



NSERC Update



**Council of Chairs of Canadian Earth Science Departments
Conférence des Directeurs de Département de Géologie du Canada
(CCESD/CDDGC)**

Ottawa, ON
October 28, 2019

**Kate Henbest, Team Leader, Environmental Sciences
Tiffany Lancaster - Program Officer
Kenn Rankine – Program Officer**



Overview

- NSERC News: Alliance and EDI
- Discovery Program: 2019 Results & Update
- Questions



Alliance Overview

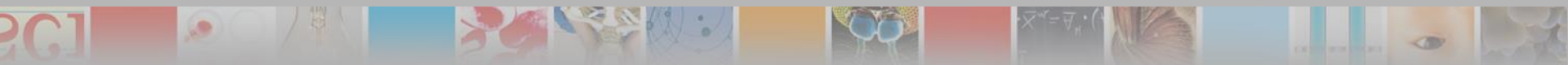
Benefits

Prior Programs

- Engage Grants
- Collaborative Research & Development Grants
- Strategic Grants
- Industrial Research Chairs

Alliance Grants

- one program
- more flexible
- scalable
- simpler processes
- no application deadlines
- faster decision times
- enhanced partnerships
- fewer restrictions on research topics within NSE



Alliance Projects

ONE PROGRAM

1 to 5
years

\$20,000 to
\$1,000,000
per year

Single
researcher and
partner to
multiple
participants and
multisectorial

Focus on
NSE based
research
activity



Alliance Partnerships

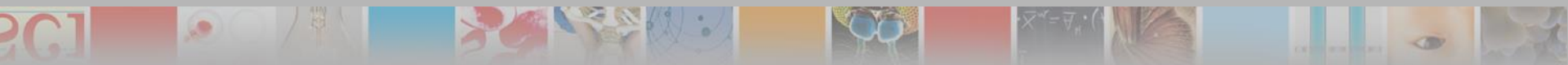
Private - Public - Not for Profit

All organizations needed to achieve the research goals

- Active in research activities
- Collectively provide cash and in-kind support
- Utilize or mobilize the project's research results
- Achieve desired impact



Update on previous Partnerships programs, e.g., CRD, Engage

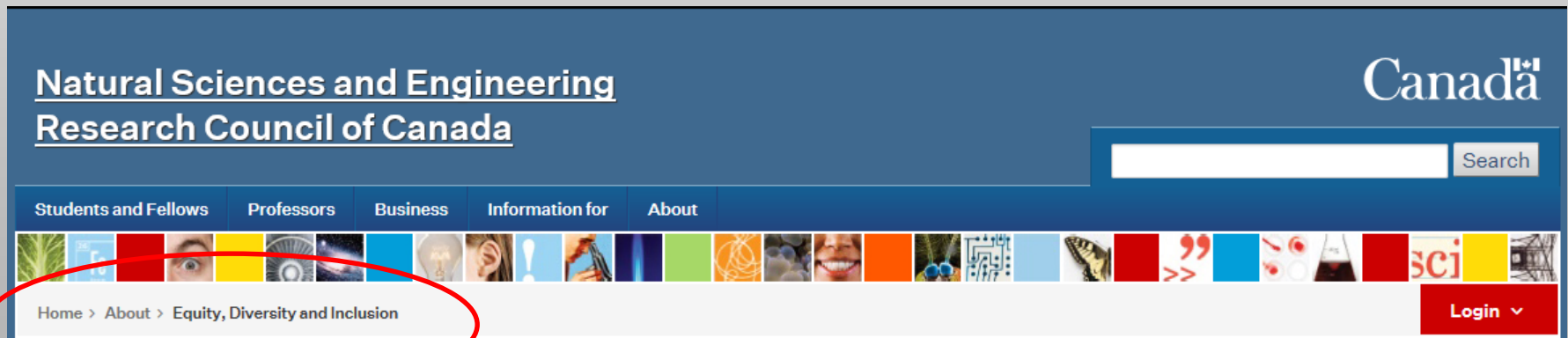


Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) strengthen the scientific and engineering communities and the quality, social relevance and impact of research.

