

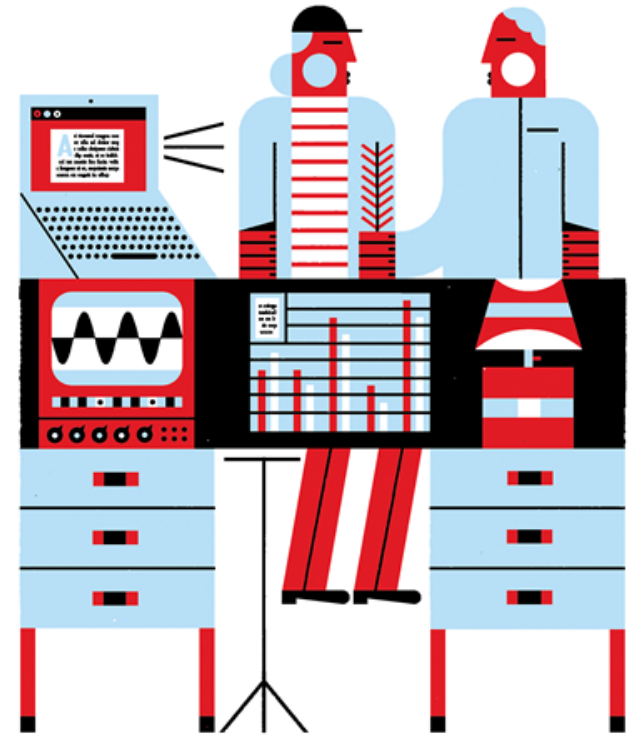


Preparing an Alliance grant application

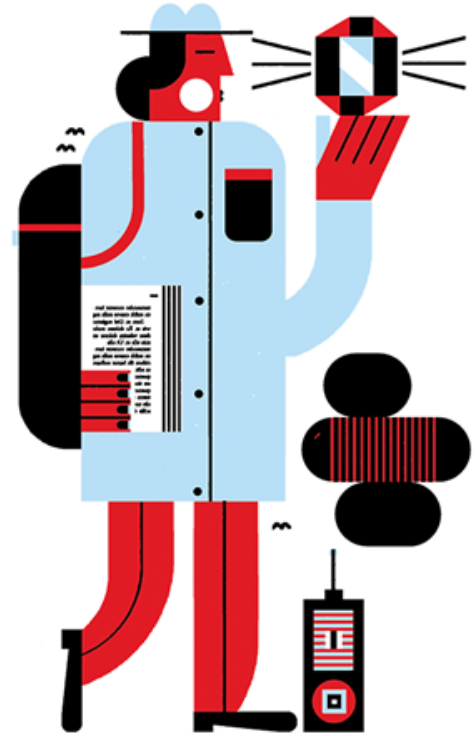
A presentation for Principal Investigators

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Objectives & options



“

Alliance grants enable researchers to go **beyond** what would have been possible for them to accomplish using our previous programs.

Alliance grants

Program objectives

1. Alliance is now NSERC's university research partnerships program
2. Support research in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) led by strong, complementary, collaborative teams
3. Enable collaborations with a broader set of partner organizations (private, public, not-for-profit sectors)
4. Remove barriers and provide more flexibility in building partnerships that will effectively generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results for the benefit of Canadians

1 funding opportunity

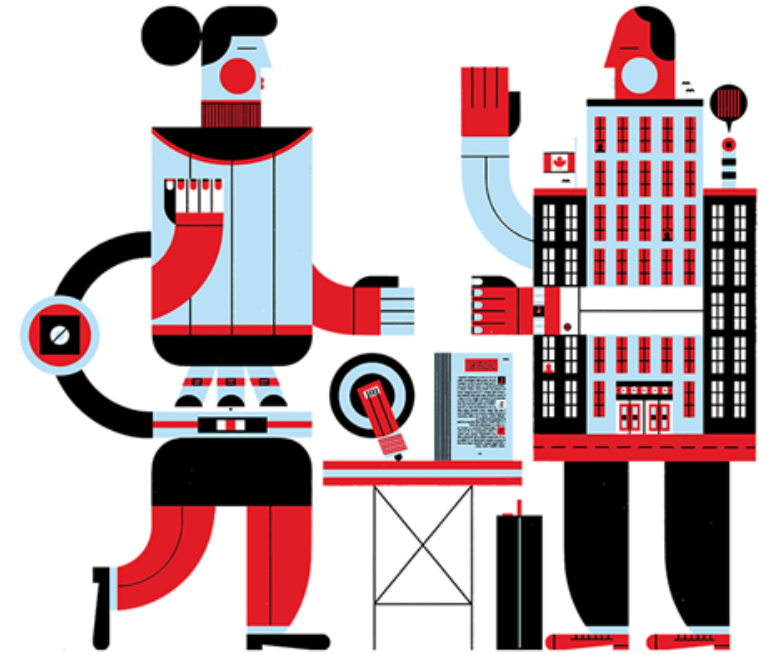
2 options

The two options have the same:

- objectives
- evaluation criteria
- peer review process for overall merit assessment
- academic community and the three types of partner organizations served
- requirements for the recognition of partner organizations

	Option 1	Option 2
Alliance grants eligibility rules	✓	✓
Alliance grants application process	✓	✓
Partner organizations from all sectors are eligible and are actively involved in the project	✓	✓
Cost-sharing ratio	Up to 66.7%	Up to 100%
Funding from NSERC per year	Up to \$1M	Up to \$100K
Project must be driven by unmet societal needs where barriers exist	-	✓
All key organizations and societal groups must be involved to ensure significant impact on society, from consultation to implementation	-	✓
Project must have a clear strategy to make the results available to relevant groups, often beyond the participating partner organizations	-	✓

Alliance Option 1



Alliance Option 1

Who?

**University
researchers**

collaborating with private-sector,
public sector or not-for-profit
organizations

How long?

**1 to 5
years**

How much?

**\$20K to \$1M
per year**

Funding for any given year cannot
exceed the annual maximum; the
amounts are not annual averages

Alliance Option 1

Partner organizations

The partner organizations involved in your Alliance project can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sector

At least 1 must be recognized for cost sharing and make a cash contribution commensurate with applicable cost-sharing ratio



Each must be involved in the project and contribute to its success



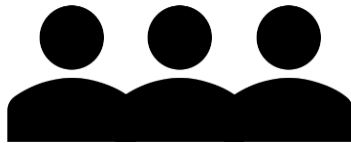
At least 1 must have the ability to exploit the research results and to achieve the desired outcomes



Alliance Option 1

Cost-sharing ratio

Size of partner organization(s) recognized for cost sharing



more than 500 employees globally



fewer than 500 employees globally

Type of partnership

As a sole partner organization or in partnership exclusively with other large organizations within the same sector (private, public or not-for-profit)

As a partner with other large organizations for a different sector or with small and medium-sized organizations from any sector

As a sole partner organization or in partnership with organizations of any size and from any sector

Cost-sharing ratio

Up to

50%

from NSERC (1:1)

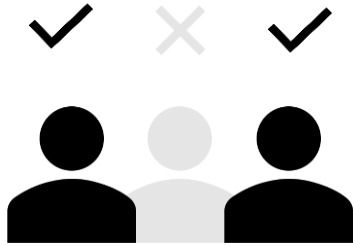
Up to

66.7%

from NSERC (2:1)

