PRESIDENT'S NSERC RESEARCH FUND

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Deadline: May 1st

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.

Under certain conditions, NSERC permits the University to retain residual balances of completed NSERC grants. The University of Saskatchewan utilizes these residual funds to support the President's NSERC Research Fund Program.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be members of the College of Graduate Studies and Research 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 (*see NSERC Eligibility Guidelines: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Eligibility-Admissibilite/faculty-corpsprof_eng.asp*) may apply. Adjunct faculty are eligible, although preference will be given to tenure-track applicants. Only one application per applicant per competition allowed.

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 1st, and end date of April 31st.

APPLICATION AND DEADLINES

Application forms may be downloaded at:
http://www.usask.ca/research/research_services/internal_funding_opps.php#PresidentsNSERCResearchFund.

Competitions are held once a year on **May 1st** (*or the next working day when these dates occur on a weekend or holiday*). Late applications will not be considered.

The application must be signed by the applicant and approved by the applicant's Department Head and Associate Dean (*Research*). A hard copy of the completed application form with signatures and a current copy of the applicant's complete NSERC Form 100 Part 1 with the Contributions Section included must be submitted by the deadline to:

President's NSERC Committee
c/o Research Services
110 Gymnasium Place
966-8370 (phone); 966-8597 (FAX)

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:

1st Priority - recent application to the NSERC Discovery Grant Program was unsuccessful;
2nd Priority - renewing research program, no longer hold NSERC funding
3rd Priority - 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.

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 will be of sufficient standard to merit external funding from an eligible national agency.
- New faculty members, within the first 5 years of their appointment, will have priority over senior faculty members.
- Past support through the President NSERC fund will be taken into account for future decisions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The quality and originality of the proposed research;
- The degree to which this funding will enable researchers to position their research for a successful application to the NSERC Discovery Program;
- The previous efforts of the applicant to secure and/or plans of the applicant(s) to apply for a NSERC Discovery Grant;
- 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*);
- Recent participation in an Institutional Internal Review Process for NSERC Discovery Grants will be viewed favourably.

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 at the NSERC website: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/FundsUse-UtilisationSubventions_eng.asp.

OVER EXPENDITURES AND EXTENSIONS

Over expenditures of grants are not permitted and will become the recipient's personal liability. Arrangements may be made to extend the term of the grant. Requests for extensions **must** be made in writing to Research Services at least one month prior to the end-date of the grant, citing the reasons for the delay in completing the research and the anticipated date of completion. Extensions do not normally 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 Research Services has been notified the required approvals are in place.

Acknowledgement of support from the Fund should be given in any resulting publications.