Visit NSERC's EDI website for resources:

- NSERC's EDI framework
- Training modules and tools
- Related programs and awards
- Events, such as Gender Summit



The screenshot shows the top portion of the NSERC website. The header is dark blue with the text "Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada" on the left and the "Canada" logo on the right. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header is a navigation menu with the following items: "Students and Fellows", "Professors", "Business", "Information for", and "About". A red circle highlights the "About" link in the navigation menu. Below the navigation menu is a row of colorful icons representing various scientific and engineering fields. At the bottom of the screenshot, a breadcrumb trail reads "Home > About > Equity, Diversity and Inclusion", which is also circled in red. A "Login" button is visible in the bottom right corner.

Dimensions

- Intended to publicly recognize post-secondary institutions seeking to increase equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in their environments and across the research ecosystem
- Participating institutions have a unique opportunity to be among the first in Canada to be recognized for their efforts and progress made to advance EDI in the research ecosystem

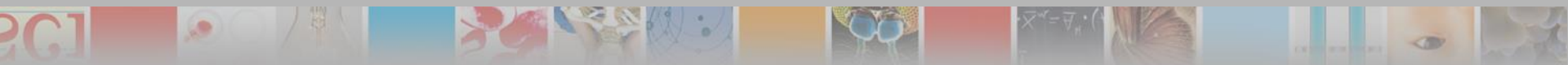
Data → Analysis → Action → Impact

EDI Capacity Building Grants

- 2019 pilot open only to small institutions and colleges

Objectives:

- To foster EDI in the Canadian post-secondary research enterprise
- Funds will allow institutions to undertake activities to advance their own EDI objectives



NSERC Leave Policies

Paid Maternity / Parental Leave for Students and Postdoctoral Fellows paid from Grants

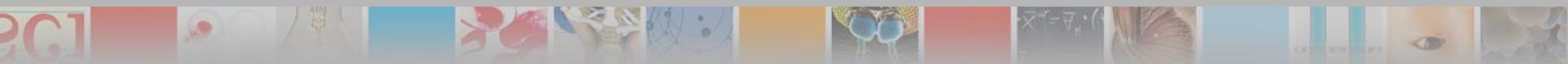
- Students and Postdoctoral fellows who are supported by NSERC funding and are eligible may receive up to **12** months of paid maternity / parental leave (Budget 2019, note includes DG).
- The leave supplement will be paid by NSERC.

Primary Caregivers (Pilot)

- Researchers who become primary caregivers following the birth or adoption of a child and who are eligible for maternity or parental leave but decline the leave, may be eligible to receive a one-year grant extension with funds

Family and Medical Leave

- Grant holders who plan to take family-related leave or medical leave may be eligible for a grant extension with funds for up to two years.



Integrating EDI into DG criteria

- **Excellence of the Researcher**

- Applicants are asked to describe (if applicable) contributions towards the promotion of equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise

- **Merit of the Proposal**

- Applicants are asked to describe (if applicable) consideration of sex, gender and diversity in the research design

- **Contributions to the Training of HQP**

- Applicants are required to describe EDI considerations they commit to in their future approach to recruitment, training and mentoring
- Applicants are asked to describe EDI measures implemented in the past training of HQP (if applicable)



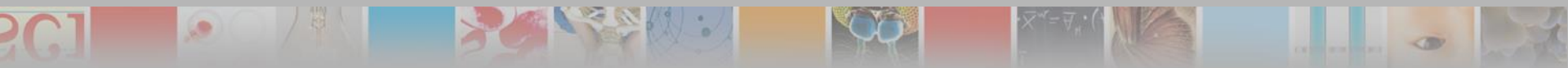
Collection of Self-Identification Data

Progress to date:

- Summer 2018: [An open letter from Tri-Agency Presidents to the research community](#)
- May-December 2018, collection of self-identification information from **applicants and co-applicants** to all funding opportunities
 - Age, gender, Indigenous identity, and status as a member of a visible minority group or person with a disability

Upcoming data collection:

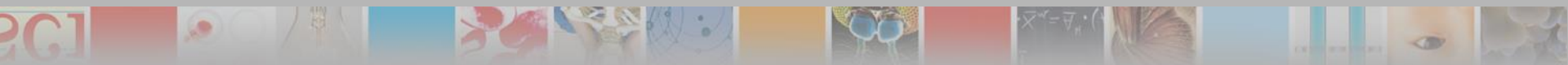
- Implementing self-identification data collection from committee members and reviewers;