Alliance Option 1

Cost-sharing ratio



NSERC's contribution for a given ratio is determined by the sum of cash contributions from all **recognized** partner organizations

Alliance Option 1

How to apply

1. Apply at any time. There is no limit on the number of applications you can submit for Option 1
2. Fill out the [proposal template](#)
3. Submit a complete application through [NSERC's online system](#)



- Follow the [instructions](#)
- Keep the headings and bullets
- Do not change font or font size
- Do not change the margins
- Keep within page limit (includes the template's heading and bullets)

Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

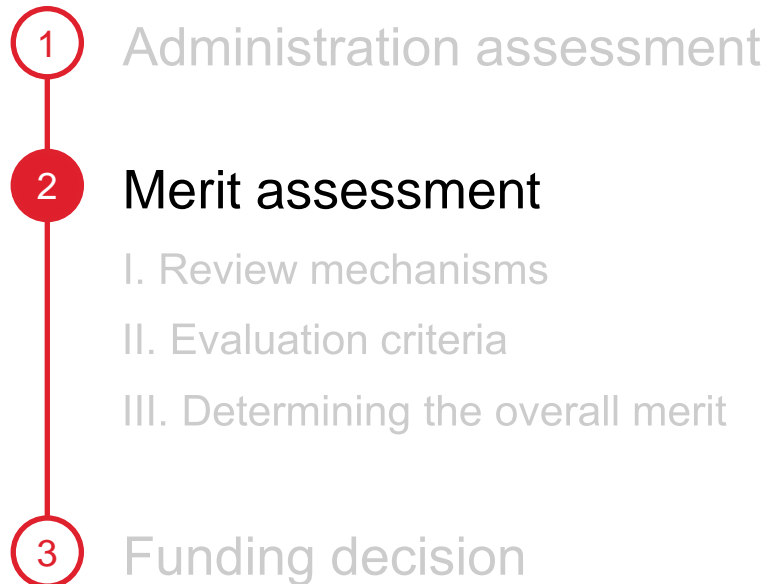
- 1 Administration assessment
- 2 Merit assessment
- 3 Funding decision

Once NSERC receives your application, it first undertakes an administrative assessment to ensure it is complete and complies with our requirements.

If this step is not satisfactorily completed, the application will not be accepted.

Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process



If step 1 is satisfactorily completed, NSERC proceeds with the merit assessment of the application to determine priority of funding on a competitive basis.

Different mechanisms may be used for the merit assessment stage.

Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

- 1 Administration assessment
- 2 Merit assessment
 - I. Review mechanisms
 - II. Evaluation criteria
 - III. Determining the overall merit
- 3 Funding decision

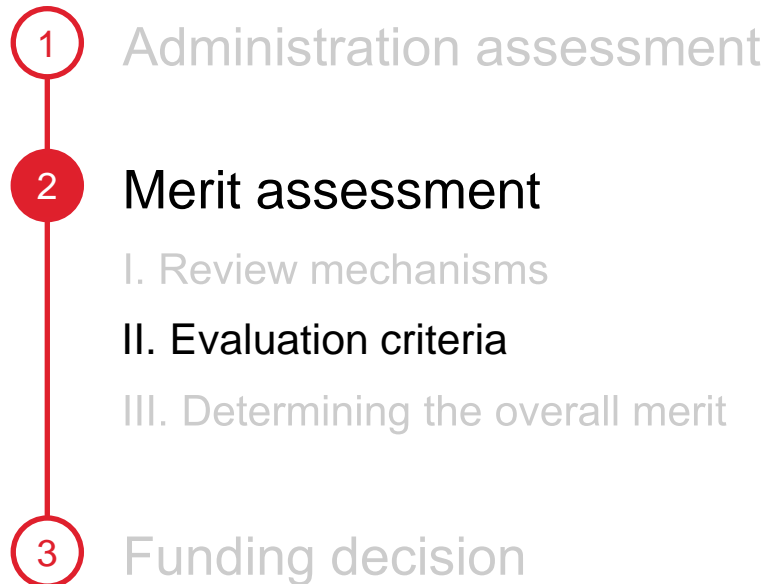
Size of project	Small	Medium	Large
Average annual request	\$20K to \$30K	\$30K to \$300K	\$300K to \$1M
Review mechanism *	NSERC File Managers or External reviewers **	External reviewers	Ad hoc committee

* NSERC does not hold evaluation site visit for Alliance grants

** If the applicants do not hold current NSERC peer-reviewed grants

Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process



The merit assessment is based on 4 equally weighted evaluation criteria:

1. **relevance and outcomes**
2. **partnership**
3. **quality of the proposal**
4. **training**

Each evaluation criterion has multiple subcriteria for a total of 11.

Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process

- 1 Administration assessment
- 2 Merit assessment
 - I. Review mechanisms
 - II. Evaluation criteria
 - III. Determining the overall merit
- 3 Funding decision



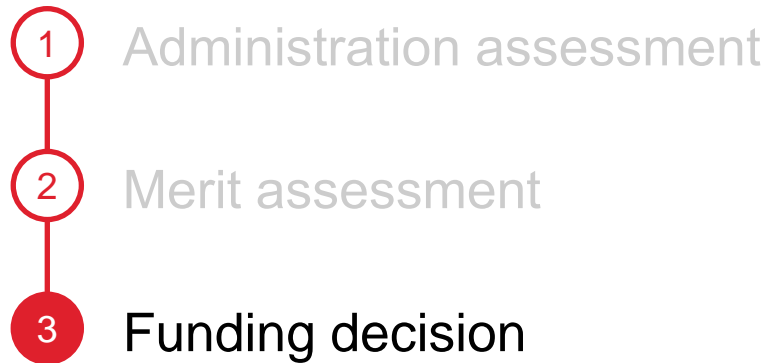
The image shows a stack of three documents titled "Alliance grants Merit Indicators". The top document is titled "1. Relevance and outcomes" and contains a table with four columns: "Exceptional", "Exceeds", "Meets", and "Does not satisfy".

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
1.1 Significance of the intended outcomes and of the economic, social and/or environmental impact for Canada.	The proposed outcomes are of exceptional importance to Canada and may also be important internationally . This research will overcome knowledge gaps to develop new and innovative products, processes or services, standards, policies, procedures or technologies in Canada. The expected outcomes will be of the highest impact for Canadians.	The proposed outcomes are very important to Canada. This research will address knowledge gaps to develop new and innovative products, processes or services, standards, policies, procedures or technologies in Canada. The expected outcomes will have high impact for Canadians.	The proposed outcomes are important to Canada. This research will contribute to addressing knowledge gaps to develop new and innovative products, processes or services, standards, policies, procedures or technologies in Canada. The expected outcomes will have impact for Canadians.	The proposal does not adequately justify why the topic is important to Canada. It does not sufficiently identify how the research will address knowledge gaps related to developing new and innovative products, processes or technologies. It does not adequately identify how outcomes will have impact for Canadians.
1.2 Originality of the research to address the topic and the potential for generating new scientific knowledge.	The proposal demonstrates that the topic will be addressed through exceptionally innovative research. The research has potential to contribute to a scientific breakthrough .	The proposal demonstrates that the topic will be addressed through highly original research. The research has potential for a significant advance in the field.	The proposal demonstrates that the topic will be addressed through original research. The research includes some concepts or directions that may lead to an advance in the field .	The proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate that the topic will be addressed through original research or is not well positioned within the state-of-the-art . It is not clear how the research will lead to new concepts or directions .
1.3 Extent to which the strategy to apply the research results is likely to achieve the intended outcomes.	A comprehensive strategy indicates how the partners will translate the research results into application, such that the outcomes and impacts are very likely to happen.	A clearly defined strategy indicates how the partners will translate the research results into application, such that the outcomes and impacts are likely to happen.	A strategy may lead the partners to translate the research results into application, such that the outcomes and impacts may happen.	The strategy to translate the research results into application is not convincingly presented, such that the outcomes and impacts are unlikely to happen.

