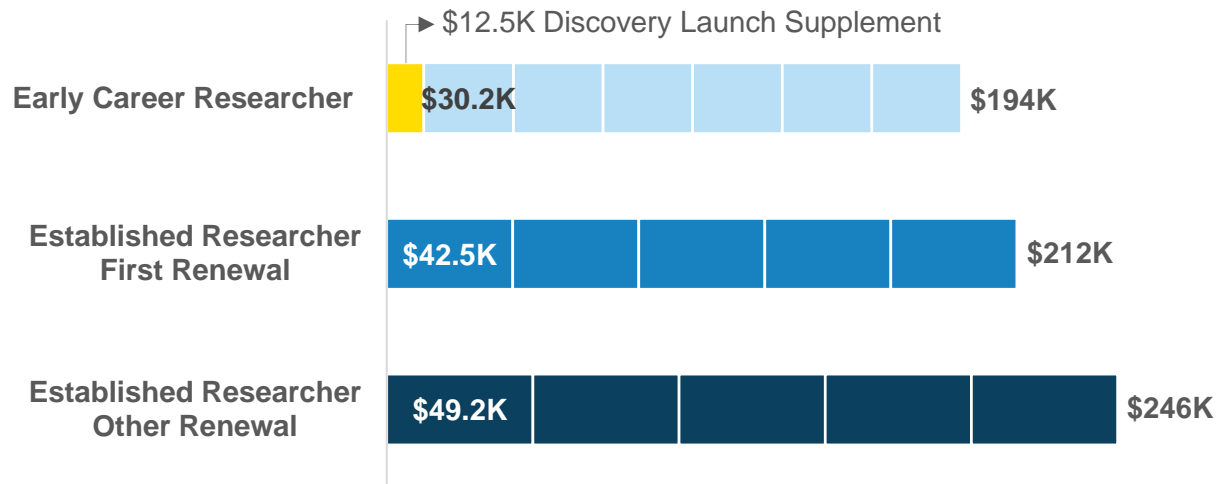
2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Discovery Grants over the last 5 years



Supporting Early Career Researchers

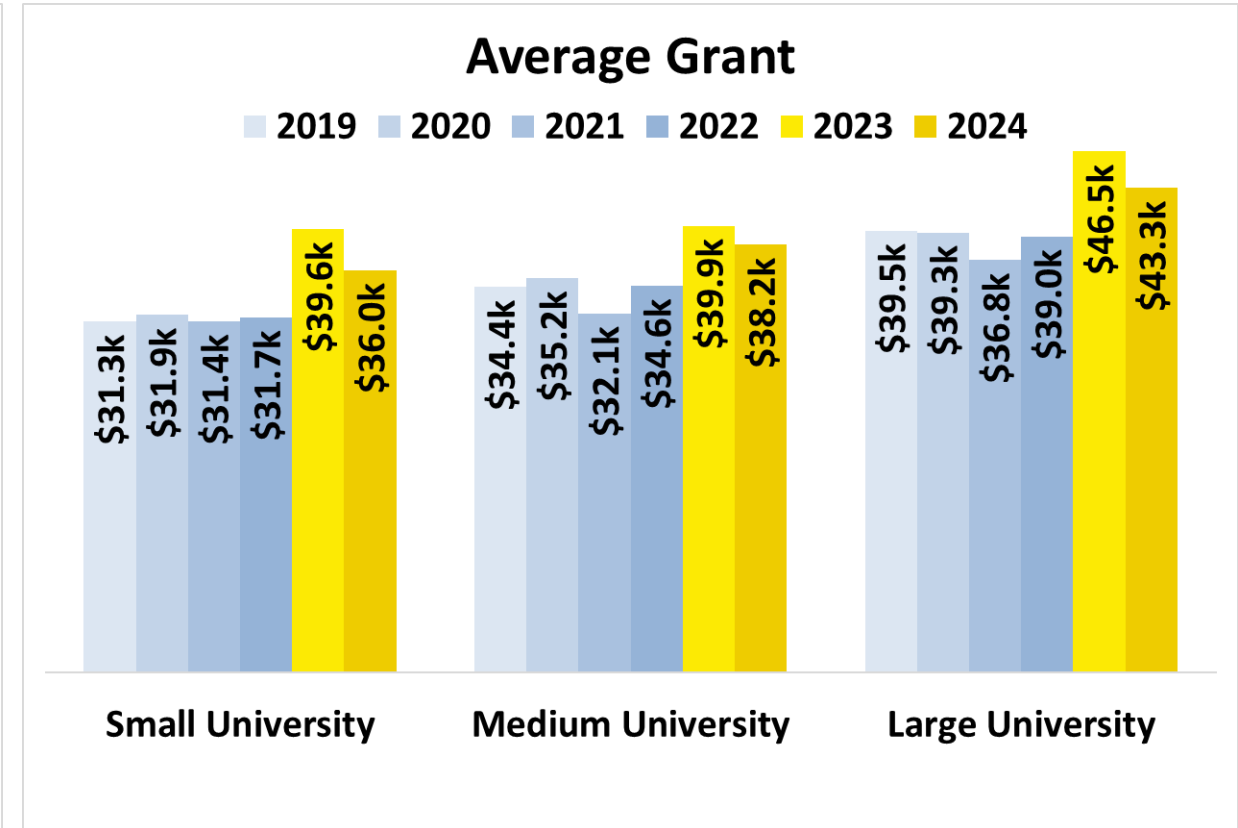
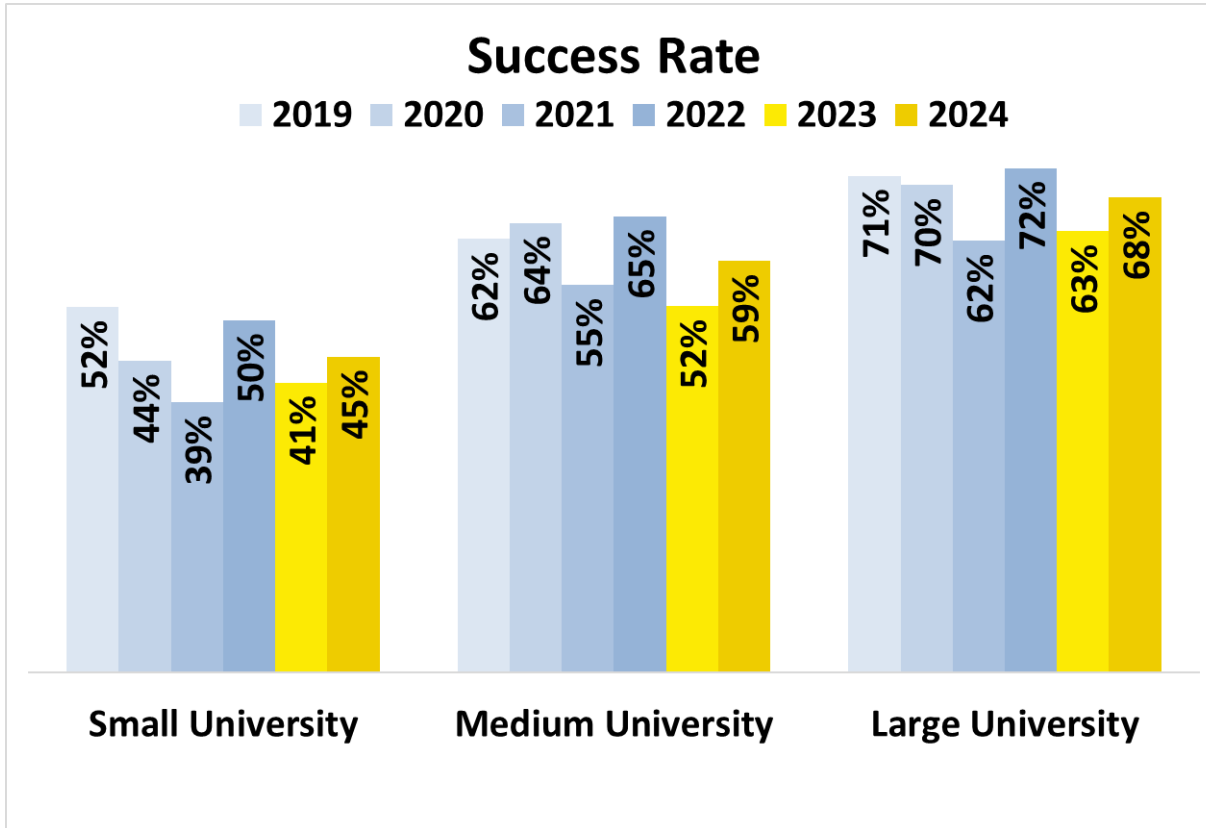
Total Amount Awarded



