



New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Exploration Grant 2024 Competition

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Overview

Welcome to DARE's (Discovery, Achievement & Research Excellence) NFRF Exploration Grant Development Program. The NFRF Exploration competition provides a unique opportunity for ECRs as the competition holds a proportion of awards equal to the proportion of applications submitted that are led by ECRs and will be reserved for these researchers.

The NFRF grant supports **high-risk, high-reward** and **interdisciplinary** research. Your projects should:

- **bring disciplines together** beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches;
- propose to explore something new, **which might fail**; and
- have the **potential for significant impact**.

Specifically, this program will:

- cultivate critical interdisciplinary connections and support networks between USask's ECRs;
- develop a research plan for your NFRF grant submission;
- connect you to guest speakers with experience in EDI, budgets and who have been grant holders and review panel members;
- provide a valuable forum for feedback during the grant development process; and
- foster grant management, knowledge, and writing skills.

Participation Expectation

This development program brings together a group of ECRs to learn together and support one another in the development of your NFRF Exploration proposals. Specifically, this program is designed to provide access to resources and to individuals who have had NFRF success and who have expertise in key components of the grant application. This group is small to ensure opportunities for safe participation. Please come to meetings prepared to participate in group discussions and provide valuable feedback to group members.

While this program will be offering hybrid and recorded meetings, **we strongly encourage participants to come in-person**. We have found that in-person meetings foster more robust and helpful conversations with the guest speakers and other faculty.



Program Schedule

July 9, 2024 (10-11:30am)	<p>Session 1: Program overview and understanding high-risk/high-reward</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker: (NFRF Grant holder & KMb Specialist)</i></p>
July 23, 2024 (10-11:30am)	<p>Session 2: What makes a strong Exploration application?</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker: (NFRF Grant holder & Review Panel Member)</i></p>
August 13, 2024 (10-11:30am)	<p>Session 3: Tips on writing your Exploration application</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker: (NFRF Grant holder)</i></p>
August 20, 2024	NOI – Internal Deadline (Submit to UnivRS for academic approvals)
August 27, 2024	NOI due (NOI's loaded into the Convergence Portal).
September 3 – 25, 2024	Jennifer Review – 1:1 scheduled meetings to share early drafts for feedback.
TBD	<p>Session 4: Budget/budget justification & STRAC requirement</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker: (Budget Specialist & Research Security Specialist)</i></p>
TBD	<p>Session 5: Best Practices in EDI in Research</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker: (EDI Specialist)</i></p> <p><i>In preparation: Draft EDI section, be prepared to share to receive feedback</i></p>
September 27, 2024	Internal Review (tentative) - Draft application will be submitted for internal review conducted by two reviewers
October 18, 2024	Internal review feedback returned
Check with your Research Facilitator or Associate/Vice Dean Research/Director	College/Unit Internal Approval by Applicant
October 29, 2024	Internal Compliance Review and Approval – Submit to UnivRS for academic approvals and compliance
November 5, 2024	Agency Submission - Applicants submit final application via the Convergence Portal . Please note that RASI must then forward the completed application into the system.