NSERC assigns a rating to each subcriterion or criterion using these merit indicators

Alliance Option 1

Evaluation process



Once your application is assessed, priority for funding will be determined according to the established merit indicators.

NSERC will select proposals for funding on a competitive basis.

You will be informed by NSERC as to whether you will be awarded a grant to support your research project.

Alliance Option 2



societal impact
making connections
broad outcomes

Your proposal must meet all three specific characteristics to qualify for Option 2

Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 1: Societal impact

- Focuses on important and unmet needs affecting society or societal groups, regionally, nationally or globally with important impact in Canada
- Removes or lowers the barriers to achieve what would otherwise not be possible in terms of:
 - building capacity to transform a sector and its practices
 - providing evidence for new policies or regulations
 - solving an issue affecting a whole business area
 - creating a new area of the economy

“

The project's outcomes must reach beyond the partner organizations and near-term economic success to **impact & benefit society.**

Alliance Option 2 – Characteristic 1: Societal impact

Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 2: Making connections

- Identify the key stakeholders in the ecosystem or value-chain surrounding the problem.
- Engage all relevant stakeholders beyond the participating partner organizations in the research design and implementation who:
 - bring relevant societal perspectives/skill sets
 - help merge ideas, overcome barriers and find creative solutions
 - ensure the project is need-driven
 - contribute in integrating solutions with decision-makers within and across sectors

“

Despite limited cash contributions, partners must be **strongly committed & active**, and provide valuable opportunity to connect & share results with other organizations.

Alliance Option 2 – Characteristic 2: Marking connections

Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 3: Broad outcomes

- Outcomes/outputs generate benefits beyond the participating partner organizations
- Clear plan to communicate progress and results to the targeted groups:
 - results in formats accessible by all stakeholders in society
 - strategy to raise awareness of the resulting products, services or policies among potential users

Alliance Option 2

Characteristic 3: Broad outcomes

Expectations:

- **short term:** strengthening capacity, building relationships and networks
- **medium term:** uptake, use of results
- **long terms:** measurable societal impact

“

All stakeholders must understand and accept the principle that the management of the intellectual property generated through the project **cannot become a barrier** to the use of the results.

Alliance Option 2 – Characteristic 3: Broad outcomes

Alliance Option 2

Who?

**University
researchers**

collaborating with private-sector,
public sector or not-for-profit
organizations

How long?

**1 to 5
years**

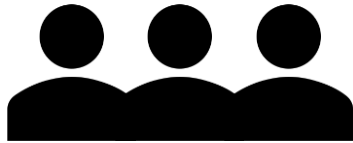
How much?

**> \$30K to \$100K
per year**

Funding for any given year cannot
exceed the annual maximum; the
amounts are not annual averages

Alliance Option 2

Cost-sharing ratio



Partners are only from the public or the not-for-profit sectors



Up to
100%
from NSERC



At least one partner is from the **private sector**



Up to
90%
from NSERC

+

At least
10%
from partner organizations

Partner organizations

Same sectors
and rules as Option 1

At least 1 must be recognized for cost sharing, even if no cash contributions are required



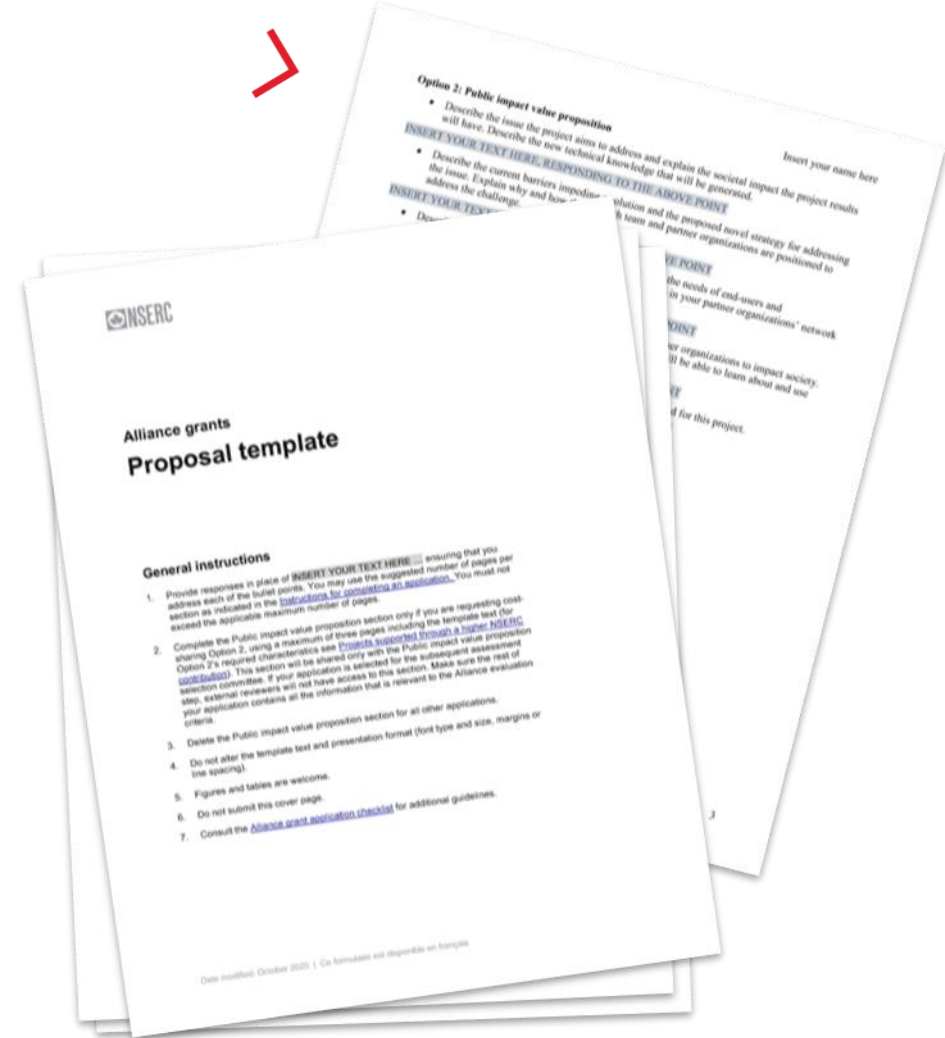
Should include organizations representing the interested societal groups and end users



Alliance Option 2

How to apply

1. Apply at any time, with limit per 12-month period:
 - 1 x application by Applicant and co-Applicant
 - 2 x applications per partner organization (at the top corporate level)
2. Fill out the proposal template + Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP)
3. Submit a complete application through N SERC's online system



Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process

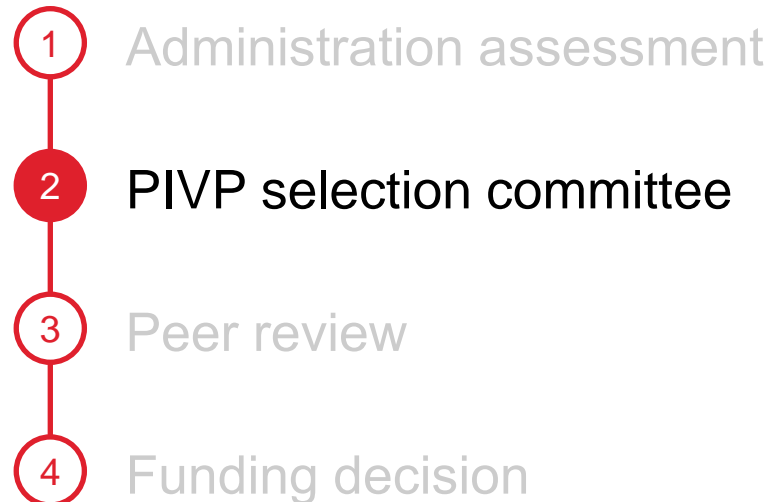
- 1 Administration assessment
- 2 PIVP selection committee
- 3 Peer review
- 4 Funding decision

Once submitted, the application undergoes an administrative assessment by **N SERC staff** to determine if is complete and meets all our requirements.

If this step is satisfactorily completed, the application is submitted to the PIVP selection committee.

Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process



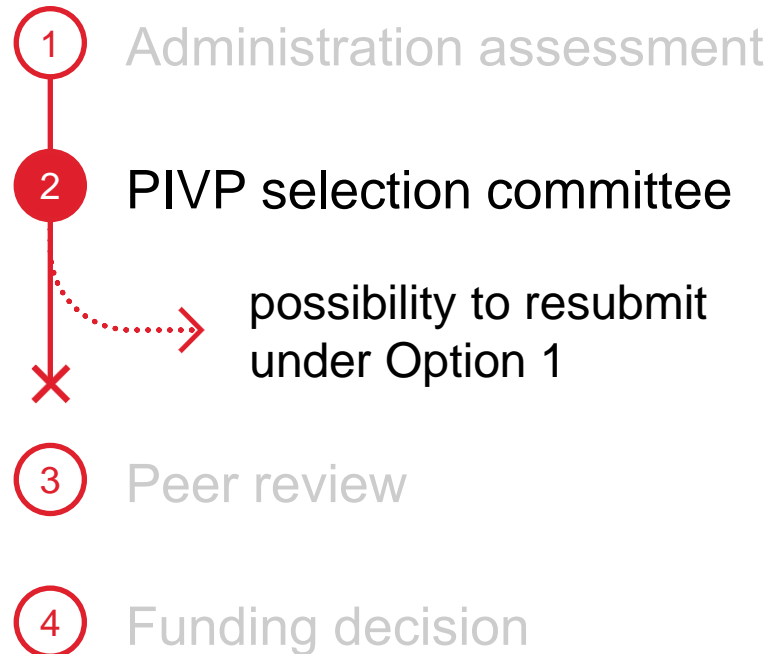
The committee consists of 10 to 15 members who are selected for their broad knowledge and their multidisciplinary and multisectoral expertise and experience.

They **focus on the three-page PIVP section** to determine whether the project meets Option 2's three characteristics, and if a higher financial contribution from NSERC is justified.

The committee may consult the rest of the proposal for broader context, if necessary.

Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process



If the outcome of the PIVP is negative, the application will not be funded.

You may rework the proposal, including its budget, and resubmit it under Option 1 if sufficient funds can be secured from the recognized partner organizations.

Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process

- 1 Administration assessment
- 2 PIVP selection committee
- 3 Peer review
- 4 Funding decision

If the outcome of the PIVP is positive, the application is sent to external reviewers who are experts in the proposal's area.

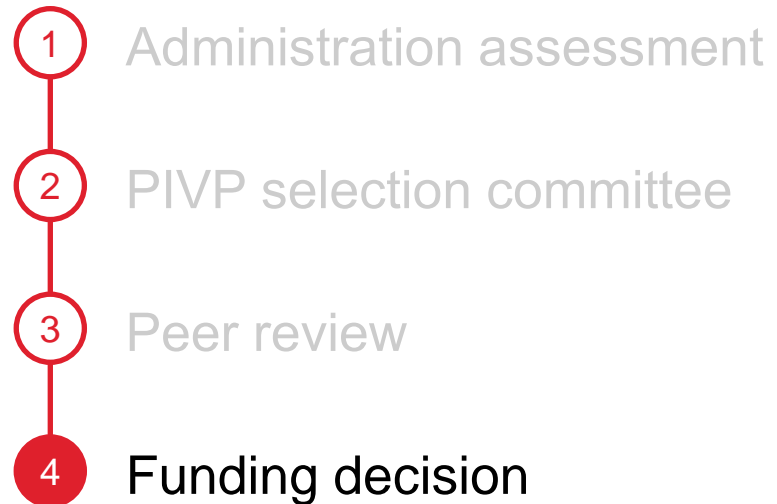
The external reviewers evaluate the application using the same evaluation criteria as in Option 1.

The PIVP section of your proposal will not be shared with the external reviewers.



Alliance Option 2

Evaluation process



Based on the comments received from the external reviewers, NSERC completes the assessment of the application by assigning ratings to the evaluation subcriteria using the merit indicators, as in Option 1.

NSERC determines applications for funding on a competitive basis, using the applications' merit ratings.

Do not consider Option 2 ...



as a replacement for Engage grants
or Strategic Partnership grants

for a one researcher-one partner centred project

to push ideas as opposed to responding to an existing
and well defined societal need (i.e., benefits to society
are the driver, not an afterthought)

to reduce the financial costs of partner organizations
in initiating new partnerships

to offset the cost of research where investments
are available or in areas where research is intense
and already heavily funded

to reduce the cost of research where the goal
is to develop or improve new products or services
for commercialization

Consider Option 2 for projects ...



with important unmet societal need

where societal impact is expected

with barriers that prevent it from happening

that have a need to reach out to participants
beyond the usual comfort zone

where a viable solution can be envisioned to
significantly contribute to long-term societal benefits

where higher NSERC support is key
to enabling these advances

Before applying to Option 2



Does the project respond to the three characteristics?
Was it motivated by an identified unmet societal need?

Were appropriate stakeholders consulted?

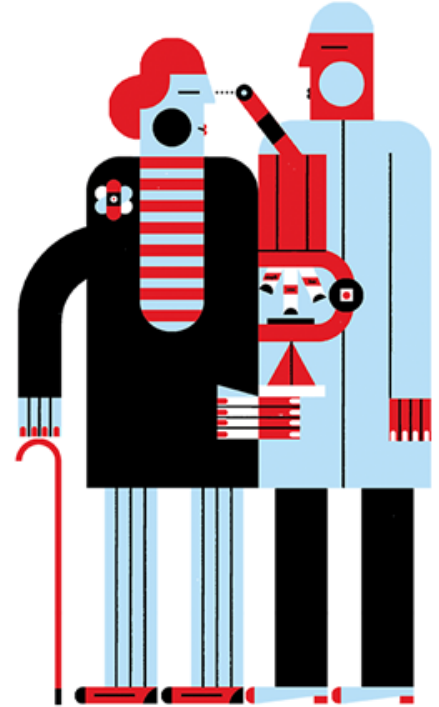
What are the goals of your partner organizations?

