

engage PROGRAM

How should I contact a researcher?

Have you found your perfect match? Wondering how you should approach them? Here are some tips and advice to help you.



1. By email

Email is a good way to contact a researcher. You can find their email address on the website of their university (see the document [How do I find a researcher?](#)). To help you make contact, we have provided a **sample email** (see next page).

FAQ

How long should it take before I get an answer?

Researchers are not always at their desks. They may be at a conference, abroad or travelling. They may not be available to respond immediately due to their heavy workload. If you don't hear back from them after two weeks, try sending them a reminder email. Otherwise, you can try calling them.

I didn't get an answer, what should I do?

Some researchers may not answer; don't let that discourage you! We suggest that you make a list of several potential researchers. If one doesn't answer, you'll have other options. You can also reach out to more than one person at a time.

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New message



To increase your chances of getting a reply, we suggest adding your own personal touch to the message.

Dear Dr. Whoever,

I am writing to you about the [ENGAGE Program](#) created by the Chief Scientist and the Fonds de recherche du Québec. The goal of this program is to involve citizens who are unfamiliar with research, such as myself, in the scientific process. We are invited to submit a question on a topic that concerns us, and then contact a researcher with whom we could develop a research project on that question. I submitted the following question to the program: “**write your question here**”. You can also find it on the [Fonds de recherche du Québec website](#). For more information, you can refer to the [program rules](#).

Since your research interests are related to the question I submitted, I was wondering if you would be interested in teaming up with me to create a research project. I believe you are the ideal person for me to work with on this project, because “**explain your reasons for contacting this specific researcher**”. We can discuss this by email or phone if you wish.

Sincerely,

Signature

Envoyer

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If these tips don't lead to results, write to engagement.gds@frq.gouv.qc.ca

2. By phone

Another way to contact a researcher is by phone. You can usually find their phone number on the website of their university (see the document [How do I find a researcher?](#)). To help you make contact, we have provided a **phone script** below. To increase your chances of getting a positive response, we suggest adding your own personal touch to the message.

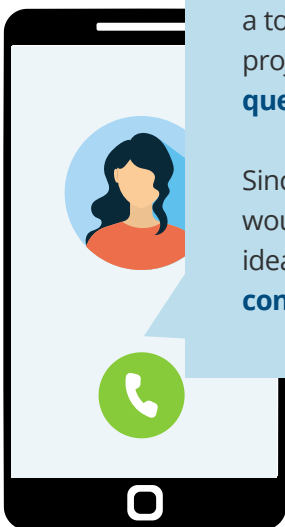
Hello,

Is **"researcher's name"** there?

My name is **"your name"** and I'm from **"the region where you live"**.

I'm calling about the ENGAGE Program created by the Chief Scientist and the Fonds de recherche du Québec. The goal of this program is to involve citizens who are unfamiliar with research, such as myself, in the scientific process. We are invited to submit a question based on a topic that concerns us, and then contact a researcher with whom we could develop a research project on that question. I submitted the following question to the program: **"state your question here"**.

Since your research interests are related to the question I submitted, I was wondering if you would be interested in teaming up with me to create a research project. I believe you're the ideal person for me to work with on this project, because **"explain your reasons for contacting this specific researcher"**. Are you interested in this proposal?



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