2019 Competition Results

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

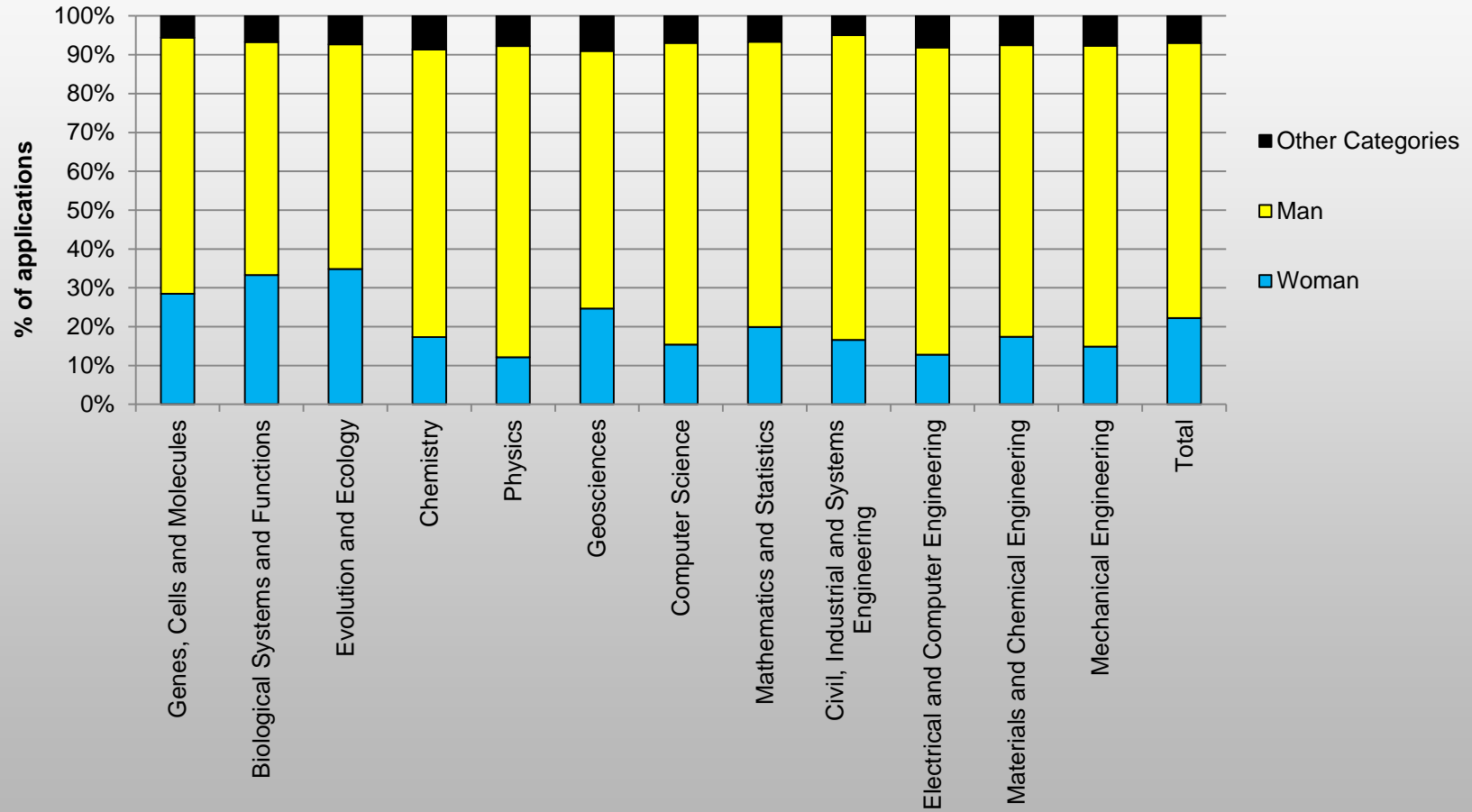
		Women	Men	Other Categories
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	Number of awards	166	320	13
	Success rate	56%	57%	54%
Established Researchers (ER)	Number of awards	334	1297	149
	Success rate	73%	70%	70%



2019 Competition Results

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

% of applicants by gender



Renewal Initiative of the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide

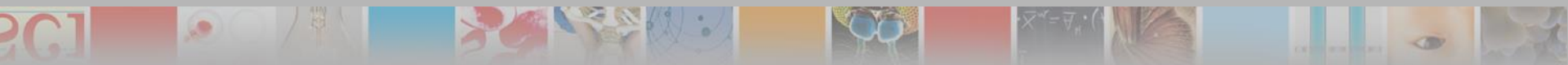
Updates: science.gc.ca

Agency staff are working closely with the Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) and the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) to implement the **principles-based** financial administration guide, which will replace the 2017 Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide.