Have you carefully answered the five questions
in the PIVP section?

Have you clearly outlined how all interested
stakeholder groups in and beyond your partner
organization's network have been and will
be involved to achieve optimal results and impact?

Have you justified the need for a higher level of
investment of public funds? A project that would fit
under Option 1 will not be accepted under Option 2.

Best practices



Best practices

Main reasons for not accepting applications

1. altering the proposal template's format, text or margins; not keeping bullet points in the proposal template
2. not complying with NSERC presentation standards for proposal
3. exceeding the total allowed number of pages
4. not addressing each of the requests listed in the bullet points included in the proposal template under each heading
5. missing adequate demonstration that equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), with explicit practices, has been considered in the training plan
6. inadequate cost-sharing ratio

Best practices

Main reasons for not accepting applications

7. erroneous recognition of partner organizations' cash contributions in cost-sharing calculations
8. **annual** requested amount below \$20,000 (this minimum is not an average over the project's duration)
9. inclusion of a letter of support rather than a [Partner Organization Form](#)
10. use of Form 100 free-form section instead of Form 100A; non-compliance with instructions for Form 100A
11. no in-kind contributions from partner organizations
12. out-of-date CCV (6 years)

Best practices

Main reasons for not accepting Option 2 applications

1. Misunderstanding the three required characteristics
2. Inability to provide a convincing Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP)
3. Wrong approach to building the project

Best practices

Partner organizations

Choose the appropriate partner organizations that will actively contribute to the success of the project and ensure that the results will be exploited, generating positive outcomes for Canada.

Read the [Role of partner organizations](#) section on the website for more details.



Partner organization self-assessment tool

- The tool helps a potential partner organization determine if its cash contributions to an Alliance project may be recognized in cost-sharing calculations with NSERC.
- NSERC's final decision on the recognition of a partner's cash contribution will be made in the context of the proposed project.

Best practices

Partner organizations: Partner organization form

Must be completed by authorized contact for the partner organization

Must include the organization's profile (1 page) and address 2 requirements:

- description of organization, including nature of its operations in Canada and how it intends to grow them by developing innovative new or improved products, services, processes or policies
- demonstration that organization has existing or planned capacity to achieve the project's expected results (human resources, facilities and financial capabilities)



- Reference to partner organization's website is not acceptable in lieu of the profile
- Refer to the [instructions](#) for more details

Best practices

Cost-sharing options

Choose the appropriate **option**:

- Option 1 or Option 2
- Option 2 has specific characteristics
- Choice for Option 2 must not be based on financial impact on partner organizations only

Choose the appropriate **cost-sharing ratio**:

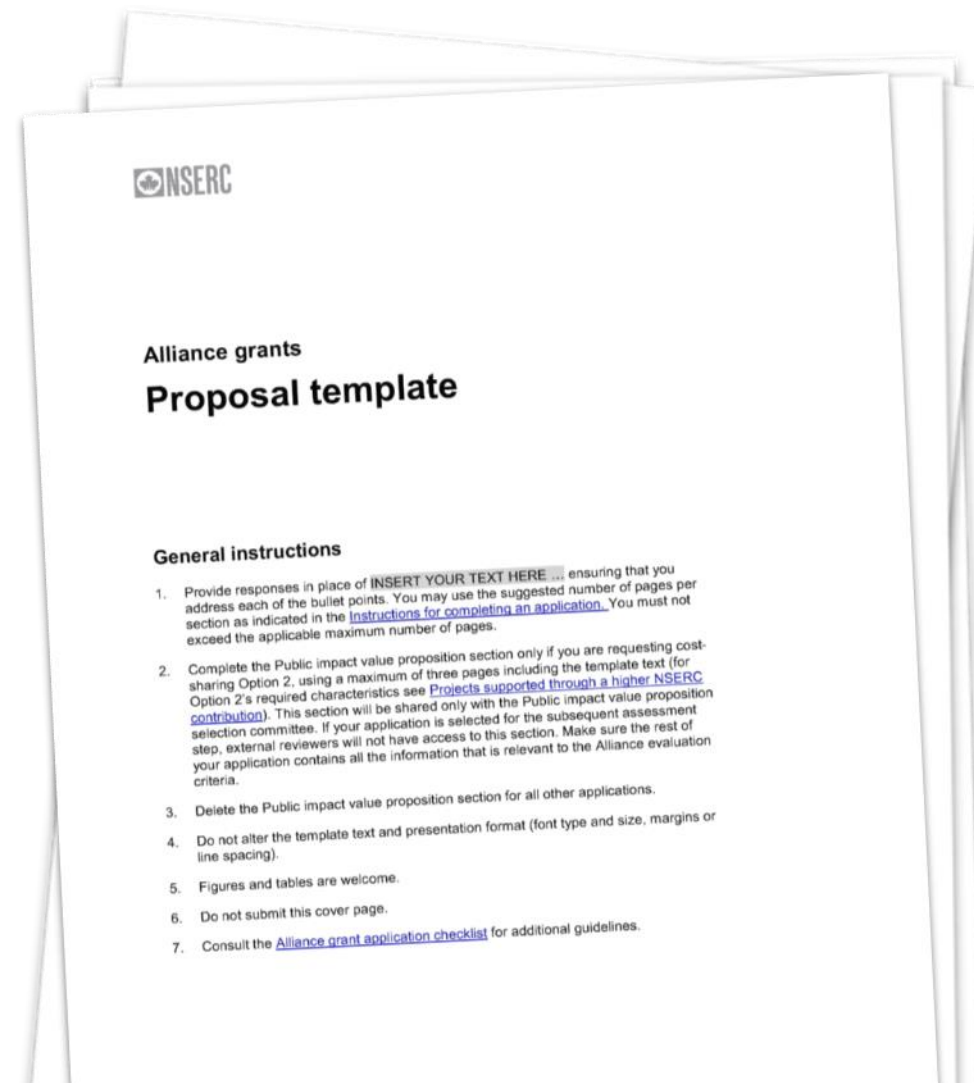
- percentage depends on the partner organization's size and sector

Best practices

Proposal template

- Keep the headings and bullets
- Do not change font or font size or margins
- Address all of the bullet points' requests
- Keep within page limit (includes the template's heading and bullets) – see [instructions](#) for more details

[Download the Proposal template](#)



Best practices

Proposal template: page limits

The number of suggested, maximum or additional pages always includes the NSERC template text.

* No active NSERC peer-reviewed grant: you may submit a maximum of 10 pages

** Multi-party projects: you may add up to 3 pages (under Team) strictly to provide details on project management, governance structure and university support

[View this table online](#)

Average annual request	Up to \$30K *	Up to \$300K	More than \$300K
Section	Suggested number of pages per section		
Background & expected outcomes	1	2	3
Partnership	1	2	5
Proposal	1.5	4	10
Team	0.75	1	4 **
Training plan	0.75	1	3
Maximum total of pages	5	10	25
PIVP: Option 2 only	+ 3 pages to the maximum above for the PIVP		

Best practices

Proposal template: Background and outcomes

Describe the need for original research to address the project's topic and the potential for generating new scientific knowledge:

- How will the topic be addressed through original research?
- What are the concepts or directions that may lead to advances in the field? What is the type and scope of the anticipated advances?
- How is the proposed project positioned relative to the state-of-the-art?

