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Advance Information for Research Offices on the Reopening of the Alliance International Collaboration Program

We would like to inform you of the upcoming re-opening of the Alliance International Collaboration program. We expect to re-open this funding opportunity on **September 2, 2026**. We will offer information sessions to RGOs and researchers shortly after the program re-opens.

While the Catalyst program will remain on hold, discipline-specific Catalyst grant funding opportunities *may* be offered in future when/if specific funding is available (for example, 81 Catalyst Quantum grants were awarded in early 2026). However, a regular Catalyst funding opportunity is not part of the revised Alliance International program.

What remains unchanged:

- Alliance International Collaboration is an opportunity for Canadian university researchers to receive NSERC funding to collaborate on international research projects involving university-based researchers (equivalent to assistant, associate or full professor) from other countries.
- Canadian applicants and co-applicants must hold an active, NSERC peer-reviewed grant at the time of application.
- NSERC will leverage the results of the peer review conducted by the international funding agency as the scientific assessment of the project; the Canadian team and their role must be clearly defined in the proposals.,
- The assessment of proposals submitted to NSERC will be conducted internally; NSERC will not duplicate the peer review process.
- NSERC funding will remain between \$20,000 and \$100,000 per year, for a maximum duration of three years.
- Where funding is awarded on both sides, the Canadian and international teams are expected to begin their work at approximately the same time and for a comparable duration.
- Canadian researchers may apply for one Alliance International Collaboration grant (as either applicant or co-applicant) per 12 months period starting with the date of the latest submission.

What has changed:

- Proposals submitted to NSERC will now be evaluated internally using two criteria: **Impact and Benefit to Canada (60%)** and **Quality of training in Canada (40%)**, including considerations related to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in training opportunities.
- The Alliance International Collaboration stream will move to a **competitive process**, with three submission deadlines per year. In 2026, the deadline is **November 25, 8pm ET**, with funding decisions expected in January–February 2027. Deadlines for 2027 will be disclosed early in the winter. Applications received for each deadline that are determined to be fundable will be ranked according to the two evaluation criteria outlined above, with funding awarded in rank order until the budget allocated to that competition round is fully committed. A random selection process may be used to break ties at the funding cutoff.
- Applications that are not funded at a given deadline will **not be eligible for resubmission**.
- In light of the competitive process, the maximum time allowed between the official award letter received by the international collaborator and the submission of the Canadian application to NSERC has been extended to **120 days**.
- A copy of the international proposal and the official award letter must be included in the NSERC application. If these documents are not in English or French, applicants must provide a translation of the award letter and of all sections of the international proposal that describe at a minimum the Canadian team and its role in the global project.
- To ensure balanced participation, each party's budget (Canadian and international) must represent at least 25% of the total project budget—for example, if the combined Canadian and international budget is CAD \$200,000, the budget submitted to NSERC or to the international funding agency must be at least \$50,000.

Important:

As a transitional measure intended to include Canadian researchers who were unable to submit an application by the May 20, 2025 deadline, the requirement to submit an application to NSERC within 120 days of the award date of the corresponding international grant will not apply, provided that applications are submitted to NSERC no later than November 25, 2026, 8pm ET. All such applications must meet the program requirements, and the proposed collaborations must remain viable, particularly where the grant awarded to the international collaborators was awarded more than 120 days earlier. Applications submitted by the May 20, 2025 deadline that were not selected for funding are not eligible for resubmission.