New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

2022 Exploration Competition

Information Webinar

May 2022

CIHR IRSC NSERC CRSNG SSHRC CRSH Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada Canada

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Overview

1. Program description
2. Eligibility and roles
3. Review process
4. Notice of Intent (NOI) requirements
5. Information for RGOs
6. Questions and resources

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Program Description

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Program Description

Competition Stages

Two-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI).
2. Full Application.

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Program Description

Exploration Stream Objective

Goal: Inspire research that is **high risk**, **high reward**, and **interdisciplinary.**

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.**

Range of impacts:
Social, cultural, economic, health-related, technological, etc.

Proposals led from any discipline:
Social sciences and humanities, health, natural sciences and engineering.

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Program Description

Value and Duration

Value → Up to $125,000 per year (including indirect costs of up to 25% of direct costs).

Funds should be used primarily to support research activities, **not to acquire or maintain infrastructure**.*[1]

*[1] *Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration*

Duration → Up to 2 years.

Number of grants → Minimum of 100 grants.

A proportion of awards will be reserved for Early Career Researchers (ECRs).*[2]

*[2] *Research interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are recognized as an eligible delay* → ***starting on March 1, 2020.***

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Program Description

Competition Timeline

June 28, 2022 8:00 p.m. (eastern)	NOI deadline
September 13, 2022 8:00 p.m. (eastern)	Full Application deadline
Feb 27 to Mar 3, 2023	Multidisciplinary review panel meetings
March 31, 2023	Start date of awards

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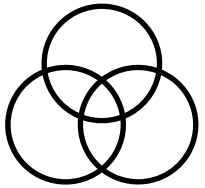
Program Description

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program



Interdisciplinarity requirements:

- at least two different disciplines (as defined by the group-level classification of the Canada Research and Development Classification codes, CRDC); and
- the onus is on the applicant to explain the novelty of the interdisciplinary approach to justify the fit to program.

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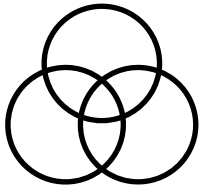
Program Description

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program



Interdisciplinarity can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- Novelty of the Perspective → integrating two or more disciplines not commonly combined.
- Novelty of the Approach → application or adaptation of frameworks/tools/methods/ techniques from one discipline to solve a problem in another discipline.
- Project Design → designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Subcriterion

- Fit to Program → pushes the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies.

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Program Description

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Research

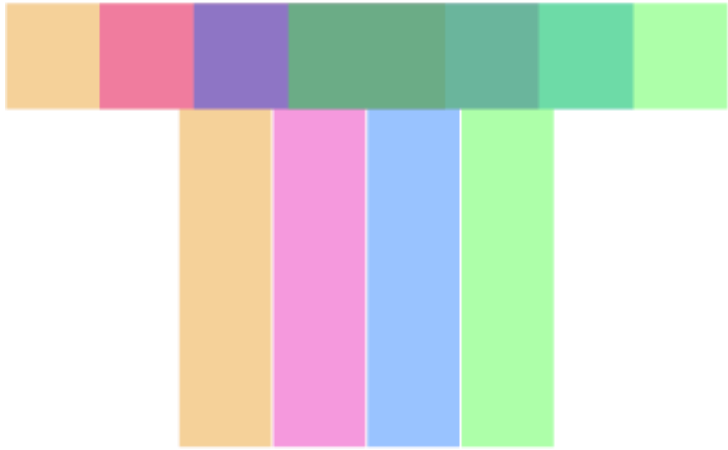
Multidisciplinary Teams

Each member operates as a part of a chain of responsibility

Members working in silo, by disciplines

Interdisciplinary Teams

Individuals from different fields are expected to contribute ideas to the entire project stack



Members listen to and learn from others

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Program Description

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice (EDI-RP)

***referred to as EDI in previous Exploration competitions**

EDI-RP is a core element of the NFRF program and is comprised of **3 key areas**:

1. team composition and recruitment processes;
2. training and development opportunities; and
3. inclusion.

For each of the three key areas above, applicants must explain:

- ❑ what actions they will take;
- ❑ the outcomes expected; and
- ❑ the assessment planned.

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Program Description

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice (EDI-RP)

***referred to as EDI in previous Exploration competitions**

Actions proposed are expected to:

- **remove barriers;** and
- **provide opportunities** for the meaningful integration of individuals from all groups, including the four designated groups (women, Indigenous peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities).

