



Société de recherche
sur le cancer

Cancer Research Society

2023
NEXT GENERATION OF
SCIENTISTS AWARD

Program Guidelines

Effective February 16, 2023 – September 1, 2023

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1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Cancer Research Society (CRS) is proud to support the future generation of Canadian researchers through its unique Next Generation of Scientists Award (NGS) program. The award consists of a one-year postdoctoral fellowship followed by two years of operating grant funding to support awardees in their initial faculty position. **Note that applicants CANNOT apply to only one part and the award is NON-renewable.**

Part 1: 1 year – Fellowship for a total of \$50,000 to be used towards a postdoc salary

In part 1, the awardee will be able to continue their postdoctoral work in cancer research in a hosting laboratory to help transition to a faculty position. Applicants must have completed **at least two (2) years of postdoctoral training** when they will accept the Fellowship on September 1st. This training **may take place outside of Canada.**

Part 2: 2 years – Operating Grant for a total of \$125,000

(\$62,500 / year)

Part 2 is an Operating Grant of \$125,000 over two years to support an independent cancer-related research project. It is awarded **upon completion of part 1 and only if the applicant has obtained a faculty position at a Canadian university or eligible research center.**

Funding periods

The funding periods are scheduled as follows:

- The funding period is from September 1 to August 31.
- Start date:
 - Part 1 (Fellowship): September 1, 2023.
 - Part 2 (Operating Grant): Between January 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025
- Award payments are made to the financial officer of the grantee's institution.
- Payments will be made in: November and May

Transition from Fellowship to Operating Grant

The awardee **can** transition to part 2 of the grant before the end of part 1. However, the grantee must remain as a postdoctoral fellow or research associate for **at least 3 months** after the start of the award. In addition, the awardee should notify CRS **no later than one month before the transition** to avoid administrative delays.

Should a grantee complete their postdoctoral training early, up to **\$25,000** of the salary award (part 1) will be transferred and added to the amount of the first year of the operating grant (part 2). In this case, payments will begin earlier without affecting the duration of the operating grant (2 years, regardless of the start date).

Extensions

The Fellowship (part 1) may be extended for a maximum period of up to 6 months, pro-rata on the basis of \$50,000 per year, on presentation of an official letter certifying that the grantee is in the process of being granted a faculty position in a Canadian university or an eligible research center.

Extension requests must be made **at least one month prior to the agreed termination date of part 1** and are subject to review and approval by CRS.

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility requirements for applicants

- Applicants **must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents** for the entire award, may carry out part one abroad, but must be residing in Canada to proceed with part 2 (Operating Grant) of the award. Proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent residence is required.
- Applicants **must be registered as a postdoctoral fellow** in a university or eligible institution and must commit to starting work as a researcher in a Canadian university or eligible institution between January 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025, subject to obtaining an appropriate faculty position. **A research associate who wishes to pursue a career as an independent investigator may be eligible to apply.**

A) Part 1 - Fellowship

- **Graduate degree:** Applicants must have obtained a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, DMV, etc.) **within the last 6 years.** For example, for an award starting on September 1, 2023, an applicant should have obtained their doctoral degree after August 31, 2017. In addition, the applicant must have worked in a research position **for a minimum of two (2) consecutive years without interruption*** (with at least 75% of the time devoted to research).

***Applicants whose postdoctoral training have been delayed due to extenuating circumstances (parental leave, illness, moves) are invited to contact the CRS to determine their eligibility.**

- **Overlap:** During the tenure of the Fellowship, awardees are not permitted to receive remuneration for any other work or to hold a second major award. They

may, with the approval of their supervisor, participate in and accept remuneration for limited departmental activities which contribute to their development as independent researchers, provided that the stipends received do not exceed **25% of the amount of their fellowship award.**

CRS will not award funds if overlapping and/or comparable support for a project has been obtained (even partially) from another agency. Each application sent to the Cancer Research Society has to be original.