- Most Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who apply within the 5-year eligibility window are funded
- The window is adjusted for eligible delays (credited as twice the amount of time taken)
- ECRs receive a one-time Discovery Launch Supplement (\$12,500) and the option of a 6th year of funding
- The success rate of applicants who reapply after their first grant is over 70%

2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Results by Institution Size and Year

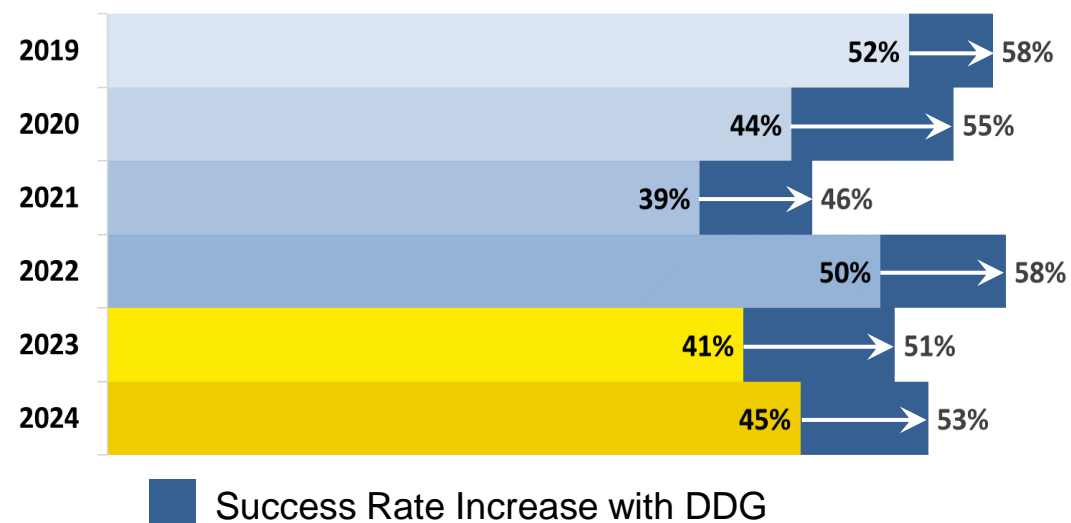


2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Supporting research at small institutions

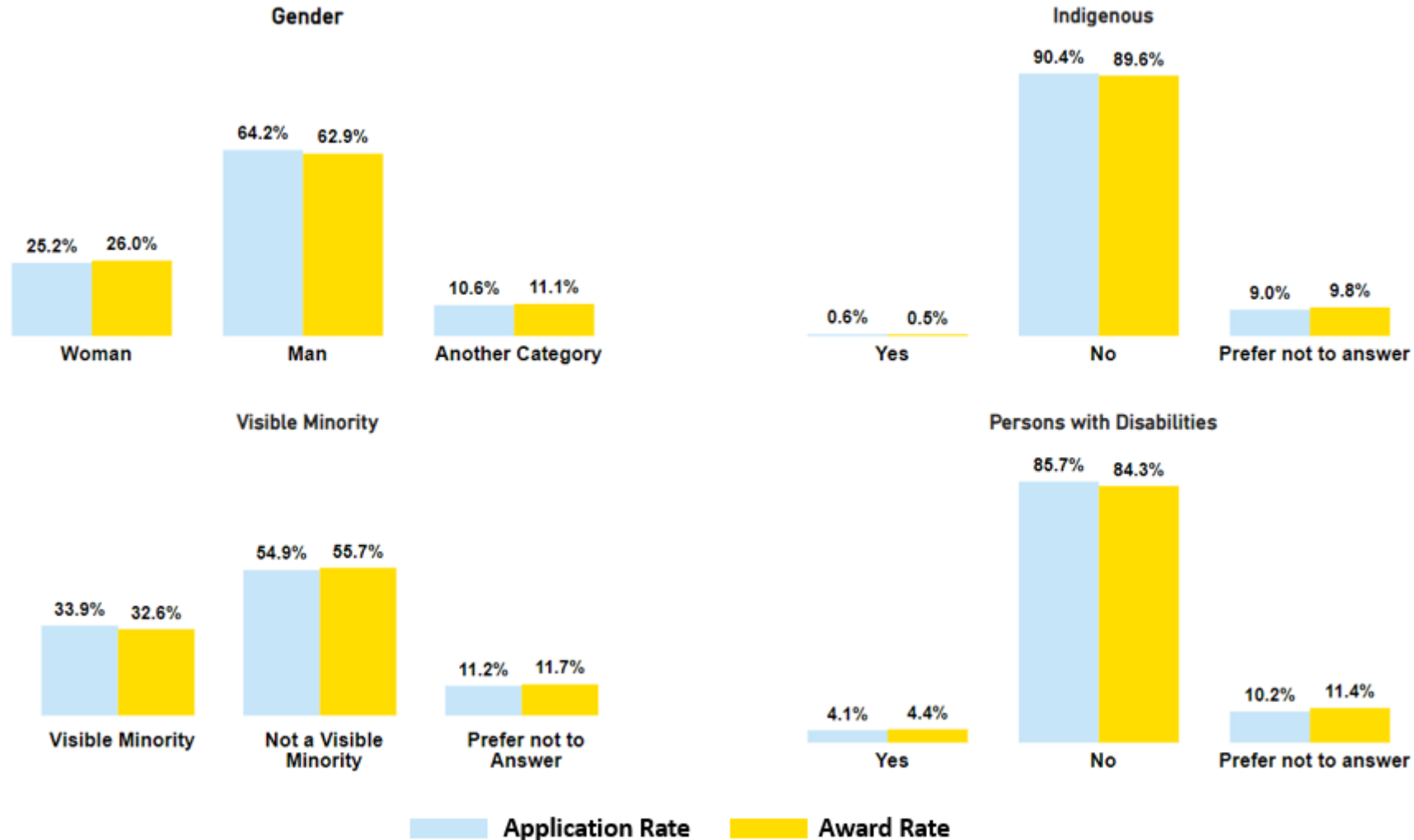
- Discovery Development Grants (DDG) provide resources to researchers from small universities whose Discovery Grant (DG) applications were deemed to be of appropriate quality to merit research support but fell below the funding cut-off.
- 2-year awards valued at \$20k/year plus additional support provided by university.
- University must support grantee through additional measures, such as matching funds, teaching release, purchase of research equipment, scholarship support, travel support, etc.

