

PRESIDENT'S NSERC RESEARCH FUND

Guidelines and Terms 2025

Objective

The President's NSERC program funds small-scale projects in NSE to enable researchers who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a NSERC Discovery grant to position their proposal for success with their next application.

Adjudication Process

Applications for PNSERC funding are subject to competitive adjudication by members of the PNSERC Committee. Members are experienced faculty/staff and are drawn from a wide range of Colleges/Units across campus.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have participated in the USask Internal Review program.
 - New faculty members with an appointment start date after the most recent Request for Internal Review submission deadline are exempt from this requirement.
- Applicants must be members of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and have a full-time academic position with the University of Saskatchewan.
- Applicants must be requesting support for research that is eligible for funding by NSERC.
- Only one application per applicant per competition is allowed.
- Term faculty are eligible, although preference will be given to tenure-track applicants.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be considered based on the following:

- 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'.
- Previous efforts in obtaining NSERC Discovery funding.
- Past support through the President NSERC fund.
- The quality and originality of the proposed research. PNSERC funding is intended to support future NSERC Discovery funding, so a research proposal of this standard is required
- The research achievements of the applicant.
- Any special or personal circumstance affecting the applicant's research record (e.g. career interruptions/delays, career pattern and responsibilities).
- Priority will be given to Early Career Researchers.

Funding

The size of individual awards will be determined by the committee. As the demand for funds normally exceeds the funds available, not all meritorious proposals can be supported. The maximum level of support is \$10,000.

- PNSERC funding is awarded based on a 2-Year research program, with a start date of May 15th. Awardees will be considered within the terms of PNSERC funding for this period.
- Awardees cannot apply for additional PNSERC funding whilst within the term period of an existing award.
- Research fund accounts will be closed on the end date of the PNSERC term. All monies not utilized before this date will be returned to the central PNSERC Fund to support future applicants.
- Acknowledgement of financial support from the President's NSERC Fund should be given in any resulting publications.

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.

Over Expenditures and Extensions

Over expenditure of PNSERC funding is not permitted and any incurred will become the recipient's personal liability. Retention of residuals is not permitted except under extraordinary circumstances, for which applicants must submit an Extension Request Form at least 30 days prior to the project end date. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Such extensions, if approved, will only be permitted once and will not exceed 6 months.

Reporting and Resubmission

Successful applicants will be expected to submit a short progress report at the end of the first year, and a short project completion report at the end of the second year or when the research is completed (whichever occurs first). Awardees are expected to make an application for NSERC Discovery funding at the next available competition. Applicants are always advised to engage with the OVPR Discovery Internal Review program.

Deadline/Submission

The deadline for applications is **4.30pm (CST) on May 15th, 2025**. The deadline is for receipt of a complete application by the Tri-Agency Support Team in UnivRS. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure any academic approval required has been obtained before this date. Late applications will not be considered. Handwritten/paper applications will not be accepted.

In the 'Final Project Documents' section of UnivRS, remember to upload an up-to-date complete Canadian Common CV, your full NSERC Discovery Grant application, the NSERC 'Message to the Applicant', and the comments from the external reviewers.

Announcement of Awards

Applicants will be advised of results within 6 weeks after the deadline. If awarded, funds will be available for use immediately following the establishment of a research fund. If your research requires human ethics, animal care and/or biohazard approval, the fund will not be established until these are in place or a Request for Early Release of Funds has been approved.

If you have any questions, please contact Michaela Lynds, Research Development Specialist (NSERC) at grant.review@usask.ca