



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 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). 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 Grants 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: [://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Eligibility-Admissibilite/faculty-corpsprof_eng.asp](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 of award with a start date of May 1st, and end date of April 31st.

APPLICATION AND DEADLINES

Application forms may be downloaded at:

[://www.usask.ca/research/research_services/internal_funding_opps.php#PresidentsNSERCResearchFund](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*). The completed application form with signatures and a current copy of the NSERC Form 100 Part 1 with Contribution Section (*1 original*) must be submitted by the deadline to:

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

Email a pdf version of the application to: research.services@usask.ca

NATURE OF RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED

The President's NSERC Fund provides interim support for research designed to lead towards the development of a NSERC Discovery Grant proposal to faculty:

- i. whose first application to NSERC was unsuccessful (***highest priority***);
- ii. whose first renewal to the Discovery Grant Program was unsuccessful;
- iii. who no longer hold a Discovery Grant, and who are renewing their research program;
- iv. who wish to pursue new research directions, but lack sufficient resources to undertake preliminary research in order to develop a Discovery Grant proposal in the new area.

Note: Priority will be given to projects which fall within the first three categories listed above.

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 application.
- A President's NSERC Grant is intended as seed money to obtain future NSERC 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.

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 NSERC;
- The previous efforts of the applicant to secure and/or plans of the applicant(s) to apply for NSERC;
- The research achievements of the applicant;
- 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 at the NSERC website: [://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/FundsUse-UtilisationSubventions_eng.asp](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.

REPORTING

Recipients of awards are required to submit a brief report to Research Services including the submission date of a new NSERC application as a result of the research on the one year anniversary of the award.

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