Small University Success Rates Including DDG



2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

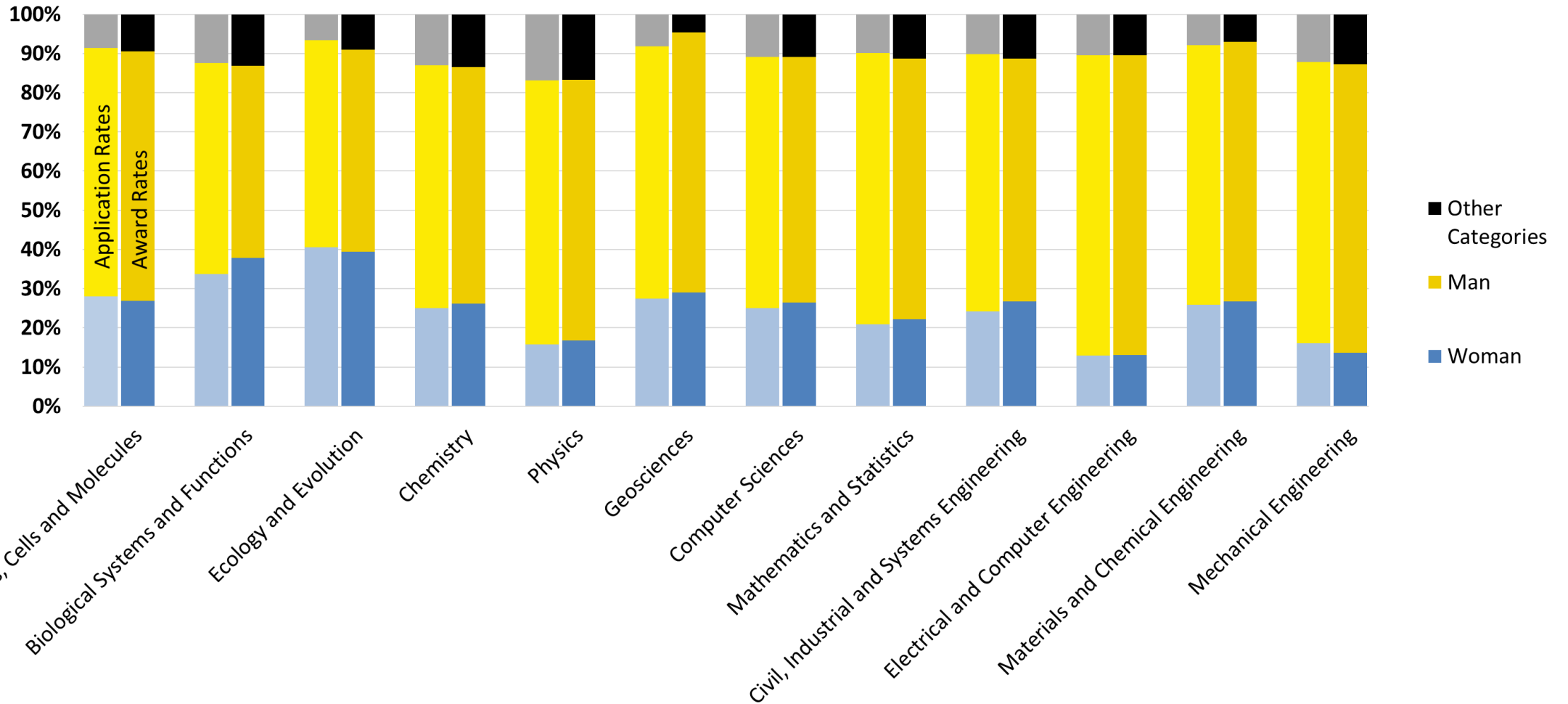
Overall DG – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Gender Ratios of Application Rate and Award Rate by Evaluation Group



2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

		Women	Men	Other Categories*
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	Number of Awards	201	313	22
	Success Rate	60%	60%	67%
Established Researchers Returning (ER-R)	Number of Awards	263	797	185
	Success Rate	79%	75%	79%
Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Number of Awards	60	158	16
	Success Rate	45%	34%	23%

* Other Categories includes those opting not to choose a gender

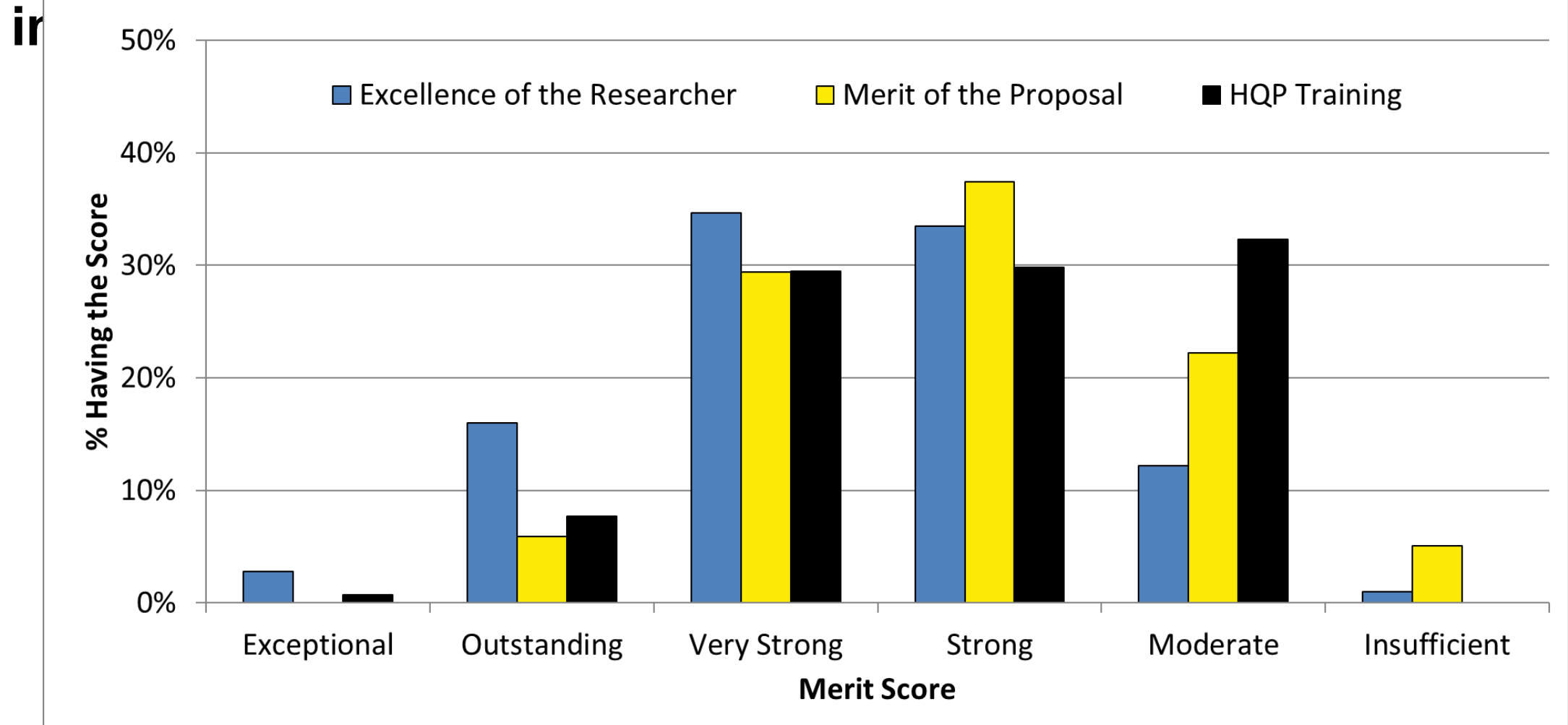
2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)				Overall
		First Renewals	Other Renewals	Not Holding a Grant	All Established Researchers	
# of applications	886	452	1186	662	2,300	3,186
# of awards	536	325	920	234	1,479	2,015
Success Rate	60%	72%	78%	35%	64%	63%
Average Grant (yearly)	\$30,195*	42,456	49,245	\$38,736	\$46,090	\$41,862

* Does not include additional Discovery Launch Supplement funding provided in first year (\$12,500)

