

NSERC Discovery Grant Information Session

Research Services Office Information Session

Thursday, September 10, 2026



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GUELPH

What We'll Cover Today

- 1) Welcome
- 2) NSERC Discovery Grant program overview
- 3) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research and Training Plan
- 4) DG Evaluation Committee Panel Discussion
- 5) Q&A Session

Note: The session will be recorded and slides will be circulated after the webinar.



NSERC DG Upcoming Deadlines

Notice of Intent (NOI)

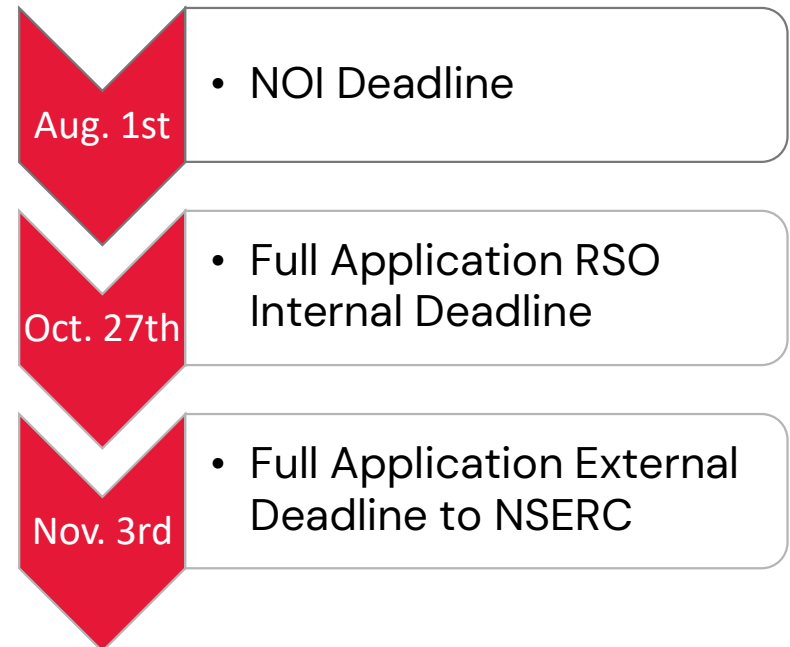
- External deadline: August 4, 2026 at 8:00 pm (ET)
- Internal deadline: N/A
 - Faculty submit NOI directly to NSERC through the [Research Portal](#).
 - The NOI is mandatory when applying for a Discovery Grant. Applicants who do not submit an NOI cannot submit a full application.
 - For questions regarding eligibility to apply/hold Tri-Agency funding, please consult your CRM, who will engage with RSO, as needed, to verify eligibility.

***Please review the [Research Alert](#) for additional details.**

NSERC DG Upcoming Deadlines

Full Application

- External deadline: November 2, 2026
- Internal deadline: October 26, 2026
 - Please consult with your CRM regarding any College-specific internal deadlines.
 - Faculty member submits a signed OR-5 to RSO and also clicks “submit” in the [Research Portal](#) so the Application appears on the research admin server.
 - RSO reviews the application and provides feedback to faculty member. Faculty members have the can make edits to the application and re-submit in a timely manner.
 - RSO formally submits to NSERC.



Program Eligibility

Subject matter eligibility and funding from other sources:

- Must be eligible under NSERC's mandate.
- Your DG research program must be distinct from research supported by CIHR or SSHRC.
- Other sources of funding for DG research should not overlap with CIHR or SSHRC funding.

Eligibility criteria for faculty:

- Holds (or have a firm offer for) an academic appointment at the time of application. The appointment can be:
 - a) permanent (no fixed term), or
 - b) a term or contract that can be renewed during the grant term if the eligible appointment is not established for the full grant term.
- The position cannot be under the direction of another individual and must authorize the supervision of students.
- NEW since 2023 – [faculty cannot hold both a DH and DG at the same time](#).
- College Research Managers can be consulted for determining eligibility to apply.

Proposed expenditures:

- For full details on eligible expenses, please review the Tri-agency guide on Financial Administration.

For program eligibility criteria, please visit [Discovery Grants program webpage](#).

Research Security Considerations

Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern ([STRAC Policy](#))

As of 2024, grant applications involving research that advances a sensitive technology research area will not be funded if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are currently affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from, a named research organization.

- Should you have any questions regarding the implementation of the STRAC Policy, please reach out to NSERC at the following email: researchsecurity@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.
- Internally, at the University of Guelph, if you require assistance in assessing if your research falls in an area aimed to advance a sensitive technology research area, please connect with our Research Security team at: research.security@uoguelph.ca.

Research Security Considerations

Sensitive Technology Research Areas

Will the proposed research activities supported by this grant aim to advance any of the listed sensitive technology research areas?(required) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Note: If you answered 'Yes' to the above question, you must complete and attach attestation forms to your grant application — in the STRAC Attestation Attachment section — to comply with the policy.

If you select Yes, you must complete and attach an [attestation form](#) to your grant application – in the STRAC Attestation Attachment section – to comply with the policy. In accordance with the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#), all researchers involved in the activities supported by a research grant that aims to advance a Sensitive Technology Research Area (STRA) must review the [List of Named Research Organizations](#).

Purchasing Drones

Guidance on Risk and Mitigation: For the Use of Drones

Unclassified | Sans classification

Common Cases Requiring Mitigation - Drones

BUILDING A SAFE AND RESILIENT CANADA

- To date, we have received several cases involving drone usage.
- In many of these cases, applicants suggest that they will procure drones from China.
- Drones sourced from China have been found to covertly transmit data to servers located in China.
- In each case, NSERC has funded applications on the condition that applicants source their drones from providers not based in China.
- For faster processing times, we recommend that any application involving drone technology specify that the drones being used are not manufactured by Chinese drone companies.



Public Safety
Canada

Sécurité publique
Canada



Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences
naturelles et en génie du Canada

King, Elliot

Unclassified | Sans classification

Canada

NSERC DG Application Overview

1. Summary of Proposal
2. Proposed Expenditures
3. Relationship to Other Research Support
4. HQP Training Plan
 - Training Philosophy, Research Training Plan
5. Past Contributions to HQP Training
 - Training Environment, HQP Awards & Research Contributions, Outcomes & Skills Gained by HQP
6. Most Significant Contributions (*up to 5 contributions*)
7. Additional Information on Contributions
8. Activity details
 - Certification requirements, impact assessment (research outdoors), Sensitive Technology Research Areas, Research subject codes, etc.
9. Eligibility Profile
10. Proposal (*5 pages maximum*)
 - Recent progress, Objectives, Literature Review, Methodology, Impact
 - For more details, see the [‘Attachments’ section on the NSERC webpage](#).
11. References (*2 pages maximum*)
12. Budget Justification (*2 pages maximum*)
13. Sample of Research Contributions (*maximum 4 contributions in last 6 years*)
14. NSERC CCV

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Relationship to Other Research Support

- Refers only to other research support **that will be or may be active** during the funding period of the proposed Discovery Grant.
 - Do not include information concerning previous applications or grants that ended or will end before the funding period of the proposed Discovery Grant.
 - You may hold funds from other sources for the same research ideas/objectives **as long as they are used to cover different expenses and the funding sources are not CIHR and/or SSHRC.**
 - You must indicate that there will be no duplication of funding for the same expense(s) and explain how funds will be used if all applications are successful. Failure to meet these requirements may result in a rating of “Insufficient” for the merit of the proposal criterion, or the application may be rejected.
 - You must provide sufficient information for the evaluation group to determine whether the application meets the requirements. Failure to clearly demonstrate that the Discovery Grant application meets all these requirements will result in a rating of “Insufficient” for the merit of the proposal criterion.
- *Note:** It is helpful to cross reference your CCV with this section to ensure you have not missed any active or anticipated funding.

Relationship to Other Research Support – CIHR & SSHRC

- DGs support research programs that are distinct from research supported or applied for through CIHR and/or SSHRC. When research funding is held or applied for from CIHR and/or SSHRC, you must clearly explain
 - how the proposed ideas, objectives and expenditures of the Discovery Grant application are entirely distinct from those supported or applied for through CIHR and/or SSHRC
 - how the anticipated contributions to research resulting from the proposed Discovery Grant will be distinct from those resulting from CIHR and/or SSHRC support
- **Note:** New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) is a tri-agency initiative and is considered a source of support other than CIHR or SSHRC.
- You must provide a summary page and budget page for each of these proposals. Failure to provide these documents will result in an incomplete application, which will be rejected.
 - A summary and budget page are not required if you hold, or have applied for, research support from sources other than CIHR and/or SSHRC.

Updating your CCV

Remember to update the following details in your CCV ahead of submission:

- **Email address:** ideally use your UofG email for your account/correspondence
- **Address:** ideally use your Department/College's UofG address, not a personal one
- **Research Funding History:** ensure you update the start/end date of your awarded research; utilize the 'Awarded' and 'Completed'
- **Student/Postdoctoral Supervision:** ensure you update the 'In Progress'/'Completed' markers; update the Student Degree Received Date
- **Leave of Absence:** If you intend to include any leaves of absence, ensure you provide information on how they affected research activities and/or dissemination of research results over the last six years counting back from the deadline date of the competition.

Indigenous Research and the Indigenous Engagement and Collaboration Agreement

- **Definition:** Research in any field or discipline related to the natural sciences or engineering that is conducted by, grounded in, or meaningfully engaged* with First Nations, Inuit, Métis or other Indigenous Peoples and Nations, communities, societies or individuals, and their wisdom, cultures, experiences or knowledge systems, as expressed in their dynamic forms, past and present.
 - Meaningful engagement means engagement at all stages of the process, “ensuring that various world views are represented in planning and decision making from the earlier stages of conception and design of projects through to the analysis and dissemination of results” (Tri-council policy statement 2).

Email from NSERC – August 2026

Discussions with the research community have raised concerns regarding challenges related to implementation, as well as varying levels of institutional readiness. In light of these considerations, the IECA requirements have returned to the approach used in 2026. The IECA will be required only for applications involving Indigenous research, as defined on the NSERC website, and will no longer be required solely because proposed research activities will take place on lands or waters in which Indigenous Nations or communities have an interest or rights.

*Although this specific requirement has been removed for the 2027 competition, **NSERC continues to encourage researchers to reflect on the relationship between their proposed research activities and the lands and waters on which they occur, and to consider whether engagement with relevant Indigenous communities would be appropriate.***

The updated IECA template and application instructions have been revised accordingly and are available on the NSERC website. If you have any questions, please contact IndigenousInitiatives@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

Support for researchers submitting to NSERC DG in French

Additional space for DG applicants submitted in French (CY2027)

NSERC is introducing optional supplemental attachments for applications submitted in French. These attachments provide applicants with up to 20% additional space in key sections of the Discovery Grant application to support linguistic equity.

- The attachments apply to the following 3 sections:
 - HQP Training, which includes the Training Plan and Past Contributions
 - Research Contributions, which includes Most Significant Contributions and Additional Information; and
 - Proposal

More detailed instructions will be shared later this summer on the NSERC website as part of the [Discovery Grant Instructions](#).

- This is a temporary measure to provide additional space until NSERC transitions to the Tri-Agency Grants Management Solution (TGMS). Once onboarded to TGMS, applications submitted in French will have 20% more space available for all elements of the application.

Partnership with SARF, the French-language research support service of Acfas

The *Service d'aide à la recherche en français* (SARF) is a Canada-wide service that supports researchers preparing grant applications in French and working in Francophone minority settings. Starting this year, its services will be available to researchers in the natural sciences and engineering.

- Services include:
 - Administrative and strategic review of research grant application
 - French-language informational webinars on various funding programs
 - Coordination of external peer reviews of research proposals

SARF is available to researchers through [partnership agreements](#) with postsecondary institutions outside Quebec. More information is available on the Acfas [website](#).

For further information, please contact Thierry Drapeau, Director of SARF at thierry.drapeau@acfas.ca.

Applicant Resources

The following resources can be utilized throughout the development of your application:

General Information

- [Discovery Grants Information Centre](#)
- [NSERC Live Q&A Sessions](#)
 - *August 20, September 10, September 15*
- [Instructions for Completing an Application](#)
- [Resource videos for NOI & full application](#)

CCV

- [Completing the NSERC Canadian Common CV \(CCV\)](#)

EDI

- [Tri-agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) (EDI)
- [Equity, diversity and inclusion considerations at each stage of the research process](#)

Review committee, reviewer guidelines, et

- [Merit Indicators](#)
- [Peer Review Manual](#)

HQP, team composition

- [Policy and Guidelines on Contributions to Research and Training](#)
- [Guidelines on the assessment of contributions to research, training and mentoring](#)

Budget and financial considerations

- [Tri-agency financial administration](#)



IEDI in Research

Joanne Garcia-Moores
IEDI Advisor in Research
Research Services Office, University of Guelph

IEDI Presentation Outline

- I. Learning Outcomes
- II. Part 1: EDI in Research Practice
 - i. Training Philosophy & Research Training
 - ii. 5 Action Areas
- III. *Part 2: EDI in Research Design*
 - i. *Sex, Gender, Dimensions of Diversity*
 - ii. *Methodology – SAGER principles*
- IV. *Self-Directed Learning Resources*





Part 1: EDI in Research Practice



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Training Philosophy & Research Training

- EDI principles must be integrated into your training philosophy and planning
- You will describe your approach to training HQP, such as mentoring, and training and development opportunities provided
- Include an overview and examples of your understanding of some of the challenges and barriers faced by under-represented groups participating in your field of research
- Identify how your training philosophy and plans will help address these barriers
- Ex. Lack of diverse mentors can lead to a sense of not belonging for under-represented groups – actions could relate to proactive recruitment of post-doctoral scholars to help offer mentorship to students; offering additional one-to-one mentorship support to trainees and providing information about support services and affinity groups on campus

Training Philosophy & Research Training

- Build EDI into your philosophy and plan considering the following 5 action areas:
 1. Self-reflection
 2. Understanding Barriers to Equity
 3. Creating and Sustaining a Safe and Inclusive Culture
 4. Recruitment and Hiring*
 5. Understanding Social Context and Social Issues
- Do not include any demographic information about your current or past HQP – instead describe your fair and equitable recruitment, hiring, onboarding and retention practices



Part 2: EDI in Research Design



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Key Definitions – Sex, Gender, Diversity

- **Sex** – Refers to a set of biological attributes in humans and animals. It is primarily associated with physical and physiological features including chromosomes, gene expression, hormone levels and function, and reproductive/sexual anatomy. Sex is usually categorized as female or male but there is variation in the biological attributes that comprise sex and how those attributes are expressed (CIHR 2019).
- **Gender** – Refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions and identities of girls, women, boys, men, and gender diverse people. It influences how people perceive themselves and each other, how they act and interact, and the distribution of power and resources in society. Gender identity is not confined to a binary (girl/woman, boy/man) nor is it static; it exists along a continuum and can change over time. There is considerable diversity in how individuals and groups understand, experience and express gender through the roles they take on, the expectations placed on them, relations with others and the complex ways that gender is institutionalized in society (CIHR 2019).
- **Dimensions of diversity** include, but are not limited to: race, language, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disability, neurodivergence, physical appearance, religious beliefs, political beliefs or other ideologies, ancestry, culture, geographic background

Methodology

- Follow the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) Guidelines for research where research subjects are differentiated by sex and/or gender. Find a printable version here: [SAGER PRINCIPLES](#)
- The SAGER guidelines were first published in 2016 to address the fact that sex and gender differences are often overlooked in research design, study implementation and scientific reporting, as well as general science communication (Heidari et al., 2016).
- WHO adopted the SAGER guidelines in 2023 as reporting of sex and gender data has continued to be sporadic and suboptimal (Heidari et al., 2024).
- SAGER guidelines promote complete and routine reporting of disaggregated data and encourage the inclusion of sex and gender dimensions in research design, data collection, analysis, and publication.

EDI in Research Resources

- [NSERC – NSERC guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research](#)
 - *New* IEDI in Research CourseLink – self-directed learning and any “Action Tips”
 - Log in to [Course Link](#)
 - Click the **Self Registration link** on the navbar and find the **IEDI for Researchers** link to register. After registering a tile for the course will appear under **My Courses** and it will be easy to exit and re-enter.
- [Main Webpage: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Research | Office of Research \(uoguelph.ca\)](#)
 - Key definitions, FAQs, Resources & Links
 - [Sex, Gender and Diversity – Research Design Questionnaire](#)
- [EDI Barriers in STEM: Resources List | Office of Research \(uoguelph.ca\)](#)
 - Annotated bibliography of references on EDI barriers in STEM

EDI in Research Resources

- Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) Guidelines where research subjects are differentiated by sex and/or gender. Find a printable version here: [SAGER PRINCIPLES](#)
- Some other resources with some great examples of best practices for EDI in training plans
 - [FAQ on the evaluation of the HQP criterion.](#)
 - The Canada Research Chairs' (CRC's) [Equity, diversity and inclusion: A best practices guide for recruitment, hiring and retention](#)
 - NFRF's [Best practices in equity, diversity and inclusion in research.](#)

IEDI CourseLink

CourseLink



ePortfolio Locker **Self Registration** CourseLink Help

GRKVV1	Graduate Resources Research Writing Integrity
Gryphons_at_Work_HR_01	Gryphons at Work - Department Admin Training
Gryphons_at_Work_HR_02	Gryphons at Work - People Manager Training
Gryphons_at_Work_HR_03	Gryphons at Work - Recruiting and Onboarding Training
identity_unconscious_bias_internal	Identity and Unconscious Bias at Work
IEDI_Researchers	IEDI for Researchers
InnovationToolkit_Open	Innovation Toolkit
Introduction_to_Research_Security	Introduction to Research Security (Research Security Centre)
IP_Education_Program	Intellectual Property Education Program - Foundations



Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion

Our panel includes the following current DG Evaluation Group Committee Members:

- **Dr. Emily Chiang, Professor, Department of Civil, Environmental and Water Resources Engineering**
 - 1511 – Materials and Chemical Engineering
- **Dr. Ian Tetlow, Professor, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology**
 - 1502 – Biological Systems and Functions
- **Dr. Rui Huang, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry**
 - 1501 – Genes, Cells and Molecules
- **Dr. John Cant, Professor, Department of Animal Biosciences**
 - 1502 – Biological Systems and Functions



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Please also consult your College Research Manager

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Thank You



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