Insert your name here

Background and expected outcomes

- Outline the goals of the partnership and explain the potential outcomes and impacts.
- Describe the importance of the topic to Canada and how the expected outcomes will benefit Canada.
- Explain the new concepts or directions needed to address the topic and how this research will fill knowledge gaps related to developing new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies in Canada. Position the proposed project relative to other efforts by the researchers and partner organizations and to any related research.
- Outline efforts the partner organizations will invest following the project's completion to advance the results in Canada.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Partnership

- List all partner organizations expected to play a key role in the activities or to make cash and/or in-kind contributions.
- Describe the core activity of the partner organizations and their experience related to the research project, such as any efforts to date that the partner organizations have invested toward addressing this problem, the need for this research project and how the topic is relevant and aligned with the partner organizations' activities.
- Explain how each partner organization will be actively involved (through cash and/or in-kind contributions) in co-designing and implementing the research program. Describe the value added through in-kind contributions and how these are important to realizing the project's intended outcomes.
- Outline each partner organization's strategy and capacity to translate the research results into practical application to achieve the desired outcomes and impacts, including any planned knowledge translation activities and integration of the research results into its operations.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Proposal

- Outline the research objectives. Detail the resources and activities needed to achieve the anticipated results.
- Indicate approximate timelines for the activities to lead to milestones and deliverables using a Gantt chart, table or diagram.
- Explain how sex, gender and diversity have been considered in the research design, if applicable.
- Identify the indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing the outcomes. You may include a chart or table.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Team

- List the applicant, any co-applicants and key staff of the partner organizations.
- Explain how the knowledge, experience and achievements of these individuals provide the expertise needed to accomplish the project objectives. Discuss the role of each individual and how their contributions, including those of staff from the partner organizations, will be integrated into the project.
- Explain how equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the academic team composition.

Best practices

Proposal template: Partnerships

Explain how each partner organization has been involved in the co-design of the project and how it will be actively involved in it:

- complemented by the description of in-kind contributions in the pertinent section

Insert your name here

Background and expected outcomes

- Outline the goals of the partnership and explain the potential outcomes and impacts.
- Describe the importance of the topic to Canada and how the expected outcomes will benefit Canada.
- Explain the new concepts or directions needed to address the topic and how this research will fill knowledge gaps related to developing new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies in Canada. Position the proposed project relative to other efforts by the researchers and partner organizations and to any related research.
- Outline efforts the partner organizations will invest following the project's completion to advance the results in Canada.

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INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Team

- List the applicant, any co-applicants and key staff of the partner organizations.
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- Explain how equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the academic team composition.

Best practices

Proposal template: Partnerships

Outline each partner organization's strategy and capacity to translate the research results into practical application to achieve the desired outcomes and impacts:

- not just the strategy and capacity to participate in carrying out the project

Insert your name here

Background and expected outcomes

- Outline the goals of the partnership and explain the potential outcomes and impacts.
- Describe the importance of the topic to Canada and how the expected outcomes will benefit Canada.
- Explain the new concepts or directions needed to address the topic and how this research will fill knowledge gaps related to developing new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies in Canada. Position the proposed project relative to other efforts by the researchers and partner organizations and to any related research.
- Outline efforts the partner organizations will invest following the project's completion to advance the results in Canada.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Partnership

- List all partner organizations expected to play a key role in the activities or to make cash and/or in-kind contributions.
- Describe the core activity of the partner organizations and their experience related to the research project, such as any efforts to date that the partner organizations have invested toward addressing this problem, the need for this research project and how the topic is relevant and aligned with the partner organizations' activities.
- Explain how each partner organization will be actively involved (through cash and/or in-kind contributions) in co-designing and implementing the research program. Describe the value added through in-kind contributions and how these are important to realizing the project's intended outcomes.
- Outline each partner organization's strategy and capacity to translate the research results into practical application to achieve the desired outcomes and impacts, including any planned knowledge translation activities and integration of the research results into its operations.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Proposal

- Outline the research objectives. Detail the resources and activities needed to achieve the anticipated results.
- Indicate approximate timelines for the activities to lead to milestones and deliverables using a Gantt chart, table or diagram.
- Explain how sex, gender and diversity have been considered in the research design, if applicable.
- Identify the indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing the outcomes. You may include a chart or table.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Team

- List the applicant, any co-applicants and key staff of the partner organizations.
- Explain how the knowledge, experience and achievements of these individuals provide the expertise needed to accomplish the project objectives. Discuss the role of each individual and how their contributions, including those of staff from the partner organizations, will be integrated into the project.
- Explain how equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the academic team composition.

Best practices

Proposal template: Proposal

Identify indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing the outcomes:

- not just how progress will be monitored (e.g., regular meetings with partners, oversight committee), but also which metrics will be measured/monitored
- during the project and after its completion

Insert your name here

Background and expected outcomes

- Outline the goals of the partnership and explain the potential outcomes and impacts.
- Describe the importance of the topic to Canada and how the expected outcomes will benefit Canada.
- Explain the new concepts or directions needed to address the topic and how this research will fill knowledge gaps related to developing new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies in Canada. Position the proposed project relative to other efforts by the researchers and partner organizations and to any related research.
- Outline efforts the partner organizations will invest following the project's completion to advance the results in Canada.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Partnership

- List all partner organizations expected to play a key role in the activities or to make cash and/or in-kind contributions.
- Describe the core activity of the partner organizations and their experience related to the research project, such as any efforts to date that the partner organizations have invested toward addressing this problem, the need for this research project and how the topic is relevant and aligned with the partner organizations' activities.
- Explain how each partner organization will be actively involved (through cash and/or in-kind contributions) in co-designing and implementing the research program. Describe the value added through in-kind contributions and how these are important to realizing the project's intended outcomes.
- Outline each partner organization's strategy and capacity to translate the research results into practical application to achieve the desired outcomes and impacts, including any planned knowledge translation activities and integration of the research results into its operations.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Proposal

- Outline the research objectives. Detail the resources and activities needed to achieve the anticipated results.
- Indicate approximate timelines for the activities to lead to milestones and deliverables using a Gantt chart, table or diagram.
- Explain how sex, gender and diversity have been considered in the research design, if applicable.
- Identify the indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing the outcomes. You may include a chart or table.

INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE, RESPONDING TO EACH OF THE ABOVE POINTS