Questions?

CIHR: support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

NSERC & SSHRC: financialmonitoring@nserc-crsng.gc.ca



2019 Discovery Program: Competition Results & Update



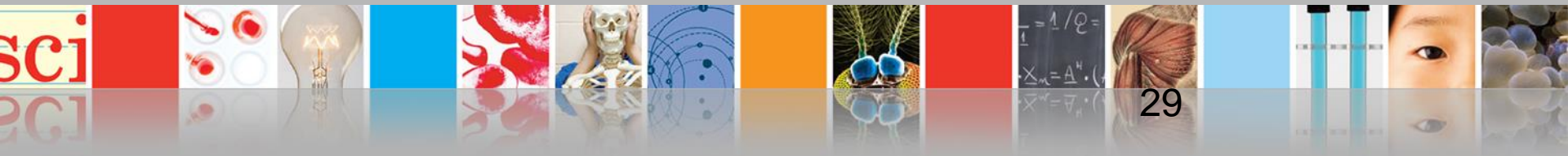
2019 Competition Results

Peer Review-Thank you

- 3400+ Discovery Grants Applications =
 - 430+ Evaluation Group Members
 - 17 000+ Reviews by EG members
 - 9100+ External Reviewers Reports

“NSERC is extremely grateful for your significant contribution of time and effort in this process. We would not be able to operate the Discovery Grants Program – our flagship program – without your dedicated efforts. Your insights and informed feedback are essential to ensure quality in Canada’s discovery research enterprise.”

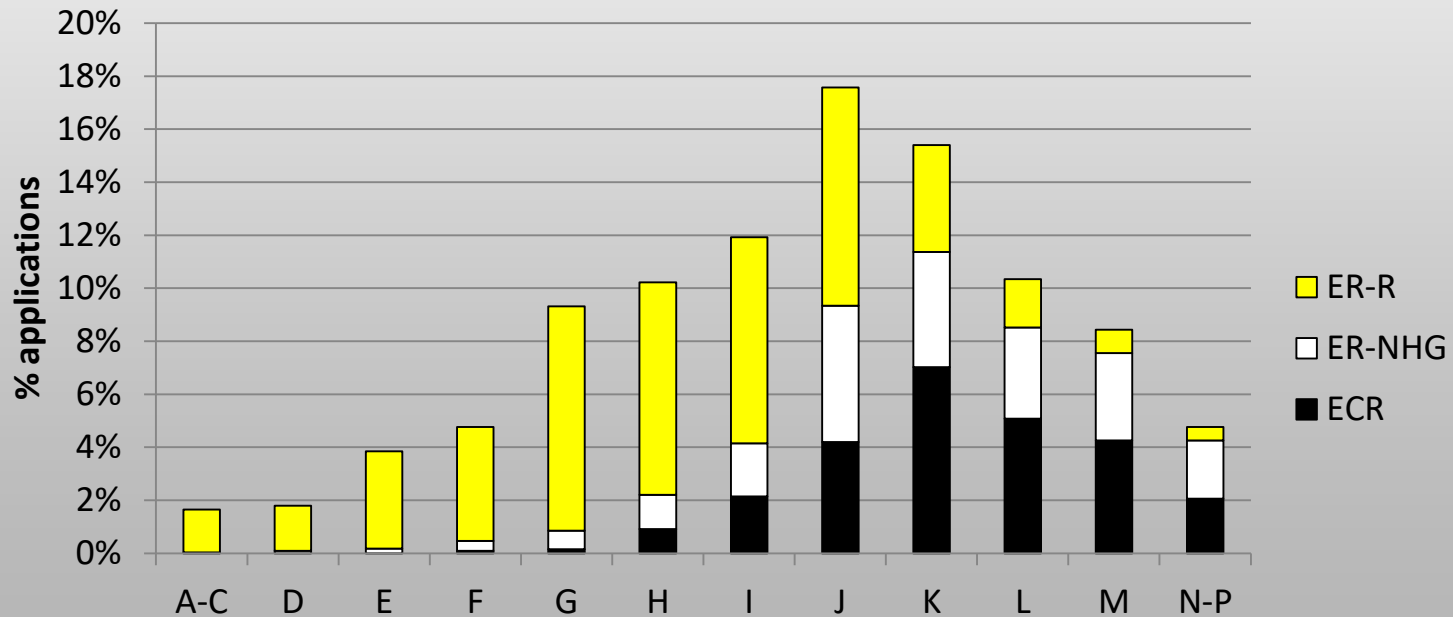
Danika L. Goosney, Vice-President, Research Grants and Scholarships



