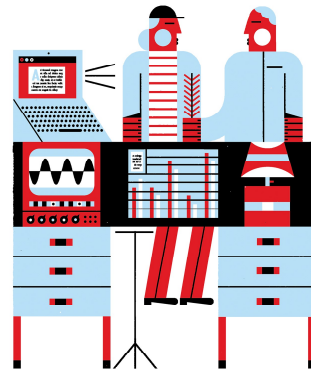# Council of Chairs of Canadian Earth Science Departments – CCCESD Meeting

Sarah Overington, Director, Discovery Research and Recognition
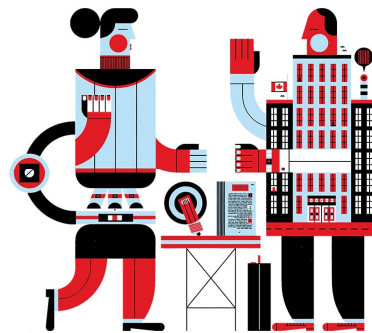Tiffany Lancaster, Program Officer, Geosciences

November 2024

Table of contents

NSERC News

NSERC News

Budget 2024 Increases

Latest news

Increases to Discovery Grants as a result of Budget 2024

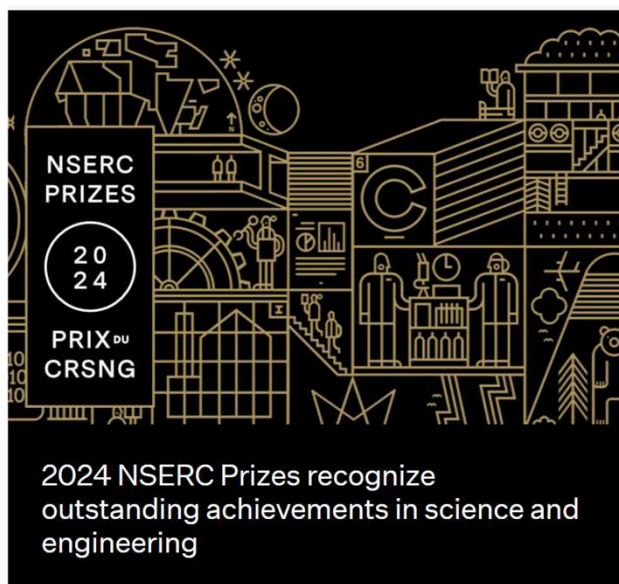General news | Professors | Students

November 6, 2024

Federal Budget 2024 announced new funding to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to increase core research grant funding and support Canadian researchers. This investment will enable Discovery Research programs to increase grant values for awards with a start date of April 1, 2024, or later, for the following funding opportunities: Discovery Grants, Discovery Development Grants, Subatomic Physics Grants – Individual, and Subatomic Physics Grants – Project.

Budget 2024 funds will be ramped up over the next five years, with $20.4 million this first year and increasing to $227 million per year in year 5 and ongoing. These increases will enable researchers to better support their students and postdoctoral fellows.

Further details will be communicated directly to the grantees affected and to research grant administrators once they are available.

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NSERC News

NSERC PRIZES
20 24
PRIX DU CRSNG

2024 NSERC Prizes recognize outstanding achievements in science and engineering

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NSERC News

October announcements

- Mark Daley, new Scholar in Residence in Artificial Intelligence

- Tri-agency CV template

- Dimensions renewal

- Geoffrey Hinton- Novel Prize in Physics

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NSERC News

Budget 2024 – Update

Investing in Homegrown Research Talent

- $825 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with $199.8 million per year ongoing
  - **Increase the annual value:** master's = $27,000, doctoral scholarships = $40,000, and post-doctoral fellowships = $70,000.
  - **Increase the number** of research scholarships and fellowships provided: building to approximately 1720 more graduate students or fellows benefiting each year.
  - **Streamlined the enhanced suite** of scholarships and fellowship programs: into one talent program, to make it easier for students and fellows to access support.

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NSERC News

Budget 2024- Update

Enhancing Research Support

- <mark>**Increase core research grant funding and support Canadian researchers**: $1.8 billion over five years, starting in 2024-25, with $748.3 million per year ongoing to SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR.</mark>
- **Harmonized grant management system:** further $26.9 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with $26.6 million in remaining amortization and $6.6 million ongoing, to the granting councils
- **Support Indigenous participation in research:** $30 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, with $10 million each for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit partners.
- **A new capstone research funding organization**
- **Advisory Council on Science and Innovation**

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NSERC News

Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)

- On January 16, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy).