Team

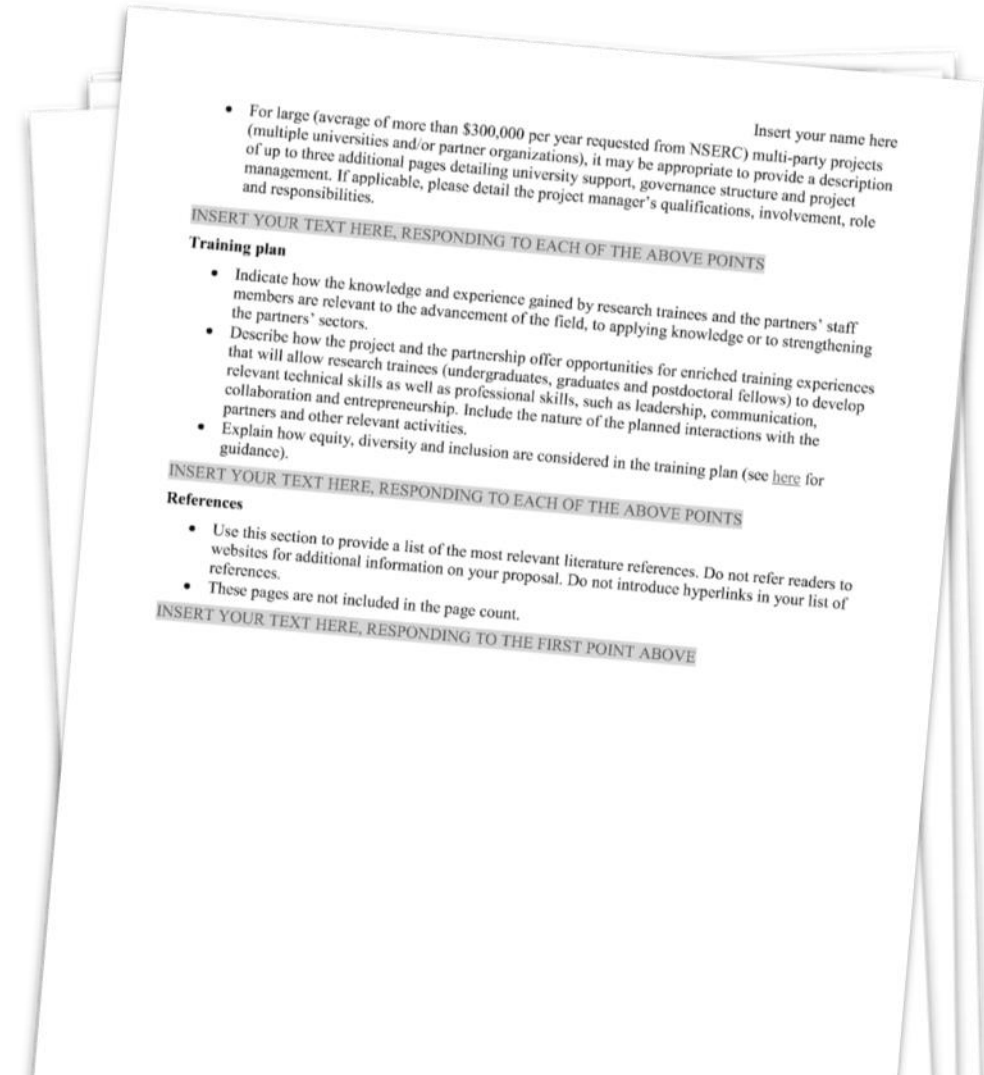
- List the applicant, any co-applicants and key staff of the partner organizations.
- Explain how the knowledge, experience and achievements of these individuals provide the expertise needed to accomplish the project objectives. Discuss the role of each individual and how their contributions, including those of staff from the partner organizations, will be integrated into the project.
- Explain how equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the academic team composition.

Best practices

Proposal template: Training

Describe how the project and the partnership offer opportunities for enriched training experiences:

- including the nature of planned interactions with the partners



Best practices

Proposal template: Training – EDI

Applicants must describe specific, **concrete practices** that will be put in place in the proposed project to ensure that EDI is intentionally and proactively supported in the training plan.



Context

- NSERC is committed to promoting the integration of EDI in research design and practice
- Consideration of EDI in the training plan is part of the evaluation criteria
- Explaining how EDI is considered in the training plan is mandatory

Best practices

Proposal template: Training – EDI

Describe what **specific** initiatives, measures, actions will be put in place in the project's training plan to support EDI in the team



- **Do not** provide vague or generic statements (e.g., “in future hiring, EDI will be considered” or “the university is committed to EDI”)
- **Do not** refer to the team's current diversity
- **Do not** refer to EDI general best practices only
- **Do not** refer to the university's EDI policy alone

Best practices

Proposal template: Training – EDI

Resources

- [NSERC's Guide for Applicants: Considering EDI in your application](#)
- [Best Practices in EDI guide for applicants to the New Frontiers in Research Fund](#) (including the section on Research team and environment)
- University's EDI plan, if applicable

Best practices

Equipment requests in Alliance applications

Need must be well justified.

Equipment must be **essential** to the project's success and not available or accessible at university or through the partner organization(s).

No set limit for budget portion that may be dedicated to equipment, but **Alliance is not an infrastructure & equipment grant.**



If total expected equipment cost (including the operation and maintenance) **exceeds \$400K** over project's duration:

- you should apply for an alternate source of funding such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI's) [John R. Evans Leaders Fund](#).
- NSERC and CFI have developed a joint application and review procedures for these cases.

Best practices

Application checklist

[Download the Application checklist](#)



Alliance grants

Application checklist

Before submitting an application, ensure that all requirements are met and that the **instructions** are followed. Missing components or non-compliance with the instructions will result in the application not being accepted.

Option 1 and Option 2

General

- If this application is a new submission of a previously unsuccessful one, all issues that were identified in the preceding application have been addressed. A cover letter explaining the changes is recommended. This letter will not be shared with external reviewers.

Research topics

- The application's research challenge is in the natural sciences or engineering (NSE).
- If the proposed research includes collaborations outside the NSE, their costs must be identified in the project budget, up to a maximum of 30% of the cost-shared project costs.

Partner organization(s)

- The application involves at least one partner organization that is recognized for cost-sharing with NSERC.
- The cash contributions by partner organizations recognized for cost-sharing with NSERC must be sufficient for the selected cost-sharing ratio (refer to **Role of partner organizations** and **Funding your research project**).
- Taking into account the partner organizations' type and global size, the appropriate cost-sharing ratio has been selected (refer to **Funding your research project**), in agreement with the selected option.
- The partner organizations' cash contributions are in Canadian dollars.
- Each partner organization participating in the application must play a role in it, regardless of whether the organization is recognized for cost-sharing with NSERC, and regardless of whether it makes cash contributions. Except for organizations whose mandate is to provide financial support to R&D, each partner organization must provide in-kind contributions, which must be well described and justified.

Date modified: October 2020 | Ce document est disponible en français

Page 1 of 3

Application checklist



Alliance grants

Application checklist

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Best practices

Application checklist

- For each partner organization, the application includes a completed **Partner organization form**, including the one-page partner organization profile. Support letters are not allowed and will be removed from the application.
- For each partner organization with fewer than five full-time employees, the application includes a completed **Partner organization supplemental information questionnaire**, unless the partner has already provided that document within the last 12 months.

Budget

- For **Option 1**, each annual amount requested from NSERC is not less than \$20,000 and does not exceed \$1,000,000. For **Option 2**, each annual amount requested from NSERC is more than \$30,000 and does not exceed \$100,000.
- Cash contributions provided in advance by partner organizations, and recognized and necessary in the cost-sharing calculation with NSERC, were not spent in part or in total prior to three months before the application submission date.
- All planned expenditures are eligible (refer to the **Tri-agency guide on financial administration**), well described and well justified.
- In case of a project involving multiple partner organizations and/or universities, project management costs do not exceed 10% of the total direct research costs.