2019 Competition Results

Overall – Discovery Grants

	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers		Established Researchers	Total
		Returning	Not Holding a Grant		
# of applications	882	1736	786	2522	3404
Success Rate	57%	84%	40%	71%	67%
Average Grant (yearly)	\$30,018	\$41,554	\$33,287	\$40,077	\$37,875



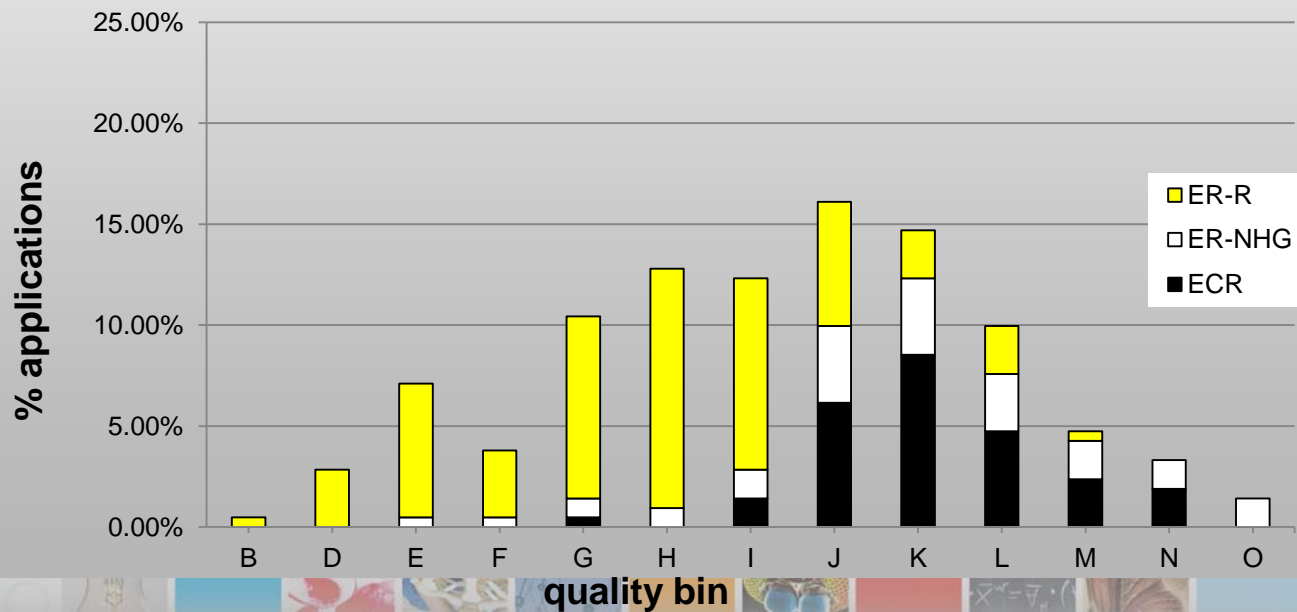
quality bin

2019 Competition Results

Geosciences (EG1506)

1506		Early Career Researcher	ER-Returning	ER-Not Holding Grant	Overall
	# applications	54	116	41	211
	Success Rate	65%	90%	41%	74%
	Average Grant	\$28,257	\$41,702	\$32,420	\$37,674

