



# NSERC Alliance Grants

Canada's research partnership program

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**One**  
New  
Flexible  
Simplified  
Enhanced  
Responsive  
**Partnerships**  
**Program**

Alliance grants encourage university researchers to collaborate with partner organizations, which can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors. These grants support research projects led by strong, complementary, collaborative teams that will generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results for the benefit of all Canadians.



## 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



# Examples of partner organizations

## with contributions recognized in cost-sharing calculations

Private Sector	Public Sector	Not-for-profit Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canadian private companies</li><li>• Multinationals with presence in Canada</li><li>• Foreign companies (not as sole partner)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipalities, local/regional governments</li><li>• Federal/provincial/territorial government departments (not funding agencies)</li><li>• Public utilities</li><li>• Crown corporations</li><li>• Indigenous governments</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Producer groups</li><li>• Industrial associations</li><li>• Registered charities with a research mandate</li><li>• Museums/libraries</li><li>• Indigenous groups</li><li>• Community groups</li></ul>



# Role of partner organizations

**Every partner organization must do at least one of:**

- Play an active role in research activities
- Utilize the research results and achieve desired outcomes
- Play an active role in mobilizing knowledge to generate outcomes

**At least one partner organization must demonstrate ability to exploit research results**

- Other partners may be chosen for their ability to generate and mobilize knowledge

**Partner organizations must collectively support the project through cash and/or in-kind contributions**



# Cost-sharing options

Alliance Grants incorporate a three-tiered cost-sharing structure

NSERC will provide:

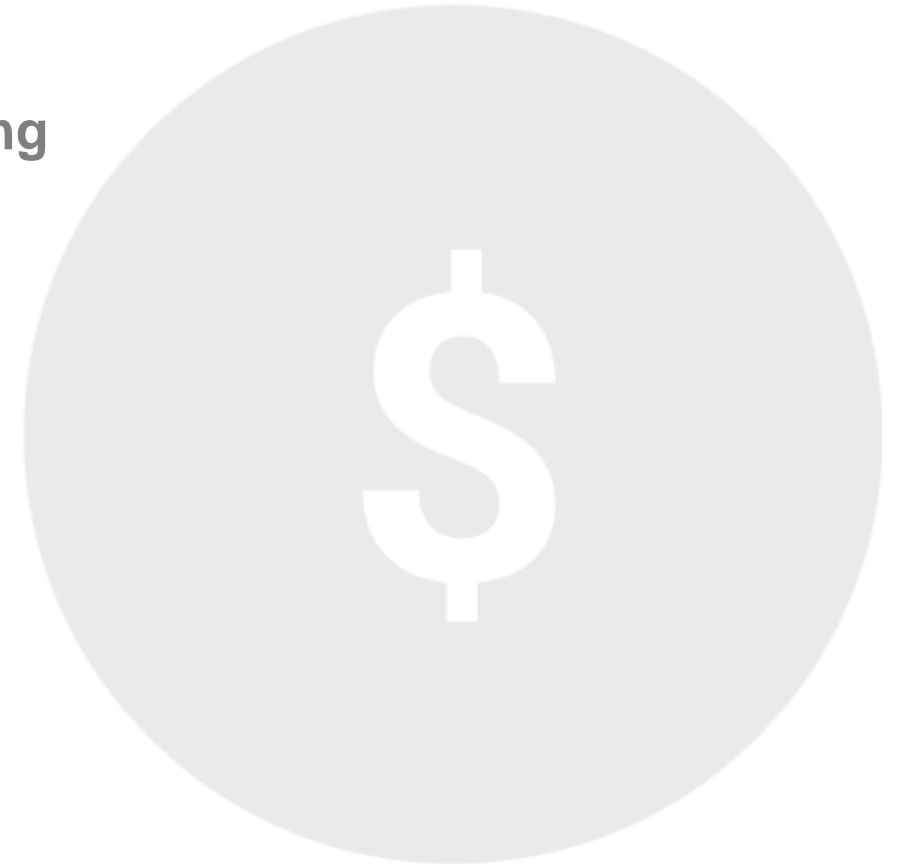
## OPTION 1

**50%** (a 1:1 leverage ratio),

**66%** (a 2:1 leverage ratio), or

## OPTION 2

**90% to 100%** of the shareable costs, depending on the type of partnership



# Cost-sharing options

## Option 1

Size of partner organization	Type of partnership	NSERC Contribution to Project costs	Parameters
<b>Large organizations*</b> 500+ employees globally	Sole partner organization or in partnership exclusively with other large organizations	50% (1:1 leverage)	Applications per year: no limits  Grant size: \$20,000 to \$1 million per year  Duration: 1 to 5 years
	As a partner with small and medium-sized enterprises such as in value- or supply-chain relationship, or with other sectors*	66% (2:1 leverage)	
<b>Small and medium organizations*</b> Less than 500 employees globally	Sole partner organization or in partnership with other sectors*	66% (2:1 leverage)	