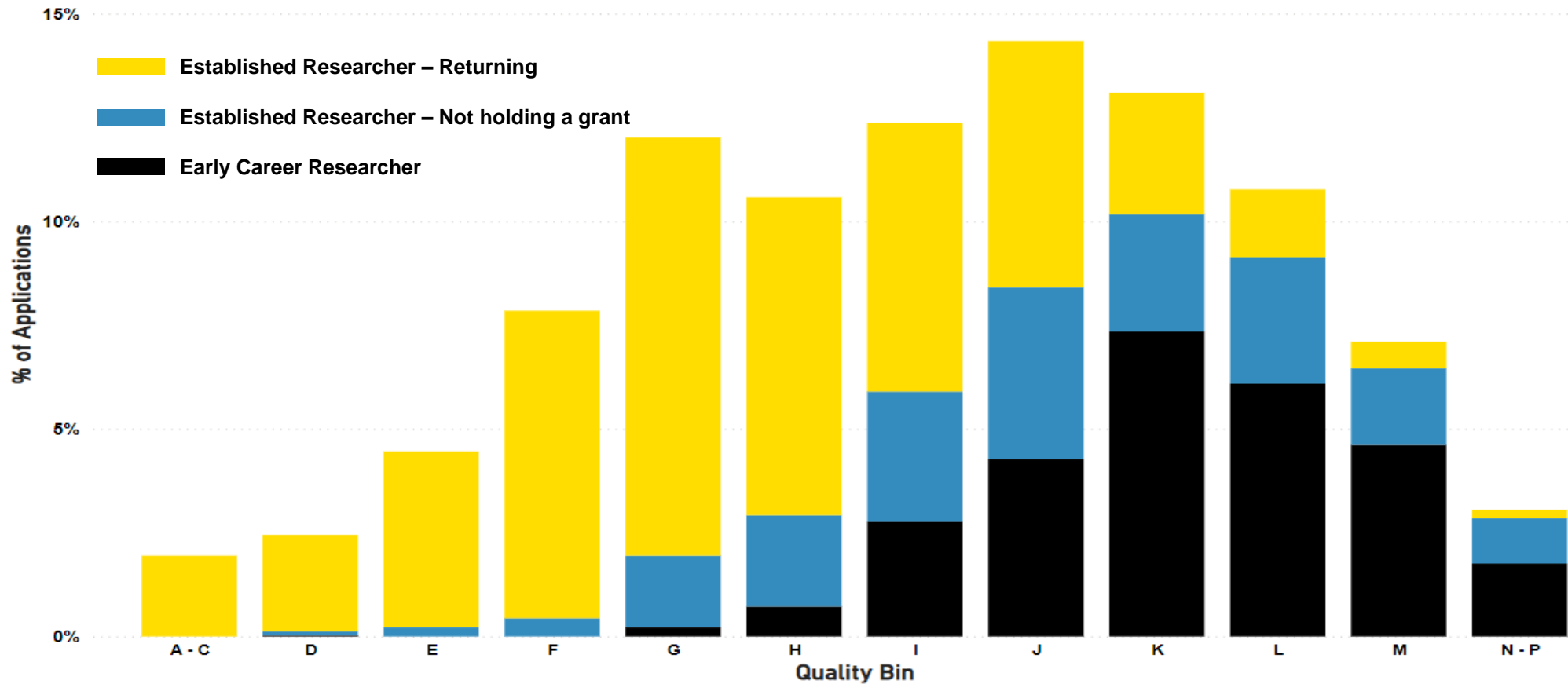
Overall DG – Distribution of merit



2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

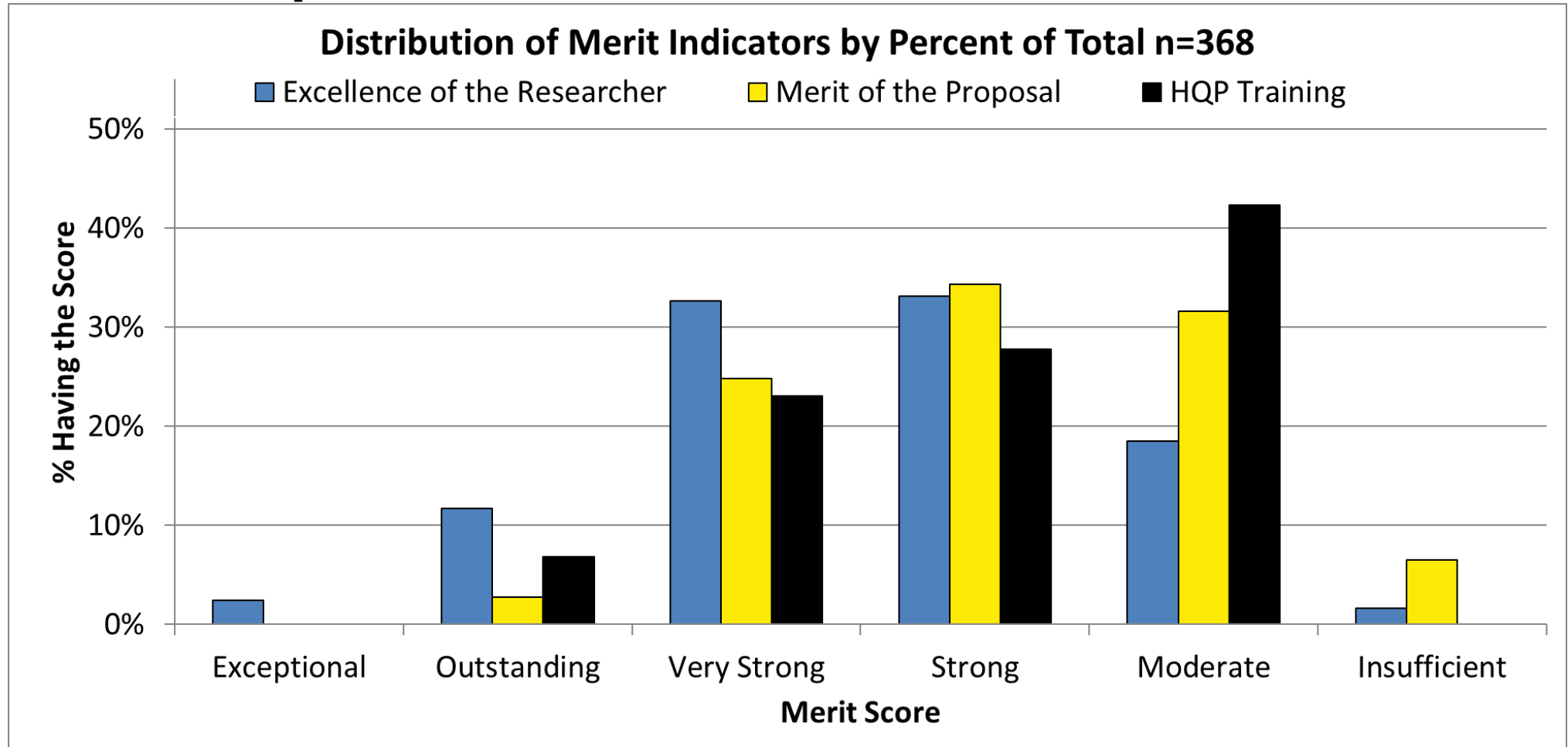
Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

Bin Distribution by Percent of Total n=3186



2024 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1507 – Computer Sciences

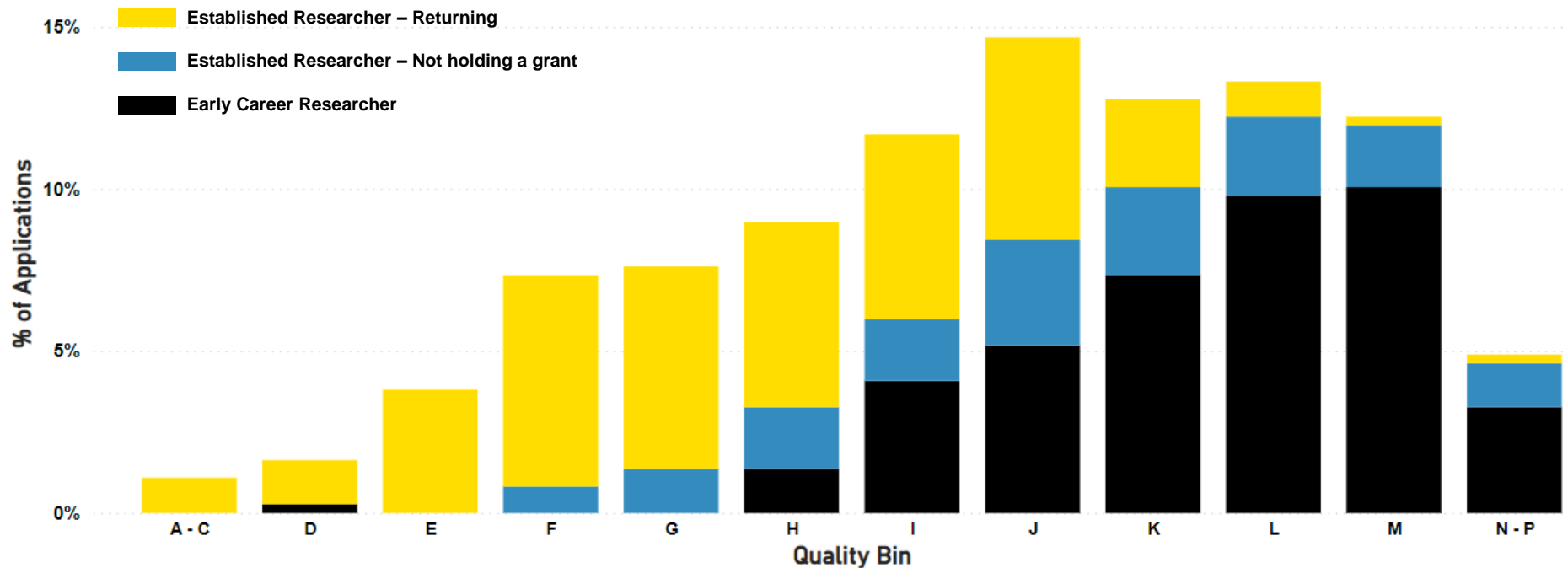


2024 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1507 – Computer Sciences