- The policy operates using two lists that **must be used in conjunction** — a list of Sensitive Technology Research Areas (STRA) and a list of Named Research Organizations (NRO).

- The granting agencies and the CFI will implement the policy in harmonized manner, starting with funding opportunities launching as of **May 1st, 2024**.

- At the application stage, applicants will be asked to identify whether the research supported by their grant will **advance a STRA.** If it will not advance a STRA, no action is required.

- If the grant will **advance a STRA**, researchers with named roles in the application (applicant, co-applicant, collaborator) must complete **attestation forms** to certify their compliance. In addition, for the duration of the grant, no researchers involved in activities supported by the grant can be affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from an **NRO**.

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NSERC News

New Tri-Agency Guidance on Research Security

Inter-agency

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Tri-agency financial administration

Research security

Tri-Agency Guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy)

Tri-Agency Guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP)

Resources

- This new webpage provides guidance regarding the implementation of research security measures by the federal granting agencies (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR).
- We encourage all members of the research community to familiarize themselves with this guidance, and as well as the linked policies, guidelines, and resources

On this page:
- General guidance and guiding principles
- Tri-Agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy
- Tri-Agency Guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships
- Resources

Please address any questions to: researchsecurity@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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NSERC News

Tri-Agency Indigenous Research Strategy:
Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity – Key Developments for 2023-2024

- The Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research (ILCR), established in 2022, met in-person at Zibi Island on unceded Algonquin territory on October 26 and 27, 2023, to reflect on the progress made and future priorities.

- The agencies introduced amendments to the Tri-Agency Guide to Financial Administration (TAGFA) relating to compensation for Indigenous Elders, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, or Indigenous people affiliated with not-for-profit organizations who are not already being compensated to conduct research.

- On January 31, 2024, the agencies released What We Heard: A Report from the Three Federal Research Funding Agencies' Ad Hoc Working Group on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership, as the basis for moving beyond self-identification within the context of programs, funding opportunities or appointments intended for Indigenous people.

  - New Tri-agency Policy on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation and associated directive was announced this summer

- Together, the agencies have worked to develop a new mechanism to better support the indirect costs of research for Indigenous not-for-profit-organizations that administer funding. Implementation is underway at various stages throughout the three agencies.

NSERC News

Indigenous Research at NSERC

- Tri-Agency Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research
  - ○ NSERC continues to provide Secretariat support
  - ○ Priorities this year include improving peer reviewer training and addressing barriers within the Conflict of Interest policy.
- Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements (ISAS) pilot continuing
  - ○ 2023 competition: 24 individuals offered both an IS award and IS supplement; 14 individuals awarded an IS supplement
  - ○ Effective this year, NSERC recipients may be eligible for other supplemental funding
  - ○ Piloting the new Tri-agency Policy on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation and associated directive
- NSERC Indigenous Student Ambassadors (NISA)
  - ○ 7 awards in FY2023-24
- Discovery Research
  - ○ In CY2024 NSERC definition for Indigenous research was piloted in DG and DH
  - ○ In CY2024, DG and DH applicants were asked to identify if their proposal included Indigenous research.
  - ○ For CY2025, new text has been added to application instructions for DG and DH emphasizing additional considerations for Indigenous research.

Signal Fire: Natural Science and Reconciliation in Canada (signalfirefilm.ca)

NSERC – CCI guide for research involving Indigenous Peoples and communities

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NSERC News

Tri-agency CV pilot

Template sections

1. Personal information
2. Personal statement
3. Most significant contributions
4. Other contributions to knowledge
5. Supervisory and mentorship activities
6. Other relevant information

Appendix – Current research funding (Optional)

Tri-agency pilot programs

NSERC Discovery Horizons

CIHR Health Research Training Platform, Operating Grant : NWHRI: Innovation Fund, Catalyst Grant : Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Report

SSHRC Imagining Canada's Future Ideas Lab

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NSERC News

Dimensions

Consists of 2 parts:
- Charter of 8 principles
- Recognition program

Dimensions
Equity, diversity and
inclusion Canada

Foster transformational change within the research ecosystem across Canadian post-secondary institutions by identifying and eliminating obstacles and inequities.