\*including private, public and not-for-profit



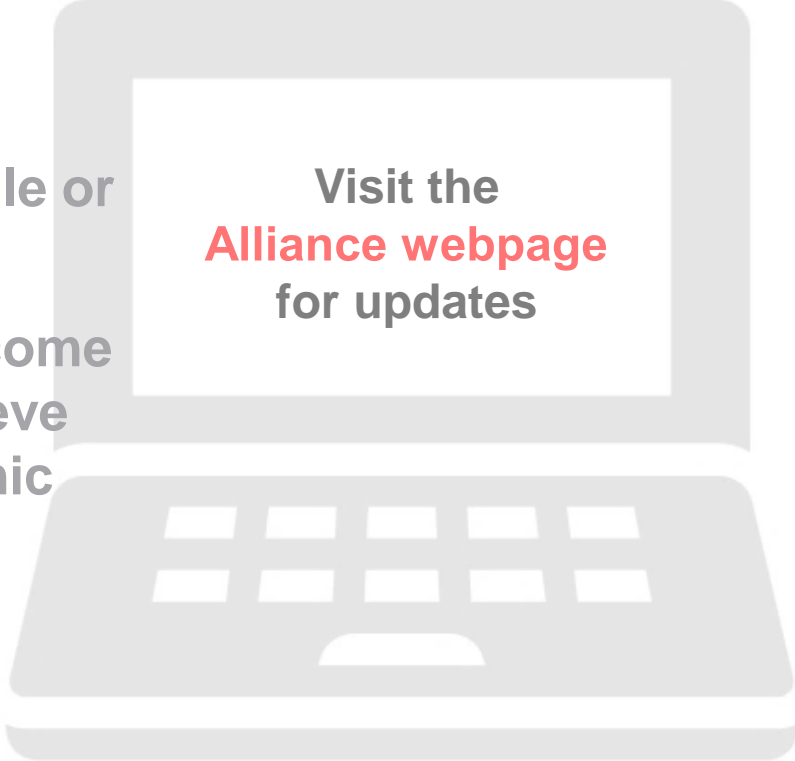


# Alliance Option 2

This component of Alliance is intended for natural science/engineering research proposals that:

- aim to address an unmet societal need (may include research affecting public goods, or that will address national or global issues that benefits more than a single or a few organizations)
- connect partner organizations willing and able to overcome existing barriers to address these challenges and achieve results that can lead to societal impact beyond economic benefits

More details on the objectives and on the application and evaluation processes will be available soon



Visit the  
**Alliance webpage**  
for updates



# Contributions recognized in cost-sharing calculations

## Private Sector

Cash contributions can be recognized*	Cash contributions <i>cannot</i> be recognized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canadian private companies</li><li>• Multinationals with a presence in Canada</li><li>• Foreign companies (but not as the sole partner organization)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Venture capital / Angel investors / Seed companies</li><li>• Holding companies</li><li>• Companies with less than two full-time employees</li></ul>

\*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met



# Contributions recognized in cost-sharing calculations

## Canadian Public Sector

Cash contributions can be recognized*	Cash contributions <i>cannot</i> be recognized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipalities and local or regional governments established by or under provincial or territorial statute</li><li>• Provincial/territorial government departments</li><li>• Federal government departments</li><li>• Indigenous organizations</li><li>• Public utilities</li><li>• Crown corporations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding organizations (federal, provincial, territorial, international) whose primary mission is to fund R&amp;D</li><li>• Organizations whose primary mission is to perform R&amp;D and are funded or controlled primarily by government</li><li>• Foreign governments</li></ul>

\*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met



# Contributions recognized in cost-sharing calculations

## Canadian Not-for-Profit Sector

Cash contributions can be recognized*	Cash contributions <i>cannot</i> be recognized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Producer groups</li><li>• Industrial associations</li><li>• Registered charities that have a mandate to carry out and apply research (within natural sciences and engineering)</li><li>• 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</li><li>• Community organizations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not-for-profit organizations whose primary mission is to fund R&amp;D and are funded or controlled primarily by government</li><li>• Post-secondary institutions</li><li>• Incubators and accelerators</li><li>• Other registered charities</li><li>• Hospitals and medical/clinical research institutes</li><li>• Philanthropic organizations</li><li>• Consortia with the majority of their funding originating from government sources</li><li>• Foreign not-for-profit organizations</li><li>• Individuals</li></ul>