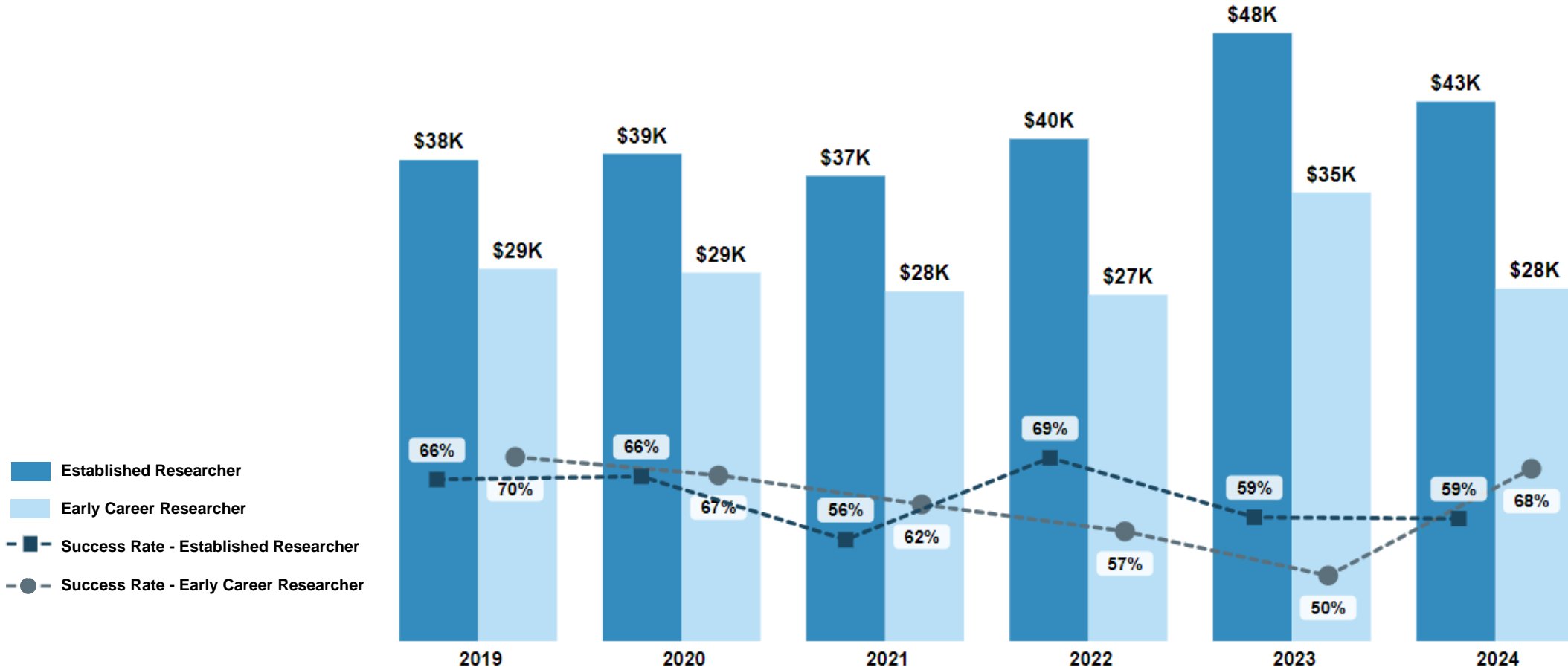
	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)			Overall
		Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Returning (ER-R)	All Established Researchers	
Success Rate	68%	32%	71%	59%	63%

BIN Distribution by Percent of Total n=368



2024 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1507 – Computer Sciences



2024 Competition Results

Competition Results

For more information on DG and other Research Grants results:

- The 2024 competition results are available on the web:
 - https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/nserc-crsng/fundingdecisions-decisionsfinancement/researchgrants-subventionsderecherche/index_eng.asp
- **Available Now:** Competition Statistics Dashboards for DG and Research Tools and Instruments.
 - https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/discoverygrants-subventionsdecouverte/index_eng.asp

Contact resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca if you have any questions.

2025 Discovery Grants Applications

Applying for a Discovery Grant – Changes for CY2024/2025

Recent Changes:

- NSERC is requesting consent to use self-ID in funding decisions
- All DG applicants with rating of Strong or lower on a selection criterion receive a Message from the Evaluation Group (MEG)
- DG applicants are asked to indicate if they are proposing Indigenous Research
- Edits to DG peer review manual (section 1.4 added) to include Indigenous considerations and contributions
- External Reviewers are only asked to comment on the Merit of the Proposal, not all three criteria
- DG applicants are now asked to sign an attestation form if their research advances a Sensitive Technology Research Area (STRA)



Recent changes to Alliance grants

Natural Science and Engineering Research Council

November 2024

1. Removing barriers to collaboration



Removing barriers to collaboration

Rebranding and Repositioning Alliance


Projects focused on the partners' goals, with at least one partner sharing in the costs of research



Projects with societal impact as the main driver



Removing barriers to collaboration

 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada

Application - Create a New Application

Select a program name using the 'List...' button

Program Name

Title of proposal

180 (180 chars)

Proposal type Letter of intent Full proposal

Type of call

Refer to NSERC's website for details

- Advantage
- Alberta Innovates - Advance
- Alberta Innovates - CASBE
- International - Catalyst
- International - Catalyst - Quantum
- International - Collaboration
- International - Collaboration - ANR - Quantum
- International - Collaboration - Quantum
- Mitacs Accelerate
- OCI - C2C
- Quantum - Advancing quantum sensing
- Research Manitoba - ACT
- Society

Removing barriers to collaboration

Simple and attractive funding ratio for Alliance Advantage



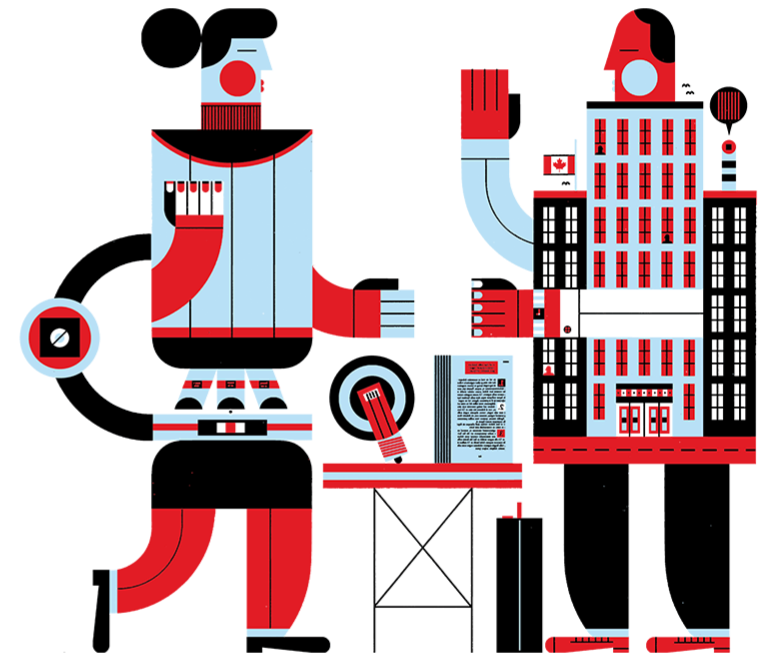
1:1 or 2:1
Depending on partner size,
sector or partnership combination