DG 2019 Bin Distribution for EG 1506



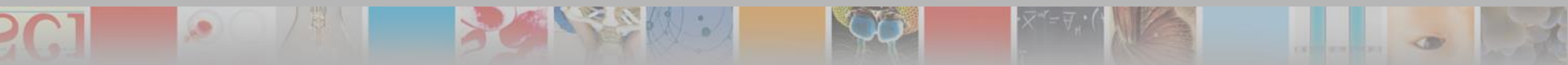
2019 Competition Results by Candidate Status

Geosciences (EG1506)

	<u>ECR</u>	<u>ER</u>			
Applicant Status	ECR	Returning	Not Holding a Grant	Total ER	Total
Applications in Competition	54	116	41	157	211
Number of Awards	35	104	17	121	156
Success Rate	65%	90%	41%	77%	74%

ECR: Early Career Researchers, **ER:** Established Researchers.

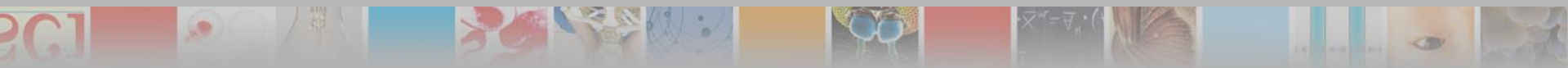
*Not holding a grant established researchers include those that are returning unfunded, first-time academic but with more than 3 years previous unsupervised research experience.



Discovery Grant Updates

Support for Early Career Researchers

- The ECR eligibility window is now 5 years (previously 3 years) to harmonize with the other agencies (*New!*)
- NSERC devotes additional funds to support ECRs through
 - increase in Discovery Grant
 - Discovery Launch Supplement (*New!*)
- ECRs re-applying for the first time have the option of extending their DG by one year with funds



Discovery Grant Updates

DND and NRS Supplements

Application Process: as part of the DG application process

➤ DND/NSERC DG supplement

- Must be applying to current DG competition
- Proposed Research must fit within DND defence and security target areas .

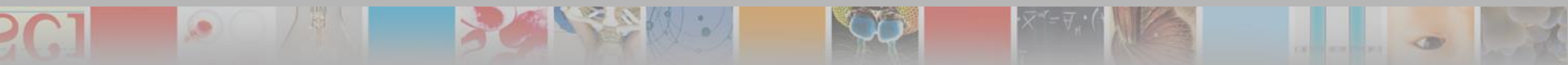
Contact: dndsuppmdn@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Program: [DND*/ NSERC DG supplement](#)

➤ Northern Research Supplement (NRS)

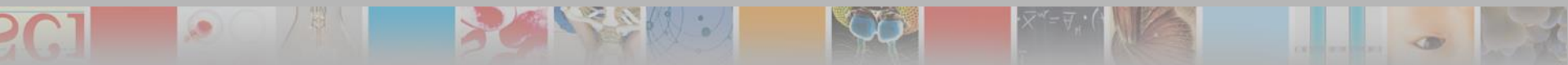
- Updates for CY2020:
 - Boundary Change: moved to the southern limit of “isolated patches of permafrost” from British Columbia to Labrador, including all of the three territories – Wider area of inclusion
 - Selection Criteria Updated: weighted scoring applied to each criterion; more detailed feedback provided to applicants

Contact: EnviroSciences-SciencesEnviro@nserc-crsng.gc.ca



Discovery Accelerator Supplements

- DAS provides resources to researchers who:
 - *Have highly original and innovative research programs*
 - *Show strong potential to become international leaders within their field*
- \$120,000 - over three years
- **New CY2019** - Up to 130 Supplements per year
- Each EG will receive a quota of DAS nominations to recommend
- EG members nominate candidates and members vote during competition. Executive Committee makes the recommendation to NSERC



Discovery Accelerator Program

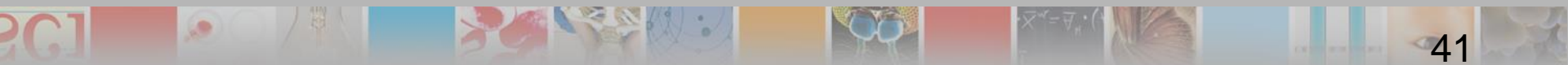
DAS selection is a three step process:

1. Evaluation Group (EG) Members' roles

- Nominations during competition week based on the candidates' Discovery Grant applications. During the deliberation, members can highlight Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) components within the application.
- **Executive Committee (EC) roles**
- Recommend among the EG nominations, those that meet the DAS criteria. EC of each EG provide their initial recommendations to NSERC based on a minimum quota per EG (based on past success rates), and include a pool of recommended candidates above the quality cut-off.

