NSERC
Alliance Grants

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Manager
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
Agenda

- Creation
- Alliance
  - Objectives
  - Projects
  - Partnership
  - Cost sharing
  - Application
  - Review
  - Evaluation criteria
  - Transition
Creation

• Builds on the strengths of past programs
• Learning processes / expanding our vision
• Consultation / validation

OVER 12 MONTHS OF WORK…

• Involving NSERC staff
• Professional consultants
• Members of the research community
• 9 national consultations (400 participants from 63 universities and 69 companies)
• 2 assessment workshops

… and much more
Objectives for the New Program

IMPROVE - SIMPLIFY - MODERNIZE

PLATFORM
- Responsive and flexible
- Open to new types of partners
- Create and grow strong and meaningful research partnerships
- Diversify perspectives and skills
- Scalable to achieve high impact results
- Develop meaningful knowledge and ideas
- Accelerate translation and application of results

OUTCOME
Positive impact on economic, societal and environmental benefits for Canada and Canadians
Alliance

Benefits

Prior Programs
• Engage Grants
• Collaborative Research & Development Grants
• Strategic Grants
• Industrial Research Chairs

Alliance Grants
• one program
• more flexible
• scalable
• simpler processes
• no application deadlines
• faster decision times
• enhanced partnerships
• fewer restrictions on research topics within NSE
Grant size and project duration

The minimum grant size is $20,000 per year.

The maximum is $1 million per year.

Alliance Grant projects can range from 1 year up to 5 years in duration. Shorter projects can be scaled up or extended within the maximum 5-year period.
Partnerships

Private - Public - Not for Profit

All organizations needed to achieve the research goals

• Active in research activities
• Collectively provide cash and in-kind support
• Utilize or mobilize the project’s research results
• Achieve desired impact
Partner organizations recognized in cost-sharing calculations

Private Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash contributions can be recognized*</th>
<th>Cash contributions <em>cannot</em> be recognized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Canadian private companies</td>
<td>• Venture capital / Angel investors / Seed companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Multinationals with a presence in Canada</td>
<td>• Holding companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Foreign companies (but not as the sole partner organization)</td>
<td>• Companies with less than two full-time employees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met
### Partner organizations recognized in cost-sharing calculations

**Canadian Public Sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash contributions can be recognized*</th>
<th>Cash contributions cannot be recognized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Municipalities and local or regional governments established by or under provincial or territorial statute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provincial/territorial government departments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Federal government departments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Indigenous organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public utilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Crown corporations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Funding organizations (federal, provincial, territorial, international) whose primary mission is to fund R&amp;D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Organizations whose primary mission is to perform R&amp;D and are funded or controlled primarily by government</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Foreign governments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met*
Partner organizations recognized in cost-sharing calculations

## Canadian Not-for-Profit Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash contributions can be recognized*</th>
<th>Cash contributions <em>cannot</em> be recognized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Producer groups</td>
<td>• Not-for-profit organizations whose primary mission is to fund R&amp;D and are funded or controlled primarily by government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Industrial associations</td>
<td>• Post-secondary institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Registered charities that have a mandate to carry out and apply research (within natural sciences and engineering)</td>
<td>• Incubators and accelerators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Organizations whose primary mission is to maintain collections (e.g., historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural) for the public good, such as libraries, museums, zoos or aquariums</td>
<td>• Other registered charities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community organizations</td>
<td>• Hospitals and medical/clinical research institutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Philanthropic organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Consortia with the majority of their funding originating from government sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Foreign not-for-profit organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Individuals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met
## Cost sharing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION 1</th>
<th>OPTION 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50% 1:1 leverage ratio</td>
<td>90 to 100% of the shareable costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66% 2:1 leverage ratio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large partner organizations only</td>
<td>100%: Public &amp; not-for-profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90%: Private sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limit of 2 applications per partner organization and per applicant per 12 months period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grants limited to $200k/year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Small & medium sized partner organizations
  - Large organizations with SMEs (value chain)
  - Multisectoral partnership (private, public, not-for-profit)
Cost-sharing example

OPTION 1

Small / medium-sized organizations*

*public, private, or not-for-profit

66% cost-sharing (2:1 ratio)

Total project cost: $180,000

- Partner cash contributions recognized for cost-sharing: $60,000
- NSERC contribution: $120,000
Cost-sharing example

**OPTION 1**

Small / medium-sized organizations*

*public, private, or not-for-profit

66% cost-sharing (2:1 ratio)

Total project cost: $200,000

- Partner cash contributions recognized for cost-sharing: $60,000
- Partner cash contributions not recognized for cost-sharing: $20,000
- NSERC contribution: $120,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total project cost</th>
<th>$200,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s)- contributions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not recognized</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost-shared amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>$180,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s) - contributions recognized</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSERC</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to apply

Alliance Grant applications are submitted using NSERC’s online system

• Applicants fill out the proposal template and supporting documents and include their Common CV and the Common CVs of any co-applicants
• See the instructions for NSERC’s online system
Review

**Financial risk-based approach**  -  **Simpler review format**  -  **Shorter processing time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Size</th>
<th>Small</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Large</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Annual Request</td>
<td>$20,000 to $30,000</td>
<td>$30,000 to $300,000</td>
<td>$300,000 to $1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review mechanism</td>
<td>NSERC File Managers</td>
<td>External Reviewers</td>
<td>Ad hoc committee members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supported by existing NSERC peer review</td>
<td>With expertise directly related to the proposal</td>
<td>With expertise directly related to the proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding decisions</td>
<td>NSERC assigns merit indicators to determine priority for funding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected decision time*</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>8-12 weeks</td>
<td>12-16 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation criteria

1. Relevance and outcomes
2. Partnership
3. Quality of the Proposal
4. Training
### Alliance Grants

- **Official launch**: April 24
- **90% to 100% (Option 2)**
- **SMALL** applications
  - < $30k / year
- **MEDIUM** applications
  - > $30k / year
- **LARGE** applications
  - >$150k / year
- **Deadline for last invited applications for Industrial Research Chairs**: September 2
- **Application deadline for CRD, Engage and Engage+**: May 31

### Prior Programs

- **TBD**
- **TBD**
- **TBD**
- **May 21**
- **April 24**
Transition

- All ongoing awards & all new commitments made before the launch of Alliance will be honored, as long as they continue to meet the T&C of the award.

- All IRC, CRD, Engage applications received before deadline will be evaluated according to the original rules and evaluation criteria.
Useful Links

- [Alliance Grants Website](#)
- [Instructions for completing an Alliance Grant application](#)
- [Role of partner organizations](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [Merit Indicators](#)
- [Use of Grant Funds](#)
- [FAQ](#)
Thank you!

Visit nserc.ca/alliance to learn more about the new Alliance grants.

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