2:1

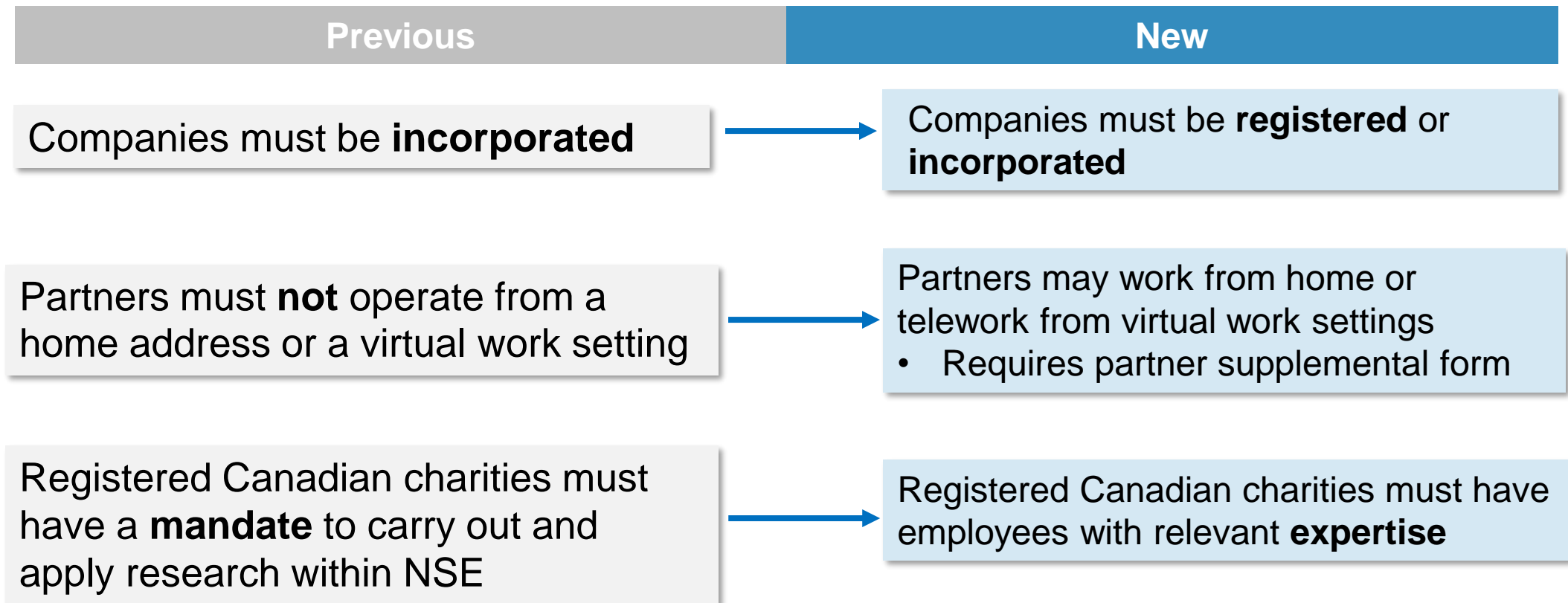
Not applicable to previously
awarded applications

2. Championing more research partnerships



Championing more research partnerships

Expanded consideration for cost-sharing



See [Partner page](#) for full list of requirements

Championing more research partnerships

Producer groups and industrial associations

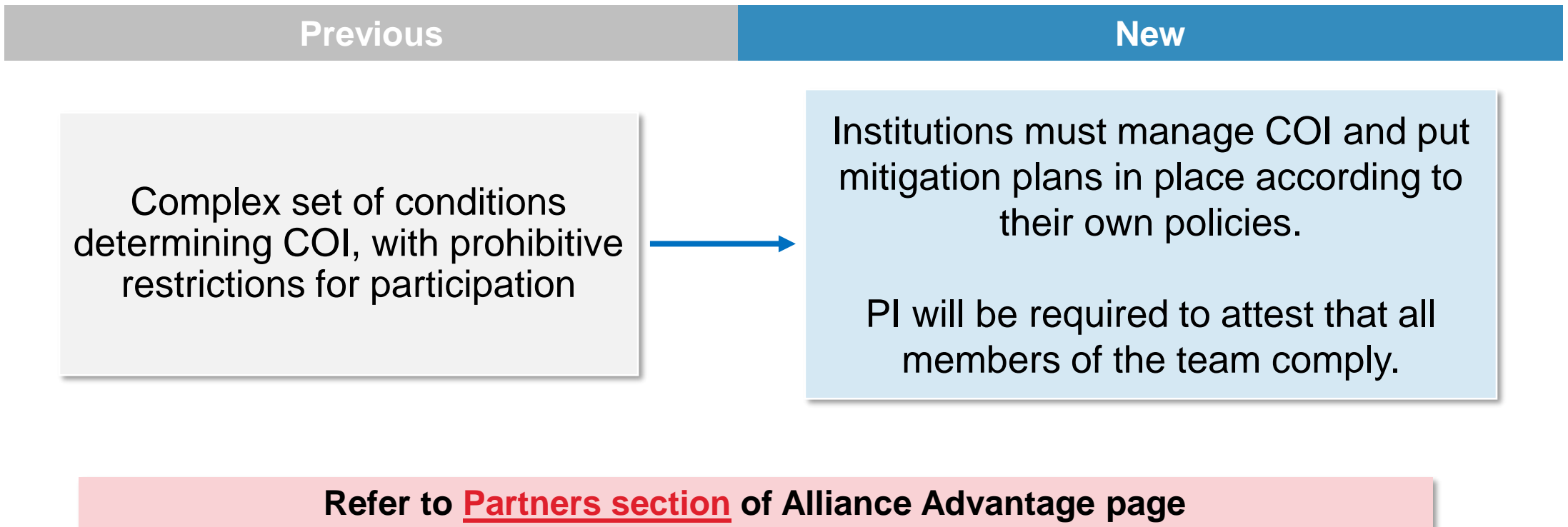
Role	Producer Groups	Industrial Associations
Coordinating & Funding Research	On behalf of their members and/or to mobilize knowledge to encourage the growth and sustainability of the industry	For the group or sector the organization represents
Collaboration	Through organization's board or committees or through one or more of the organization's members	Directly , or through one or more of the organization's members
In-kind Contributions	Project design, project oversight, meetings, participation of staff, board or committee members or member producers	Typically, by the association members with project management by the association
HQP Training	Through the producer group or its members	Through a member company or companies
Research Results	Disseminates information to all members; translates and mobilizes knowledge from the project to members	Demonstrates availability of resources to implement the results , either directly or through one or more of the organization's members

See [Partner page](#) for full list of requirements

Championing more research partnerships

Changes to Conflict of Interest (COI) guidelines

- Facilitate innovation and support entrepreneurship
- Increase opportunities for university spin-offs to be recognized for cost sharing



Changes to Conflict of Interest (COI) guidelines

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Partnership/Conflict of Interest >

Form

- Application Profile
- Area(s) of Research
- Certification/ Requirement
- Partnership/Conflict of Interest**
- Cover Letter
- Co-Applicants
- Collaborators
- Collaborator Biographical Sketches
- Summary of Proposal
- Proposal
- Proposed Expenditures
- Budget Justification
- Contributions
- Justification for In-kind Contributions
- Other Documents
- Environmental Impact
- Risk Assessment Form
- Reviewers
- Reviewer Evaluation

Form 101 - Partnership/Conflict of Interest

National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships

In accordance with the [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#), applications involving at least one partner organization from the private sector (including industrial associations and / or producer groups) are required to be submitted with a Risk Assessment Form.

Does this application include at least one partner organization from the private sector?

If you answered "Yes" to the above question, you must complete and attach the [Risk Assessment Form](#).

For resources to assist in completing the Risk Assessment Form, please consult the array of [Guidelines and Tools to Implement Research Security](#) and [Research Security Training Courses](#) that are available on the [Safeguarding Your Research](#) portal.

Compliance with institutional conflict of interest policies

All researchers and their institutions must adhere to the [Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research \(2021\)](#). Adherence to the Framework includes appropriately identifying and addressing any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest, in accordance with all participating institutions' policies on conflicts of interest in research.