New phase announced on October 24, 2024
Information and engagement sessions in the next months.
For information: dimensionsedi@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

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NSERC News

Chairs for Inclusion in Science and Engineering (CISE)

- New competition in the province of Quebec launching June 2024
- Jointly funded by FRQNT and NSERC
- Details:
  - Team of three Chairs working together to address issues faced by underrepresented groups in science and engineering
  - Team approach enhances impact of the program across the province, brings a diversity of perspectives, and celebrates diverse role models
  - Value: up to $305K/year for the team
- Deadlines
  - NOI – December 2, 2024
  - Full application – March 3, 2025

For more information,

please contact:

cise-cisg@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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2024 Discovery Grants Results

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2024 Discovery Grants Results

2024 Discovery Research Program Competition Results

- **Discovery Grants** offered $84.3M in new awards
  - 3186 applications; 2015 awards, 63% overall success rate; average grant size $42k
  - The CY2024 cohort is the size of a typical pre-pandemic competition
- **Research Tools and Instruments** awarded over $25M
  - 666 applications; 199 awards, with a 30% success rate
- **Subatomic Physics Grants** invested over $18.5M in new awards
  - 52 applications across all categories; 38 awards
  - Success rates ranged from 36% to 88%
- **Discovery Horizons** offered $5.5M in new awards
  - 81 LOIs received, 33 full applications reviewed, and 15 grants awarded

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2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Total Investment in Discovery Grants
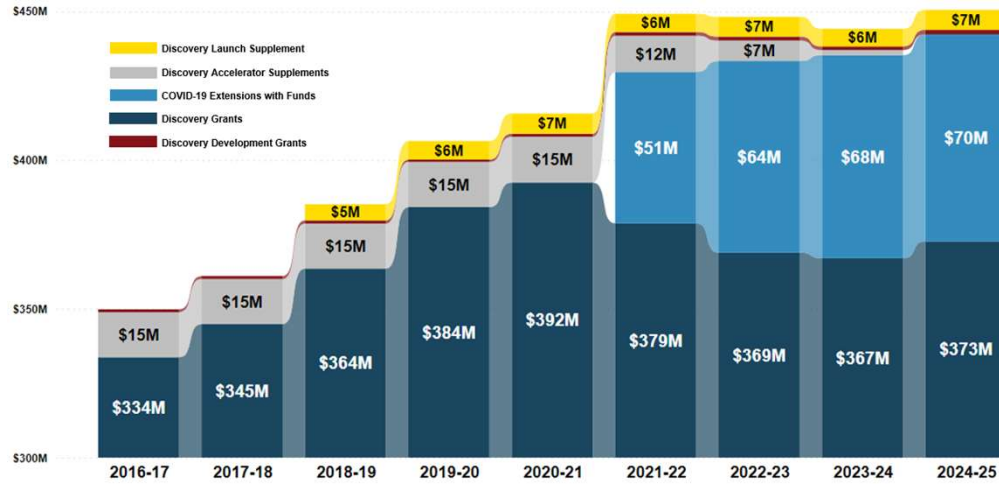
2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Discovery Grants over the last 17 years

Applications	3,369	3,210	3,323	3,460	3,455	3,432	3,173	3,194	3,167	3,240	3,213	3,404	3,372	2,008	2,518	2,802	3,186
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2022*	2023*	2024
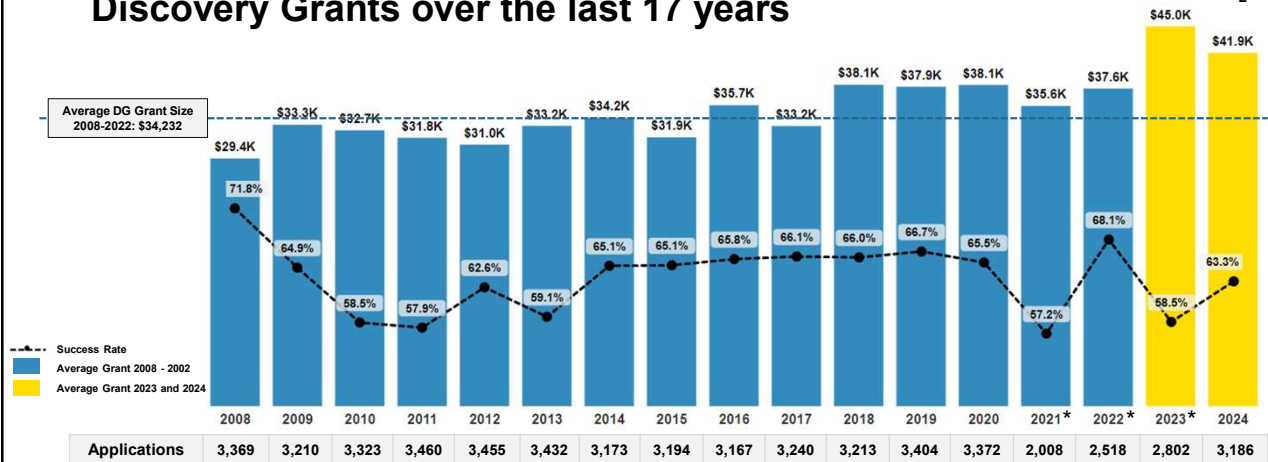
*Pools of applicants differ from a typical year, due to COVID-19 one-time extensions with funds provided to eligible DG holders