Proposal

- The proposal makes use of the **template** presentation structure, without altering the headings, text, bullet points or margins, while complying with the **NSERC online presentation and attachment standards**. In particular, all text must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, and margins must be set at a minimum of ¾-inch (1.87 cm).
- The length of the proposal does not exceed the **total page limit** outlined in the **instructions**. This limit depends on the average annual request from NSERC. Excess pages will be removed, and if this results in information addressing one or more evaluation criteria or sub-criteria being truncated, NSERC will not accept the application.
- The proposal addresses **each** of the requirements listed in the bullet points included in the proposal template under each heading. Failure to do so will result in the application being found incomplete and not accepted.
- In the case of a large project (average of more than \$300,000 per year requested from NSERC) involving multiple partner organizations and/or universities, you may add up to three additional pages **strictly for the purposes** of detailing topics such as project management, governance structure and university support. These pages must be included under the **Team** heading. If any of these additional pages are used for purposes other than those prescribed, NSERC will remove them, and if this results in information addressing one or more evaluation criteria or sub-criteria being truncated, NSERC will not accept the application.

Application checklist

- The proposal includes a training plan that is principally intended for undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral trainees.
- The proposal includes a detailed **training plan** describing **specific practices** that consider **equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)** and that will be **implemented** during the project to ensure an inclusive research and training environment. Generic statements or references to the current environment in the applying team will not be considered sufficient. If the training plan does not adequately demonstrate that EDI has been appropriately taken into consideration, NSERC will not accept the application.

Applicant(s) and co-applicant(s)

- The Form 100A and the CCV for the applicant and each co-applicant are complete and up to date, complying with the instructions (**Form 100A; CCV**). Failure to provide Form 100A and CCV that comply with the instructions will result in the application being found incomplete and not accepted.
- If you deem it relevant, the application can include biographical sketches or CVs for collaborators and/or key staff of the partner organizations. Such biographical sketches or CVs must comply with the **instructions** and not exceed **two pages** each in length. Excess pages will be removed.

Option 2 only

Applicant and co-applicant(s)

- The applicant and the co-applicants have not submitted an Alliance Option 2 application that NSERC accepted to proceed to the Public impact value proposition (PIVP) selection committee step in the past 12 months.

Partner organization(s)

- None of the partner organizations (or any of their divisions, subsidiaries, agencies) that are recognized for cost-sharing have been part of more than one Alliance Option 2 application that NSERC accepted to proceed to the PIVP selection committee step in the past 12 months.

Proposal

- The PIVP section of the proposal template is complete. This will be the primary source of information for the Option 2 PIVP selection committee, which will determine if the application meets the requirements for Option 2 and if it can proceed to peer review for its overall merit assessment, similar to Option 1. The remainder of the proposal, exclusive of the PIVP, includes all relevant information necessary for its evaluation through peer review.

Best practices

Resources

[Instructions for completing an application](#)

[Recognition and role of partner organizations](#)

[Partner organization self-assessment tool](#)

[Funding your research project \(cost-sharing options\)](#)

[Alliance grant application checklist](#)

[Equity, diversity and inclusion in your training plan](#)

Best practices

Useful links

- [Alliance grants website](#)
- [Alliance research topics](#)
- [Role of partner organizations](#)
- [Funding and cost-sharing](#)
- [Instructions for completing an Alliance grant application](#)
- [Alliance proposal template](#)
- [Review mechanisms and evaluation criteria](#)
- [Merit indicators](#)
- [Alliance resources](#)
- [Alliance FAQ](#)
- [Use of grant funds](#)

Communicating & reporting



Communicating & reporting

Communicating Alliance decisions

Applicant: individual notification of decisions through SharePoint library

Research Grants Office: reports through GSAP every two weeks

The terms and conditions specify that NSERC will be requesting from grantees the contact information of the students, fellows and other research trainees paid out of their Alliance grants. NSERC may contact the trainees to gather information for statistical and reporting purposes. **Note that grantees have the obligation to inform trainees in this respect.**

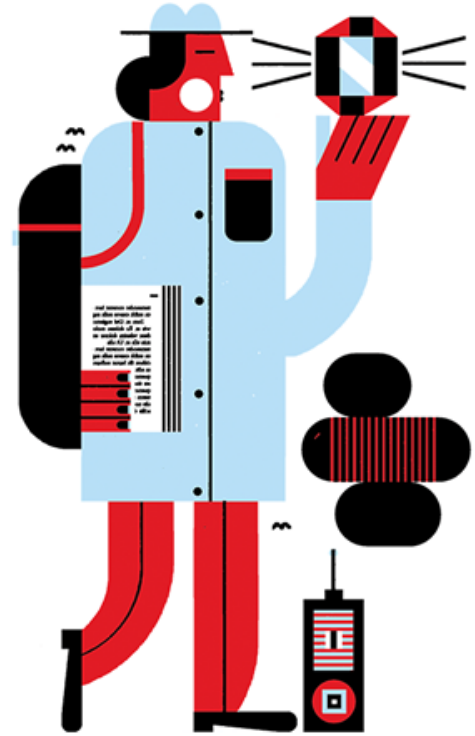


Communicating & reporting

Streamlined reporting



Conclusion



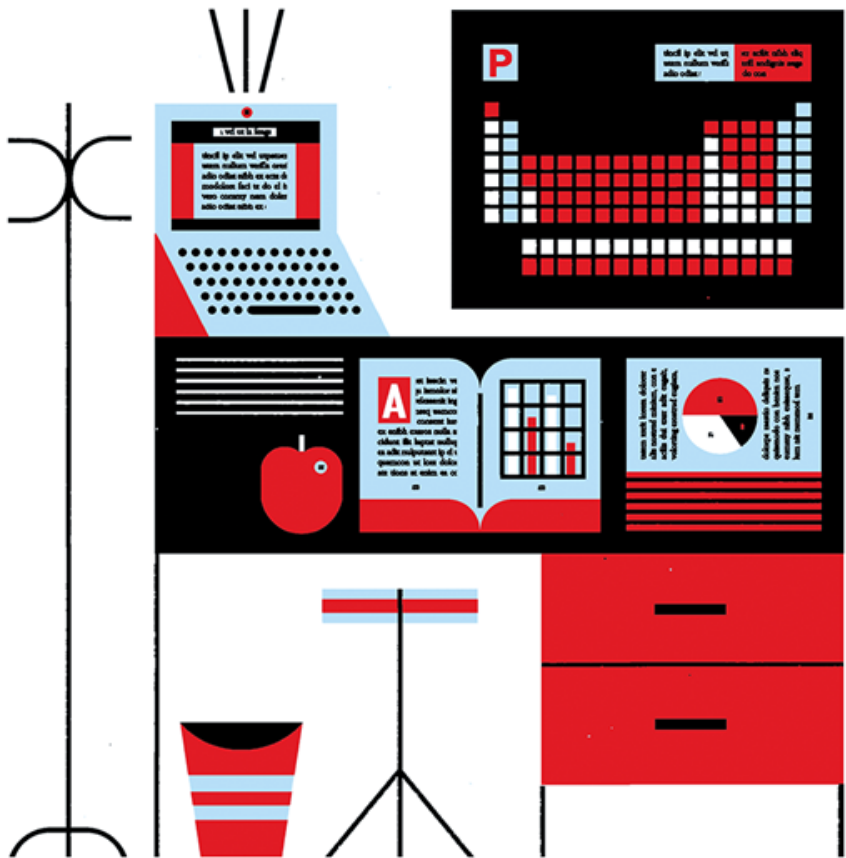


Alliance grants provide you with **flexibility in building partnerships** that will effectively generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results for the benefit of Canadians.

“

Make Alliance your partnerships program to go **beyond** what would have been possible to accomplish using our previous programs, and to have an impact on the economic prosperity, environmental quality & social well-being of Canadians.

NSERC Alliance grants



Questions?

NSERC Alliance grants

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