B) Part 2 – Operating Grant

Awardees must obtain a faculty position in a Canadian university or eligible institution and must begin their functions between January 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025 before they can access funding for part 2. One month prior to the start of the Operating Grant (part 2), the grantee must provide CRS with an electronic version of the “**Commitment Form**” and the “**Disclaimer and Indemnity - Young Investigator**” page with the appropriate signatures. Refer to the CRS [website](#) to download the forms.

If the grantee has not completed the Fellowship (part 1) of the award or has not secured a faculty position in a Canadian university or eligible research institution by March 1, 2025, part 2 of the award will be cancelled.

*In order to develop and demonstrate scientific independence, grantees are strongly encouraged to seek a faculty position at a different institution. If for extenuating circumstances the Fellowship (part 1) and Operating Grant (part 2) are to be conducted at the same institution, the grantee must provide a reasonable justification and demonstrate scientific independence, subject to review and approval by CRS.

Project-specific eligibility requirements

The following research areas are eligible for NGS funding:

- Fundamental and basic research;
- Prevention;
- Early translational research, including preclinical research, i.e. before a treatment is brought to a patient, including, for example, cellular or animal models, biomarkers for diagnostics and prognosis, and imaging;
- Research studying the environmental causes of cancer including viruses, pollutants, work environment, lifestyle and diet.

The following research areas **are not eligible** for NGS funding:

- Clinical trials where treatments on patients are evaluated with various endpoints;
- Applied research for the development or improvement of tools such as instruments, medical devices, software, questionnaires, information tools,

- patient registries, biobanks, TMA collections, etc.;
- Psychosocial or social studies;
- Health care economics, or any study aiming at measuring the use and costs of the health care system;
- Any other type of research not included in the main funded areas.

Please contact us at grants@src-crs.ca should you have doubts about the eligibility of your project.

3. REVIEW PROCESS

Prior to the committee meeting, CRS and the Panel Chair will assess all applications to assure that all **eligibility requirements are met (e.g. Doctoral degree date) and that applicants' publication records are competitive.** Applications deemed not sufficiently competitive will be triaged and thus not evaluated by the expert review panel.

Eligible applications deemed competitive will then be evaluated by an independent expert panel made up of renowned Canadian and international scientists, with expertise in specific areas of cancer research. Each application is initially reviewed and scored by two expert and impartial reviewers; the proposal is then presented, discussed and scored by the entire panel. To be considered for funding, a **project must have received a minimum score of 7.5 out of 10.** The Next Generation of Scientists awards are granted to the applicants with the highest scores.

All applicants, regardless of their score, will receive a Notice of Decision by e-mail notifying them of the outcome of their application.

If an applicant declines the award, CRS may offer the grant to the next meritorious applicant on the list.

Evaluation criteria

- Career Path:
 - Applicant must demonstrate a clear plan for independence from the supervisor's research indicating how previous activities and acquired skills in combination with the proposed research will enable the applicant to achieve their goal(s). Applicant must also demonstrate their capacity or potential to be a competitive researcher at the provincial, national, and international level.
- Project
 - Quality of the proposed project and originality of the research plan;
 - Ability of the applicant to conduct the research in their respective milieu;
 - Impact: potential to advance understanding in cancer research;
 - Scientific strengths and weaknesses;

- Feasibility of the proposal;
- Budget appropriate to the proposed project.

Cancer Research Society's decisions are final.

4. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (PART 1 – FELLOWSHIP)

TRANSCRIPTS:

CRS will accept non-official copies of the transcripts of graduate university degrees (master and doctorate). You may include these documents with your application package in ProposalCentral (section 12, upload attachments).

However, official transcripts must be sent to CRS by the home institution before May 11, 2023.

Transcripts of undergraduate (bachelor's) degrees are not required.

If you have previously submitted your transcripts to CRS, **please notify us** and we will add them to your current application.

REFERENCE LETTERS:

Applicants must provide three (3) reference letters. One of the referees must be the current Supervisor. The applicant's name must be clearly indicated in the subject-line of the letter.

Provide the names and contact information of the Referees in **section 5 Part 1-Fellowship: Supervisor & References** of the application form in ProposalCentral.