Refer to the

NFRF Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research

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Program Description

High Risk

High risk can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- proposing unique directions;
- challenging current research paradigms;
- enhancing understanding of complex and challenging issues;
- bringing new disciplines together with different perspectives, to use novel approaches for solving existing problems; and/or
- developing or adapting frameworks, methods and techniques.

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Program Description

High Reward

High reward can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- having an economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, technological or health impact;
- impacting large communities, or a single or small number of unique communities/subpopulations with the potential to provide lessons for other contexts;
- transforming and/or disrupting conventional thinking;
- resolving a longstanding issue or debate; and/or
- significantly advancing current knowledge, methods and/or technologies.

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Program Description

Feasibility

Feasibility considers elements such as the:

- research problem being addressed;
- knowledge, expertise and capacity of the research team;
- current research in the field;
- workplan and timeline;
- proposed approach, including EDI in research design (EDI-RD)* where appropriate;
- project's engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Metis peoples (for Indigenous research), where appropriate; and
- suitability of the research environment.

***referred to as GBA+ in previous Exploration competitions**

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Eligibility and Roles

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Eligibility and Roles

Project Team Eligibility

At least 2 participants:

- a nominated principal investigator (NPI) who is an independent researcher at an eligible institution

AND

- a co-principal investigator (co-PI), who must also be an independent researcher

OR

- a co-applicant (co-App), who may be a:
  - researcher / professor → independent researcher ; **or**
  - practitioner, policy-maker, educator, decision-maker, health-care administrator, Indigenous Elder, etc.

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Eligibility and Roles

Team Roles

Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI)

- Responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed research activities.
- Completes the NOI and full application on Convergence portal and submits to their research administrator.
- Assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the grant.

Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI)

- Shares responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities
- May access grant funds

Co-Applicants (co-App)

- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Various backgrounds and affiliations
- May access grant funds

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who contributes to the project
- Cannot be supervised by the team
- Do not have access to grant funds

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Eligibility and Roles

Project Team Eligibility

NPIs, co-PIs and co-Apps:

- **must not** be affiliated with a government* or for-profit company; and
- can participate in **only one Exploration stream application or grant at one time**.**

With some exceptions; please refer to our website.

***Exploration grantees must submit their final report before the full application deadline of a subsequent competition to be eligible to apply.*

For a proposal to be considered led by early career researchers (ECRs), **both the NPI and co-PI** (if applicable) must be ECRs.

Refer to the Eligibility section of the Competition Overview

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Review Process

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Review Process

Notice of Intent and Full Application

Notice of Intent (NOI) (not adjudicated)

Purpose:

Used by staff to:

1. identify external reviewers; and
2. compose the multidisciplinary review panel.

Full Application

Purpose:

Used in the merit review process to identify the most meritorious applications to be recommended for funding by the multidisciplinary review panel.

Merit review process steps:

- Evaluation by external reviewers.
- Adjudication by the multidisciplinary review panel.

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Review Process

External Review

External reviewers will evaluate the proposed project according to **3 criteria**:

- High risk
- High reward
- Feasibility

This process is **double-anonymous** (i.e. the external reviewers are not provided information that identifies the research team and vice versa).

The external reviewers will be provided with the following sections:

- NOI Stage: Summary of the Proposal
- Full Application stage:
  1. EDI-RD section;
  2. research proposal;
  3. budget justification; and
  4. literature references.

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Review Process

External Review

To ensure anonymity:

- Do **not include any identifying information about the team members** (e.g., names, previous work, research groups, departments, institutions or organizations) in sections provided to the external reviewers.
- When referring to prior research, use non-identifying statements (e.g., “article was published,” “research was conducted on,” etc.)

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Review Process

Multidisciplinary Review Panel

Adjudication involves scoring according to the evaluation matrices for the selection criteria:

- Interdisciplinarity / Fit to program (**pass/fail**);
- Equity, diversity and inclusion in Research Practice (EDI-RP) (**pass/fail**);
- High risk: **40%** of overall score;
- High reward: **40%** of overall score; and
- Feasibility: **20%** of overall score.

This is not a double-anonymous review process

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NOI Requirements

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NOI Requirements and Content

NOI Requirement

- The NPI must submit a NOI to be eligible to create and submit a full application.
- It must include completed profiles of at least two team members.
- Additional members can be added at the full application stage.