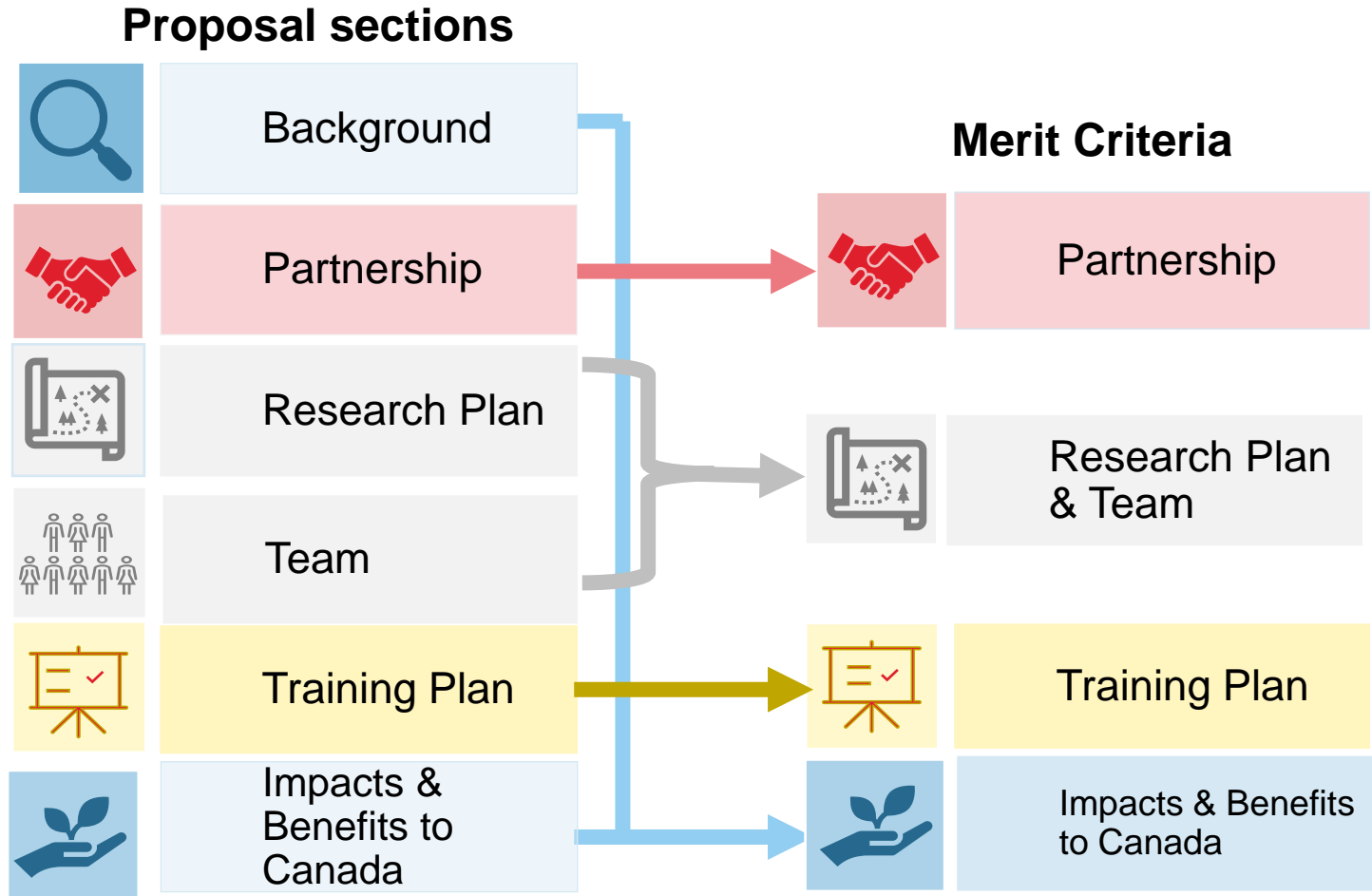
Do you attest on behalf of you, your co-applicants and all other members of the research team that this collaboration complies with the conflict of interest policies of all participating institutions?

I understand that this collaboration must comply with all participating institutions' conflict of interest policies for the duration of the grant. Should a real, potential or perceived conflict of interest arise, I will immediately disclose such conflict to my institution and to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

3. Providing efficient and responsive proposal assessment

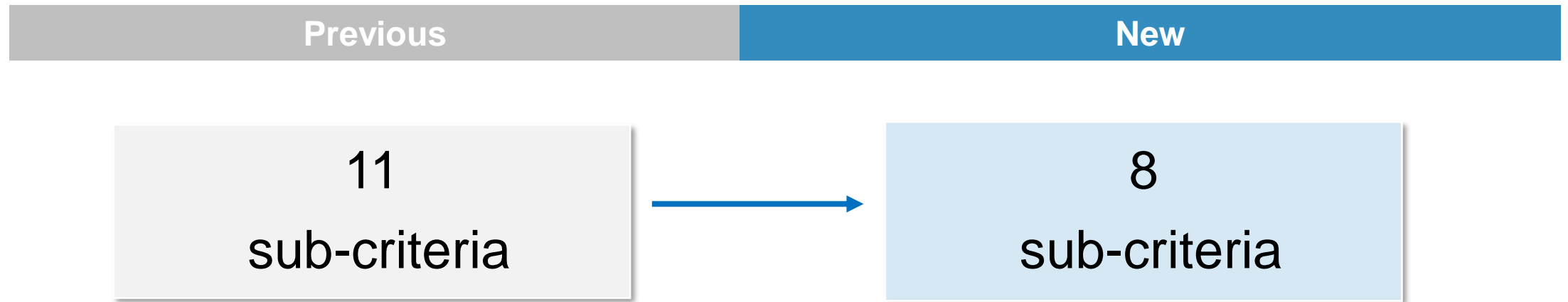


Update of proposal template and merit criteria



Providing efficient and responsive proposal assessment

Streamlined merit sub-criteria



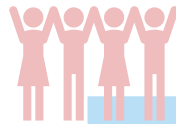
- Consolidated sub-criteria where appropriate
- Removed sub-criterion requiring “*identified indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing outcomes after the project*”

Changes to merit indicators

- Updated to align with new criteria
- Revised to improve clarity and differentiation
- Other notable changes:



Training: interaction between partner organization(s) and HQP is required for a “Meets” in Training



Team: revised to focus on team’s capacity, vs. just the applicant’s track record in training and managing similar projects



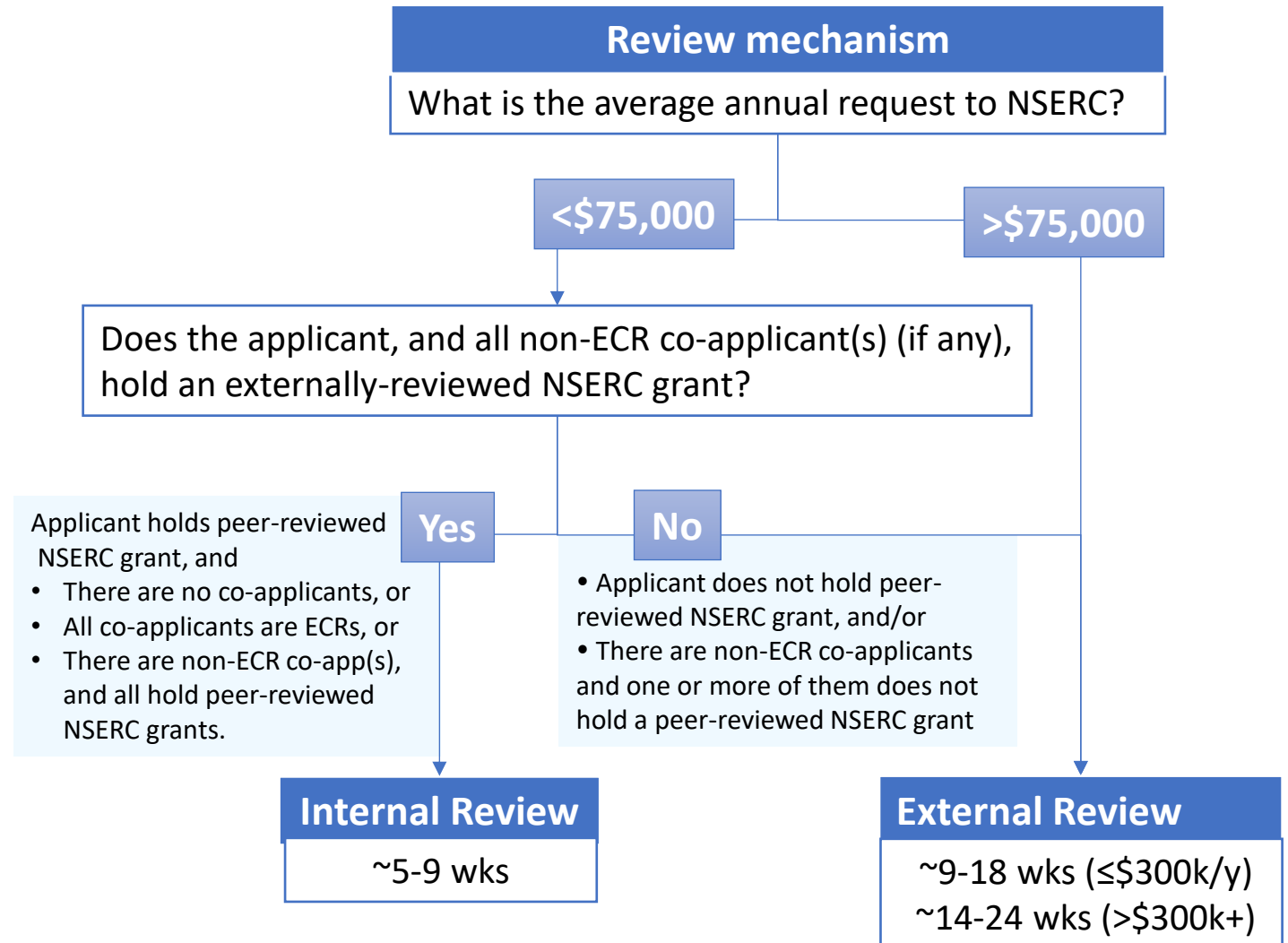
EDI: EDI sub-criteria revised to encourage more context specific and evidence-based EDI practices