PROOF OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP OR PERMANENT RESIDENCE:

Applicants must provide a proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent resident document. A copy of one of the following documents must be included in **Section 12 Upload Attachments** in ProposalCentral:

- Certificate of Canadian citizenship;
- Birth certificate / copy of an act issued by the proper provincial government authority;
- Valid passport;
- Permanent resident card.

5. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (PART 2 – OPERATING GRANT)

COMMITMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OR RESEARCH INSTITUTE:

The university must undertake to hire the grantee for the duration of the award (2 years). It will also be expected to use its best efforts to maintain the position afterward.

The applicant must be eligible to join the pension plan and enjoy other benefits available to full-time staff working at the university. These obligations imply that the researcher's salary will be administered by the university even if the investigator works at a research center.

The host institution agrees to provide functional laboratories or research premises and basic equipment that the applicant requires for research purposes.

The university or eligible institution is committed to offering the awardee a startup fund of at least \$125,000, or in line with the policies of the research institution, to assist the newly appointed faculty member in launching their research career.

Commitment form available on the CRS [website](#).

CERTIFICATES:

Required certificates may be sent to CRS once the grantee is hired as a researcher in a Canadian University or research center. Information about the required certificates is available on the CRS [website](#)

6. KEY DATES

Call for proposals	February 16, 2023
Proposal submission deadline	April 27, 2023 11:59 PM (ET)
Deadline for receipt of publication updates *	June 15, 2023
Review process completed, awards announced	August 2023
First installment to grantees	November 2023

*Applicants may update their award notices and publication lists after submission of their proposal by e-mail to grants@src-crs.ca no later than **June 15, 2023**.

7. PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Proposal must be received by **April 27, 2023, 11:59 pm (ET)**. Applicants must register and submit their proposal at the CRS Research Portal, ProposalCentral, click [HERE](#).

Proposals sent by email will not be accepted.

All information required for the evaluation of the proposal must be submitted electronically through ProposalCentral.

The degree of conciseness and clarity can significantly influence the evaluation of the application. Applicants must follow the instructions regarding the number of pages and/or documents to be uploaded and their respective format. Character limit within each section in ProposalCentral is clearly indicated and must also be respected (longer responses will be truncated).

Note that non-compliance to the guidelines could lead to an administrative rejection of a submitted application prior to its scientific evaluation.

The Proposal submitted must include:

- **Disclaimer and Indemnity Form**
- **Career Path** Describe the steps you have taken to date in your field of research to achieve your career goal(s) (visits, seminars, collaborations, etc.). Indicate how these steps and your current plans will contribute to securing a principal investigator position at an eligible **Canadian Institution** within the next 12 to 18 months and to launching your career in cancer research.
- **Part 1 – Fellowship**

Supervisor & References: Indicate the names of three (3) individuals whose letters of reference will be included in your application package. One of the referees must be the current Supervisor.

Current Project Description: Scientific abstract of intended Fellowship research project: Describe the research aims, anticipated outcomes and their potential impact for patients. Indicate how the fellowship project will contribute to the future research project as a young investigator (Part 2-Operating Grants). Character limit of 2500.

Institution Contacts: Provide information of the following contacts:

Financial Officer: Name and address for distribution of Fellowship funds.

Grants Officer: Name and address of the institutional representative authorized to sign the Research Funding Agreement.

○ **Part 2 – Operating grant**

Project Description:

Abstract: Describe the research aims, anticipated outcomes and their potential impact for patients.

Description of Proposed Project: Describe the proposed research project using a **maximum of 5 pages** (8.5” x 11”), font Arial 11 pt. or Times New Roman 12 pt. or similar, single spacing, minimum 2 cm margins. **Supporting figures and tables for preliminary data should be embedded in the 5-page research proposal**, a 9-pt. font may be used for figure texts. The font type and size may vary, but figures, tables and graphs, and their accompanying legends must be readable when printed on one 8.5” x 11” page at normal (100%) scale. Non-compliance to the guidelines could lead to an administrative rejection of a submitted application prior to its scientific evaluation. The project description must include the following elements:

- Brief overview of recent literature with references.
- Proposed aim(s)/objectives in line with two-year period of the grant and budget.
- Methodology: Describe the proposed experimental or theoretical approach, the rationale for the approach showing awareness of the complexities involved and referring to the budget as appropriate. State how the data will be collected and analyzed. If the proposed project can be perceived as a repetition or a confirmation of results already published, make sure to describe the additional impact of your results. **If warranted, include any preliminary data in this section.**
- Research Team: Describe the expertise and contributions of the applicant and key personnel in relation to the proposed project.
- Collaborators: Describe the expertise and contributions of the collaborators. Attach letters of support in Section 12 Upload Attachments.
- Impact: Significance of the proposed research and expected outcomes.

