

PRESIDENT'S NSERC RESEARCH FUND 2024

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

The President's NSERC program funds small-scale research projects in NSERC relevant disciplines to enable researchers to position their research for success at the next Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grant competition. Applications for research grant support are subject to competitive adjudication by members of the President's NSERC Committee, appointed by the Vice-President Research.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be members of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and have a full-time academic position with the University of Saskatchewan. Only those requesting support for research that is eligible for funding by NSERC ([NSERC Eligibility Guidelines](#)) may apply. Term faculty are eligible, although preference will be given to tenure-track applicants.

Only one application per applicant per competition is allowed.

Applicants must have participated in the **University of Saskatchewan's Internal Review process** when they submitted their Discovery Grant application. New faculty members with an appointment start date after the most recent Request for Internal Review submission deadline are exempt from this requirement.

AMOUNT OF AWARD

The size of awards will be determined by the committee. As the demand for funds normally exceeds the funds available, not all meritorious proposals can be supported. While the maximum level of support is \$10,000, this program typically meets only modest research needs. The term of the award is 2 years with a start date of May 15th.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Competitions are held annually, due May 15th (*or the next working day when this date occurs on a weekend or holiday*)

Submitted applications must be internally approved and received by Office of Vice President Research (OVPR) in UnivRS no later than 4:30 pm on the deadline date. Late applications will not be considered.

Deadline for 2024 Competition: 4.30pm - May 15, 2024.

Applications are to be submitted to Office of Vice President Research (OVPR) through [UnivRS](#). Paper applications are not accepted. In the "*Final Project Documents*" section of UnivRS, be sure to upload a current copy of the **complete Canadian Common CV, your full NSERC Discovery Grant application, NSERC Message to the Applicant, and comments from your external reviewers.**

NATURE OF RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED

The President's NSERC Fund provides interim support to faculty for research designed to lead towards the development of a **NSERC Discovery Grant** (DG) proposal. The following outlines allowable application types in no particular order:

- Recent application to the NSERC Discovery Grant Program was unsuccessful;
- Renewing research program, no longer hold NSERC funding;
- Wish to pursue new research directions, but lack sufficient resources to undertake preliminary research in order to develop a NSERC Discovery Grant proposal in the new area;
- New faculty within the first 5 years of their appointment will have priority over senior faculty members;
- For instances related to career interruptions, those currently holding a Discovery grant can only apply to the President's NSERC competition in the final year (during the automatic extension period) of their current grant.

Applications are evaluated according to the Fund's general principles and evaluation criteria detailed below.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Grants will be awarded to underwrite the costs of a research project leading to a NSERC Discovery application.
- A President's NSERC Grant is intended as seed money to obtain future NSERC Discovery funding, thus a research proposal of sufficient standard to merit external funding is required.
- Past support through the President NSERC fund will be taken into account for future decisions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The degree to which this funding will enable researchers to position their research for a successful application to the NSERC Discovery Program, with a clear plan for mitigating deficiencies as outlined in the NSERC "Message to Applicant" (if applicant has applied unsuccessfully for an NSERC Discovery Grant);
- The previous efforts of the applicant to secure and/or plans of the applicant(s) to apply for a NSERC Discovery Grant;
- The quality and originality of the proposed research;
- The research achievements of the applicant (publications and training of HQP);
- Any special or personal circumstance affecting the applicant's research record (*e.g. research career interruptions/delays, career pattern and responsibilities*).

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Expenditures must comply with the expenditure rules for NSERC Discovery Grants, with the exception that conference funding is not eligible under this fund. Details regarding eligible expenses are available on the NSERC website [Discovery Grants Program](#).

OVER EXPENDITURES AND EXTENSIONS

Over expenditures of grants are not permitted and will become the recipient's personal liability. Retention of residuals are not permitted except under extraordinary circumstances, for which applicants **must** submit the **Internal Funding Program Extension Request Form** to grant.review@usask.ca at least **30 days** prior to the project end date. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Such extensions, if approved, would only be permitted **once** and will not exceed **6 months**.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Applicants will be advised of results within 4 to 6 weeks after the deadline. If awarded, funds will be available for use immediately following the award and the establishment of a research fund. If your research requires human ethics, animal care and/or biohazard approval, the financial fund will not be established until the ethics office at Research Excellence and Innovation (REI) has been notified that the required approvals are in place.

Acknowledgement of support from the President's NSERC Fund should be given in any resulting publications.

For further information, please contact Michaela Lynds, Research Development Specialist, at grant.review@usask.ca.