\*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met



# How applications are reviewed

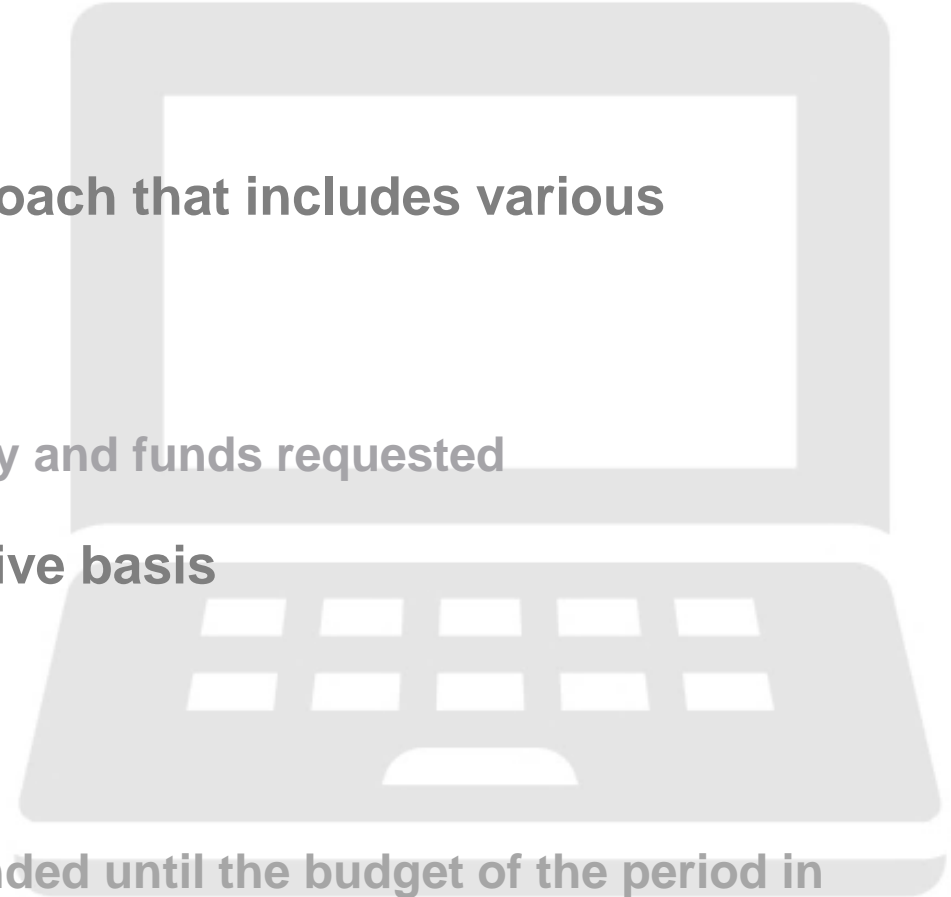
**N SERC has adopted a financial risk-based approach that includes various assessment tools**

- Reduces burden and delays
- Recognizes risk as a function of project complexity and funds requested

**Financing decisions will be made on a competitive basis**

**Definition of given budget periods**

- Ranking according to overall merit
- Applications with the highest merit will be funded until the budget of the period in question is exhausted



# Review of the application

Project Size	Small	Medium	Large
Approximate thresholds	Average annual request of \$20,000 to \$30,000 for 1-5 years	Average annual request of more than \$30,000 up to \$300,000 for 1-5 years	Average annual request of more than \$300,000 up to \$1,000,000 for 1-5 years
Review mechanism	<p><b>NSERC File Managers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation supported by existing NSERC peer review (i.e. Discovery Grant rating, active Canada Research Chair holders, prior Partnership grants)</li> <li>If no existing NSERC peer review evidence is available, external reviewers will be used</li> </ul>	<p><b>External Referees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With expertise directly related to the proposal</li> <li>Provide review based on all evaluation criteria</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ad hoc committee members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With expertise directly related to the proposal</li> <li>Provide review based on all evaluation criteria</li> </ul>
Funding decisions	NSERC assigns merit indicators to determine priority for funding		
Expected assessment time	4 weeks	8-12 weeks	12-16 weeks



# Evaluation criteria

Applications are evaluated using the following criteria:

- Relevance and outcomes
- Partnership
- Quality of the proposal
- Training



# Evaluation criteria

## Relevance and outcomes

25%

- Significance of the intended outcomes and of the economic, social and/or environmental benefits for Canada
- Originality of research and production of new scientific knowledge
- Strategy to apply the results

## Partnership

25%

- Relevance to achieve the expected results; leveraging of different types of partner organizations and the integration of their unique perspectives and knowledge in the project, as appropriate
- Role in defining the challenge, co-designing and implementing the research, and using the results to achieve the desired outcomes
- Appropriateness of the level of cash and in-kind contributions from each partner organization