Upload the 5-page detailed research proposal with the figures and tables embedded using the designated button at the bottom of the section. List of references cited in the proposal must be uploaded in section 12, no page limit.

Lay summary and keywords

Lay Summary: Summary of the research project in lay terms to be understood by those who are not in biomedical research (for press release and communications to donors). Character limit of 750. CRS emphasizes the importance of outreach and the lay summary will be reviewed

internally to ensure clarity and suitability to inform the general public. Although optional, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide the French version of the lay summary.

Budget Period Detail and Summary: Indicate, in Canadian dollars, the financial requirements for 2 years. This grant is limited to \$62,500/year for a maximum of 2 years.

Budget Summary: All budget items, including salaries and stipends, must be justified in terms of the objectives and milestones of the project. For every item in the budget, the applicant must provide a complete breakdown of the amounts requested for the project. Where there are subprojects, clearly itemize the budgetary requirement for each one.

For salaries, indicate the person's name, if known, or the position, the categories of employment, and the proposed salaries. Indicate the expected contributions of each person to the proposed research. Also include, but do not necessarily limit to, publication fees, costs of sample analysis, and user fees.

Eligible Expenses:

- Salaries of students and post-doctoral fellows;
- Salaries of research staff (research assistant, research associate, technician);
- Research supplies;
- Publication fees;
- Up to \$2,500 per year for attending meetings, seminars or conferences, registration, travel, accommodation, etc.

Non-Eligible Expenses:

- Remuneration of principal investigators and collaborators
- All indirect expenditures related to layout organization and reorganization; facilities leasing and maintenance, or the indirect costs covered by the host institution;
- Equipment purchase (i.e.: computer, etc.);
- Sabbatical or maternity/parental leave;
- Meetings, seminars or conferences expenses in excess of \$2,500 per year;
- Living expenses;
- Clinical drug trials.

Funds must not be transferred outside Canada

Abridged CV and Publications: Applicants must create a single document composed of the following sections

EDUCATION: Include baccalaureate or other initial university

education and include post-doctoral training. Present your academic training as follows:

Degrees	Date Received or Expected	Name of Program	GPA	Name of Institution	Name of Supervisor	E-mail Address of Supervisor
Bachelor's						
Master's						
Doctorate (PhD)						
Other Relevant Degrees						

Include annual Grade Point Average (GPA) obtained in undergraduate and graduate degrees (degree/year obtained, name of program and GPA).

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE:

In addition to your current position, list in chronological order, previous employment, experience, and honours.

PUBLICATIONS: List in chronological order complete references, including titles, for all publications during the past five years, and for earlier publications if pertinent to this application (references only! No description or summary of papers).

INTERRUPTION: Provide explanations for all interruptions of scientific work (maternity leave, illness, moves, etc.).

FUNDING: Indicate current funding.

Upload Attachments: Every document must be clearly identified.

- Abridged CV and Publications
- Cited Literature in the Application
- Description of the proposed research. Maximum 5 pages with tables and figures embedded
- Disclaimer and Indemnity Form (Signature Page)
- Letter(s) of collaboration (optional)
- Proof of Canadian Citizenship or Permanent Residency
- Publication Updates (for CRS use only)
- Reference Letters (for CRS use only)
- Transcripts
- **PI Demographics:** The information is helpful to CRS when analyzing the demographics of their applicants and it will not be used as part of the review process.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding the **2023 Next Generation of Scientist Award Competition**, contact the Cancer Research Society at grants@src-crs.ca.

For questions regarding ProposalCentral, contact Customer Support **Monday through Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm (ET)** by e-mail at pcsupport@altum.com