Changes to indicators for EDI in training

	Meets	Exceeds	Exceptional
Describes specific and concrete practices	✓	✓	✓
Provides context for the proposed practices		✓	✓
Addresses multiple aspects of the training plan (e.g., training philosophy, recruitment, training environment, development opportunities for and skills gained by trainees)		✓	✓
Bases plan on evidence of effective practices			✓
Presents non-demographic indicators of success and plans to monitor/adapt as required (e.g., retention, advancement, sense of inclusion)			✓

Faster assessment times for more projects

- Alliance applications may be reviewed internally or externally. Internal review is faster than external.
- Previously, only applications requesting less than \$30k/y could be internally reviewed. This threshold is now increased to \$75k/y.
- Internal review is only used when the applicant and all co-applicants hold a peer-reviewed NSERC grant. *Co-applicants who are early career researchers (ECRs) are now exempt.*



4. The Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)



The Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)



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Sensitive Technology Research Areas >

Form

Application Profile

Area(s) of Research

Certification/
Requirement

Partnership/Conflict
of Interest

**Sensitive
Technology
Research Areas**

Cover Letter

Co-Applicants

Collaborators

Biographical
Sketches

Summary of

Form 101 - Sensitive Technology Research Areas

In accordance with the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#), the applicant must indicate whether research activities supported by this grant will aim to advance any of the listed areas in the [Sensitive Technology Research Areas \(STRA\) List](#).

- The STRA List includes technologies at various stages of development, notably where the concern is the **advancement of a STRA during the course of the research**.
- Research that will merely use an existing specific application of technology is not considered advancing any of the listed areas.
- Research areas outside of the listed sub-categories are not considered sensitive for the purposes of this policy.

For more information, please read the [Tri-Agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#).

Will the proposed research activities supported by this grant aim to advance any of the listed sensitive technology research areas?

If you answered "Yes" to the above question, you must complete and attach attestation forms to your grant application - in the STRAC Attestation Attachment section - to comply with the policy.

The Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)



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STRAC Attestation Attachment >

Form
Application Profile
Area(s) of Research
Certification/ Requirement
Partnership/Conflict of Interest
Sensitive Technology Research Areas
Cover Letter
Co-Applicants
Collaborators
Biographical Sketches
Summary of Proposal
Proposal
Proposed

Form 101 - STRAC Attestation Attachment

In accordance with the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#), all researchers involved in the activities supported by a research grant that aims to advance a Sensitive Technology Research Area (STRA) must review the [List of Named Research Organizations](#).

By using the [Attestation for Research Aiming to Advance Sensitive Technology Research Areas](#) form, the applicant, co-applicant, and collaborators, if applicable, must each complete an attestation form certifying that they have read, understood, and are compliant with this policy. Should the application be successful, they and their research team(s) will also be required to comply with the policy **for the duration of the grant**.

For more information, please read the [Tri-Agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#).

The applicant must collect and compile all the completed attestation forms, and save them as a single PDF file.

Select "Instructions" from the common menu bar for details concerning this electronic attachment. For detailed instructions on the attachment process and attachment presentation, consult the [Electronic Attachment Instructions](#).

Your electronic file attachment must meet the following specifications:

- PDF format
- Maximum file size is 3 Mb
- 8 ½" x 11" (216mm x 279mm)

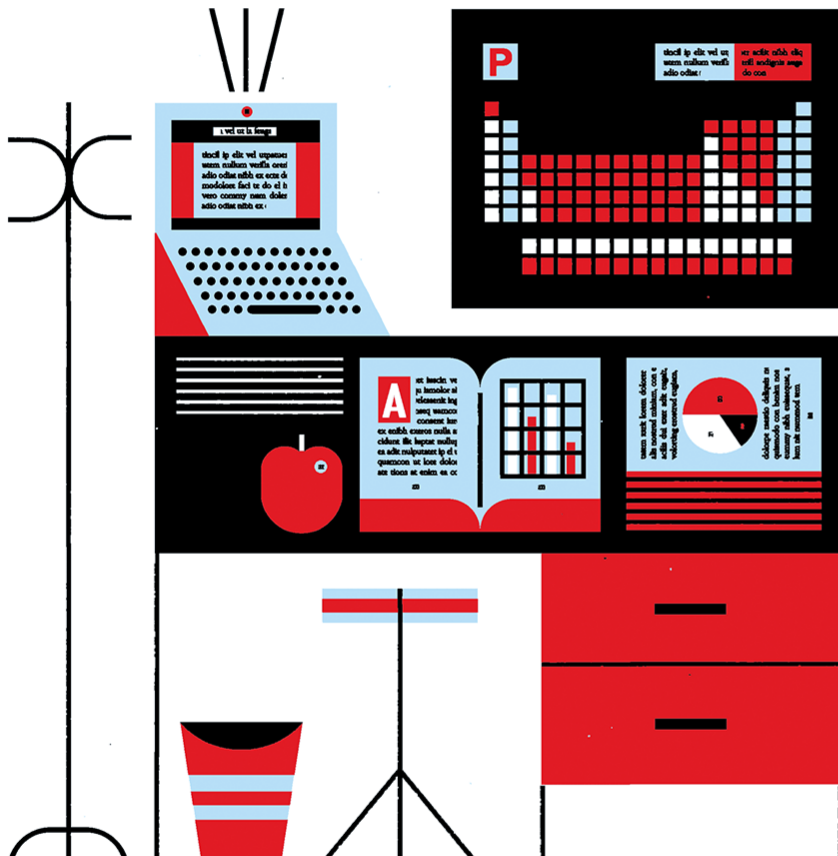
Research Security

Collaborators and STRAC Attestation form

- As members of the research team, [collaborators](#) are subject to applicable agency policies, following the terms and conditions of the award. This includes requirements under the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#).
- If the application is identified by the applicant as aiming to advance a sensitive technology research area, attestation forms are required for **all individuals listed in the Collaborator section of Form 101** regardless of their employment location/sector.

Before completing this section, read the instructions for the definition of collaborators in the Eligibility Criteria section of the Program Guide for Professors.	
COLLABORATORS	
PIN, family name and initial(s)	Organization / Department

- This includes anyone **named in the collaborator section who** is also a member of the staff from partner organizations (i.e. private, public, NFP sectors) or an individual based outside of Canada.
- Failure to provide a required attestation form will result in the application being found incomplete.
- For any questions, please contact researchsecurity@nserc-crsng.gc.ca



Questions?

Jean-Marc David, Program Officer

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