NOI content

A completed NOI must include:

- application title;
- fields of research (CRDC codes);
- keywords; and
- summary of the proposal.

**Once submitted by the RGO, these fields are locked in for the rest of the competition*

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NOI Requirements

Summary of the Proposal

Maximum 2,500 characters.

The summary must:

1. include the objectives and summary of the research approach; and
2. highlight the novelty and expected significance of the work.

To ensure anonymity, do not include any information that would identify the team members.

Once submitted by the RGO, it cannot be modified.

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NOI Requirements

Suggesting External Reviewers

Be mindful of **conflicts of interest.**

Identify appropriate **expertise:**

- Minimum of **3 experts** from **each primary research field.**
- Ability to review with confidence (including language).
- Experts familiar with the various disciplinary approaches in the interdisciplinary project.

Consider **diversity** in your selection:

- Canadian, international.
- Private, government, public sectors.
- Gender.
- Under-represented groups.
- Established, mid career, early career researchers.

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NOI Requirements

Collection of Personal Information

Collected for the purpose of program performance management

Self-ID data collected as part of the user profile is NOT shared with reviewers (or agency staff) and is not accessible by RGOs or any other users of the Convergence Portal.

Please consult the

Data Collection policy

for more information

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Information for RGOs

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Information for RGOs

RGO Role

RGOs can:

- view NOIs from NPIs at their institution (expired, in progress and submitted);
- return submitted NOIs to the NPI; and
- forward submitted NOIs to the agency.

Before forwarding an application to the agency, **you will be asked to confirm**:

- that the participants meet the eligibility requirements; and
- that the proposed research project meets the eligibility requirements.

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Information for RGOs

RGO Role

By forwarding the application, you will also be certifying, on behalf of the institution, that the NPI:

- is affiliated with the institution or organization;
- has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity; and
- will notify NFRF by email (NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca) of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the partnership, such as the addition of new co-principal investigators, co-applicants or collaborators.

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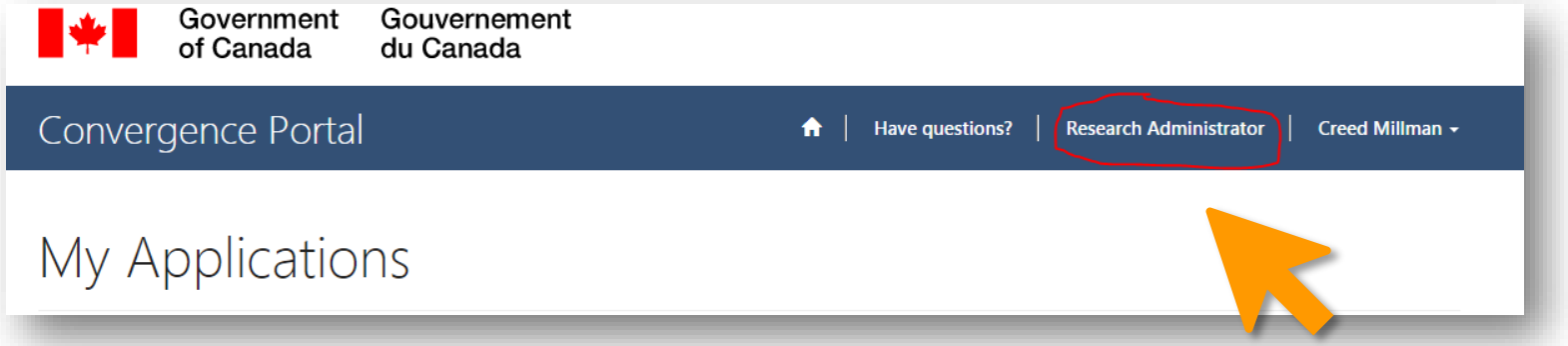
Information for RGOs

RGO Role

Use the “Research Administrator” button to access your institution’s applications



If you do not have this option, please contact websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough (18:45)

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Questions and Resources

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Questions and resources

Questions?

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Questions and resources

Resources

Contact Information

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

Online Services Helpdesk

websupport@convergence.gc.ca
613-995-4273

Program Links

NFRF Website
Competition Overview
Reviewer Manual
Evaluation Matrices

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Questions and resources

Video Capsule

[NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough]