

FAQ

NOVA – FRQNT-NSERC PROGRAM for early-career researchers (PILOT)

Q1: For the team composition, what is the minimum number of researchers?

A1: The team must be composed of a minimum of three people: the principal investigator from a Quebec university, at least one co-investigator from Quebec and at least one co-investigator from other provinces and territories in Canada.

Q2: Can the Quebec co-investigator be from the same university as the principal investigator?

A2: Yes, there are no particular constraints on the origin of the Quebec co-investigator. However, the project description must demonstrate that the best expertise in Quebec and in Canada is brought together to achieve the project's objectives.

Q3: Regarding the Principal Investigator (PI) eligibility criteria, what are the deadlines for holding a first career position?

A3: The first career position must be held by the PI on or after January 1, 2016. The cut-off date for holding the first career position would be April 1, 2022. In the event that the PI begins employment after the application deadline (September 22, 2021), the managing institution will be required to provide a letter at the time of application certifying that the candidate will be effectively hired, including the contract period and faculty status. This letter will be included in the application to determine the applicant's eligibility. A letter that is not sufficiently documented may result in the application being ineligible. Regardless of the start date of the first career position, the PI must submit a pre-application to access the application form.

Q4: Will career breaks for maternity or parental leave, or medical reasons be considered for extending an applicant's eligibility to a date earlier than January 1, 2016?

A4: Yes.

Q5: Would a researcher from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, or from an organization which is not eligible for NSERC, be eligible as a co-investigator from other provinces and territories?

A5: No. However, if an individual is affiliated with an NSERC-eligible university in another province and territories, he or she may be eligible as a co-investigator from others provinces and territories. It is important to verify that he or she meets the [NSERC Eligibility Criteria for Applicants and Co-Applicants](#).

Q6: Why are two EDI sections (EDI page and EDI criteria in the project description) required in the application for funding?

A6: The first document (EDI page) addresses the consideration of EDI criteria in the training plan. Applicants must use the EDI page template located in the toolbox. The EDI page is used to determine the eligibility of the application, and is an eliminatory step. Eligibility, including the EDI page, is made jointly by FRQNT and NSERC. The second EDI section is located in the project description and must meet the elements of evaluation criterion #5. This section is evaluated by the experts during the evaluation process of eligible applications. This section can be based on the content of the IDE page.

Q7: Why do the applicants have to separate the project budget justification between FRQNT and NSERC?

A7: The grant is in the form of two separate grantings, one from FRQNT (max \$30,000) and one from NSERC (max \$45,000). You must therefore submit a budget to FRQNT and a budget to NSERC, and respect the eligible expenses of each organization in each budget. However, the two budgets and their respective justifications must be consolidated in a single PDF document. This document must also include the justification for the equipment request to FRQNT, if applicable.

Q8: How can the funds be spent? Is there a minimum or maximum portion of funding that must be spent in Quebec? Does the NSERC portion only go to co-applicants outside of Quebec?

A8: The PI will hold both grantings. The FRQNT funds (max \$30,000) must be spent in Quebec. NSERC funds (max \$45,000) can be spent in Quebec or elsewhere in Canada.

Q9: What weight will be given to intersectorality in the evaluation?

A9: Intersectorality is encouraged, but will not be evaluated as such. If university and college co-investigators in fields other than the NSE join the team, the portion of the budget allocated to their "non-NSE" research activities must not exceed 30% of the NSERC portion of the NOVA grant.

Q10: Does a score of 80% or higher automatically mean a grant?

A10: No. Applications that receive a score of 80% or higher are ranked on merit. Grantings are then made according to the program envelope.

Q11: Can the same scientific content be used to apply for both NOVA and NSERC Discovery Grants?

A11: No. The NOVA application must be different from the NSERC Discovery application.

Q12: Do the applicants need to hold a FRQNT Team grant to apply for NOVA?

A12: No. It is not necessary to hold a TEAM grant from FRQNT to apply for NOVA, and the rule for researcher participation in the FRQNT *Team Research Project program* does not apply to the NOVA program. On the other hand, the *NOVA - FRQNT-NSERC program for early career researchers* is different from the *NOVA - NSERC-FRQNT Team Research Supplements program*.