3. NSERC's role – Final Recommendations

- The remaining DAS awards, beyond the minimum quota, are allocated by NSERC. These are selected from within the pool of recommended candidates. The distribution is based on a series of shared principles, including consideration of EDI.

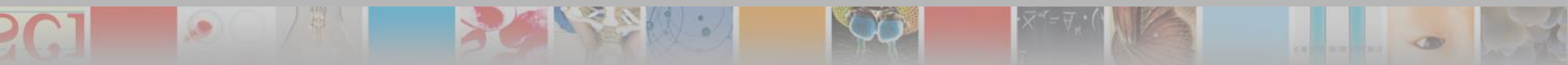
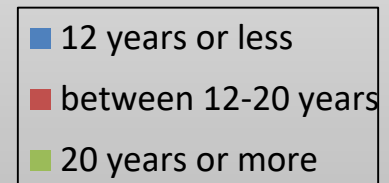
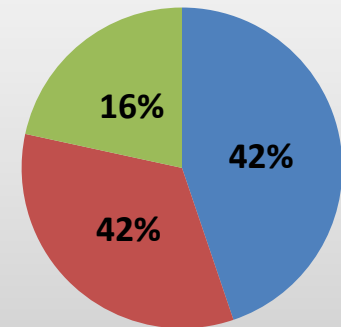


2019 Competition Results

Discovery Accelerator Supplements

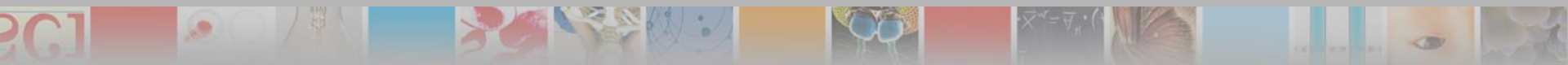
Evaluation Group	Awards
Genes, Cells and Molecules (1501)	17
Biological Systems and Functions (1502)	18
Evolution and Ecology (1503)	10
Chemistry (1504)	7
Physics (1505)	8
Geosciences (1506)	9
Computer Science (1507)	13
Mathematics and Statistics (1508)	10
Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering (1509)	12
Electrical and Computer Engineering (1510)	9
Materials and Chemical Engineering (1511)	7
Mechanical Engineering (1512)	8
Subatomic Physics (19)	1
Total	129

2019 DAS recipients
years from PhD



RTI Program Update

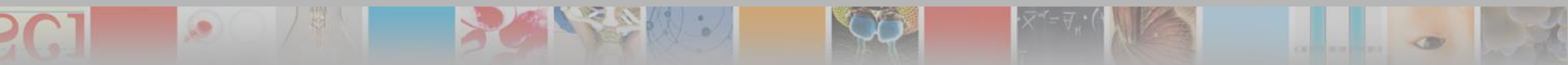
- Application deadline date remains **Oct 25**
- RTI selection criteria
 - Selection criteria reduced from five to three
 - Each criterion is weighted
 - The weighted scoring method will better guide Selection Committee members during review
 - Provides applicants more detailed scoring on their proposals to help improve subsequent applications
- Research Portal opens in August



2019 Competition Results

Research Tools and Instruments (RTI)

	2019	Geosciences Selection Cttee. 1606
Requested Amount	\$117.1M	\$6,967,682
Amount Awarded	\$25.3M	\$1,482,944
# Appl.	1005	68
# Funded	210	12
Success Rate	20.9%	17.7%
Funding Rate	21.6%	21.3%



Ship Time Program

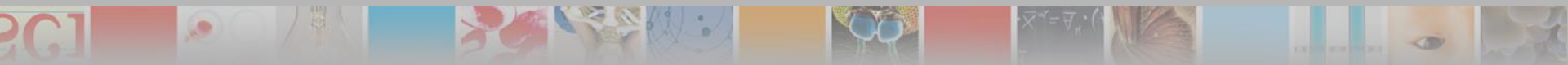
Objective:

- Assists with the high costs associated with chartering research vessels in Canada and abroad, in support of on-going Discovery research programs

Description:

- **NEW: Selection Criteria updated - with weighted scoring applied by committee and more feedback provided to applicants**
- Applicants must hold a Discovery Grant (*or be successful in current DG competition*)
- Duration usually one year (*potential 2 years of funding, if justified*)
- Deadline: September 3rd

Contact: EnviroSciences-SciencesEnviro@nserc-crsng.gc.ca



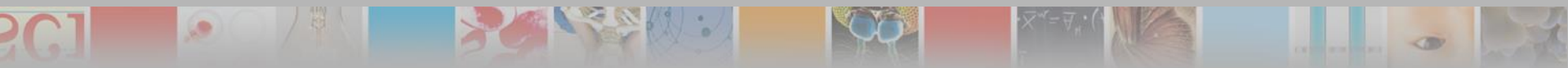
Discovery Development Grants (DDG)

Description:

- No separate application is required – offered according to DG results
- Provide resources to researchers from small universities whose DG applications were deemed to be of appropriate quality to merit research support, but were not funded in the DG Competition.
- **New Value:** \$15K/year for 2 years
- **New Eligibility CY2020:** may hold twice throughout their career

Objective:

- Promote a diversified base of high-quality research in small universities
- Foster a stimulating environment for research training in small universities



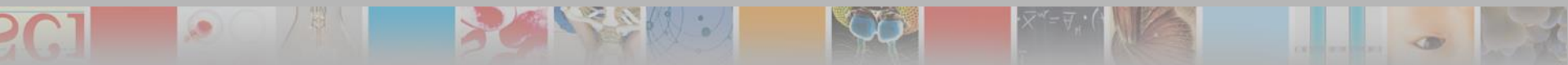
Evaluation Groups

- Genes, Cells and Molecules (1501)
- Biological Systems and Functions (1502)
- Evolution and Ecology (1503)
- Chemistry (1504)
- Physics (1505)
- Geosciences (1506)
- Computer Science (1507)
- Mathematics and Statistics (1508)
- Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering (1509)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering (1510)
- Materials and Chemical Engineering (1511)
- Mechanical Engineering (1512)



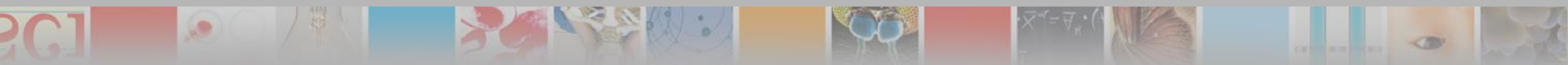
EG1506 Research Topics

- **GS01 - Petrology & Mineralogy**
- **GS02 - Sedimentology & Stratigraphy**
- **GS03 - Paleontology & Paleobiology**
- **GS04 - Geophysics**
- **GS05 - Economic Geology**
- **GS06 - Tectonics & Structural Geology**
- **GS07 - Geochemistry & Geochronology**
- **GS08 - Volcanology**
- **GS09 - Planetary Sciences**
- **GS10 - Surface Processes**
- **GS11 - Paleo-environmental Sciences**
- **GS12 - Biogeosciences**
- **GS13 - Global Geological Processes**
- **GS14 - Atmospheric Sciences**
- **GS15 - Hydrology**
- **GS16 - Oceanography**
- **GS17 - Soil Sciences**
- **GS18 - Geomatics & Earth Systems Observations**
- **GS19 - Cryology**



NSERC Contacts

Geosciences EG Program Officer	tiffany.lancaster@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Geosciences EG Program Assistant	sue.doyle@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
NSERC Web site	www.nserc-crsng
Deadlines, acknowledgement of applications and results	Your university Research Grants Officer (RGO)
Your account, Grants in Aid of Research Statement of Account (Form 300)	Your university Business Officer (BO)
Discovery Grants Program (including eligibility)	E-mail: resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca Tel.: 613-995-5829
Use of Grant Funds	E-mail: grantsadministration@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
On-line Services Helpdesk	E-mail: webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca



Over to you...

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Advice?