# Evaluation criteria

## Quality of the proposal

25%

- Clarity of the objectives and deliverables; appropriateness of the scope and size of planned activities to achieve the expected outcomes; justification for the planned expenditures
- Appropriateness of the identified indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing outcomes afterwards
- Appropriateness of academic researchers' expertise, and that found within the partner organizations, both for carrying out the planned research activities and in mentoring trainees

## Training

25%

- Opportunities for enriched training experiences for research trainees (undergraduates, graduates, postdoctoral fellows) to develop relevant research skills as well as professional skills such as leadership, communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship.
- Consideration of diversity and gender equity in the training plan



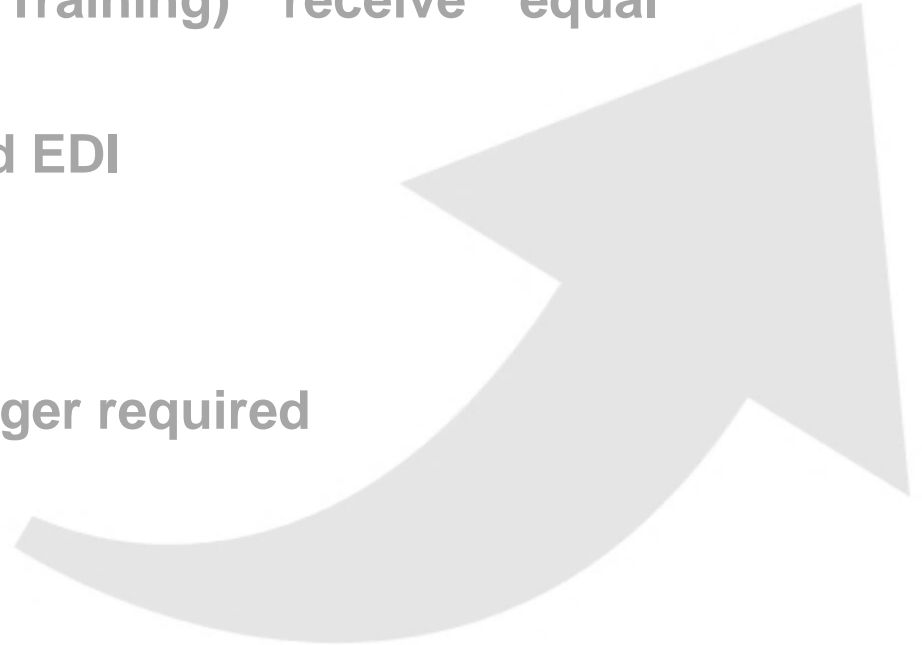
# Equity, diversity and inclusion in the Training Plan

- Describe the specific practices you will implement to ensure an inclusive research and training environment. If your university has an EDI program describe specific actions in the context of your plan and not simply include a generic statement referencing the university's EDI program.
- Describe the planned approach to promoting participation from a diverse group of HQP, taking into account equity and inclusion in recruitment practices, mentorship approaches, and initiatives aimed at ensuring an inclusive research and training environment and trainee growth.
- Describe the existing EDI challenges that are part of the context for your program of research (if applicable) and your planned approach to promote participation from diverse groups of potential trainees. This will demonstrate incorporation of EDI in your training plan, regardless of the composition of the potential trainee pool.



# Alliance... Tips and Reminders

- Merit indicators – scores from each of the four Evaluation Criteria (Relevance/Outcomes, Partnership, Quality, Training) receive equal weighting when the overall score is calculated
- Increased focus on: Outcomes, Partnerships and EDI
- Use the Template
- Partner Form 183A and letters of support no longer required
- Form 100A + CCV replace Form 100
- Use a cover letter for resubmissions
- Strictly Observe the Page Limits (by funding level)



# Alliance... Tips and Reminders

<b>Proposal sections and length</b>					
	<b>Average annual request Suggested number of pages per section</b>				
<b>Section</b>	<b>Percentage of evaluation</b>	<b>Up to \$30,000/ year</b>	<b>Up to \$300,000/ year</b>	<b>More than \$300,000/ year</b>	<b>More than \$750,000/ year</b>
<b>Background and expected outcomes</b>	25%	1	2	3	3
<b>Partnership</b>	25%	1	2	3	5
<b>Proposal</b>	25%	2	4	5	15
<b>Team</b>		0.5	1	2*	4*
<b>Training plan</b>	25%	0.5	1	2	3
	<b>Maximum number of pages including NSERC template text</b>				
<b>Total</b>		5	10	15	30



# Useful EDI Links

- [NSERC's EDI webpage](#)
- [Guide for Applicants: Considering equity, diversity and inclusion in your application](#)
- [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: A Best Practices Guide for Recruitment, Hiring and Retention](#)



# 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](https://nserc.ca/alliance)  
to learn more about the  
new Alliance grants.

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