Results presented for CY2024 are not official

2024 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Discovery Grants over the last 5 years

2024 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1506 – Geosciences

Slide 23

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2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview
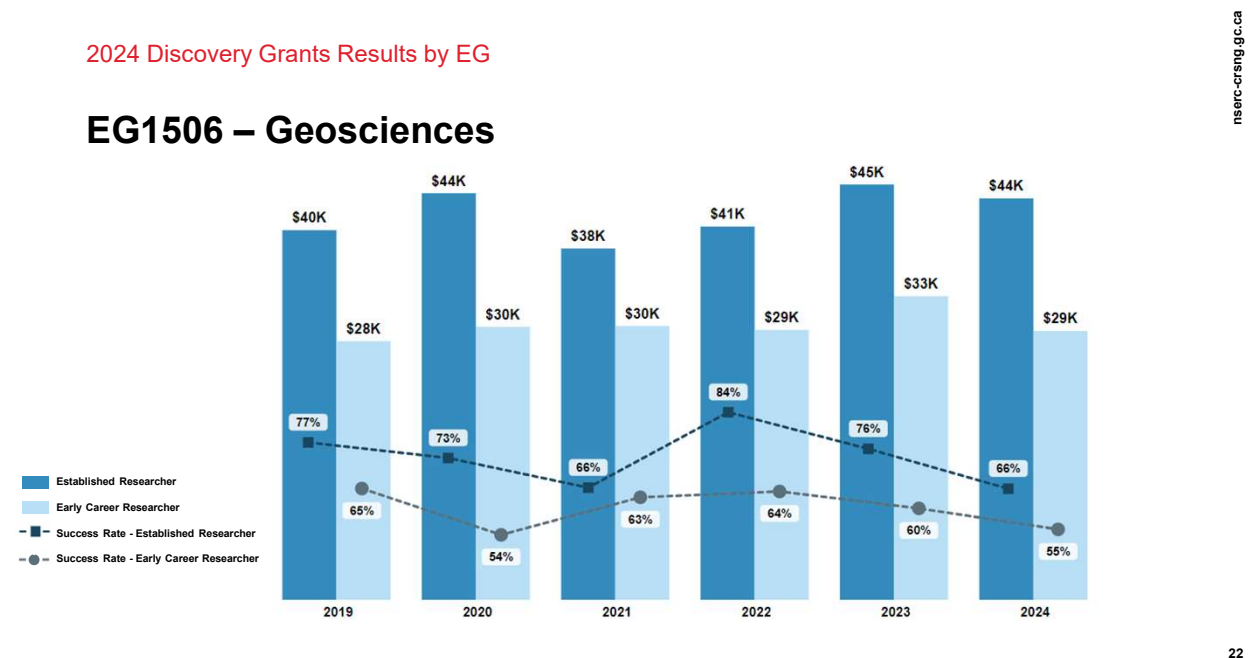
Supporting Early Career Researchers

Total Amount Awarded

▶ $12.5K Discovery Launch Supplement

Early Career Researcher	$30.2K	$194K
Established Researcher First Renewal	$42.5K	$212K
Established Researcher Other Renewal	$49.2K	$246K
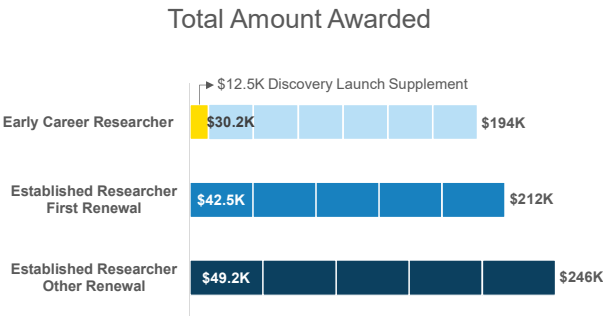
- Most Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who apply within the 5-year eligibility window are funded
- The window is adjusted for eligible delays (credited as twice the amount of time taken)
- ECRs receive a one-time Discovery Launch Supplement ($12,500) and the option of a 6th year of funding
- The success rate of applicants who reapply after their first grant is over 70%

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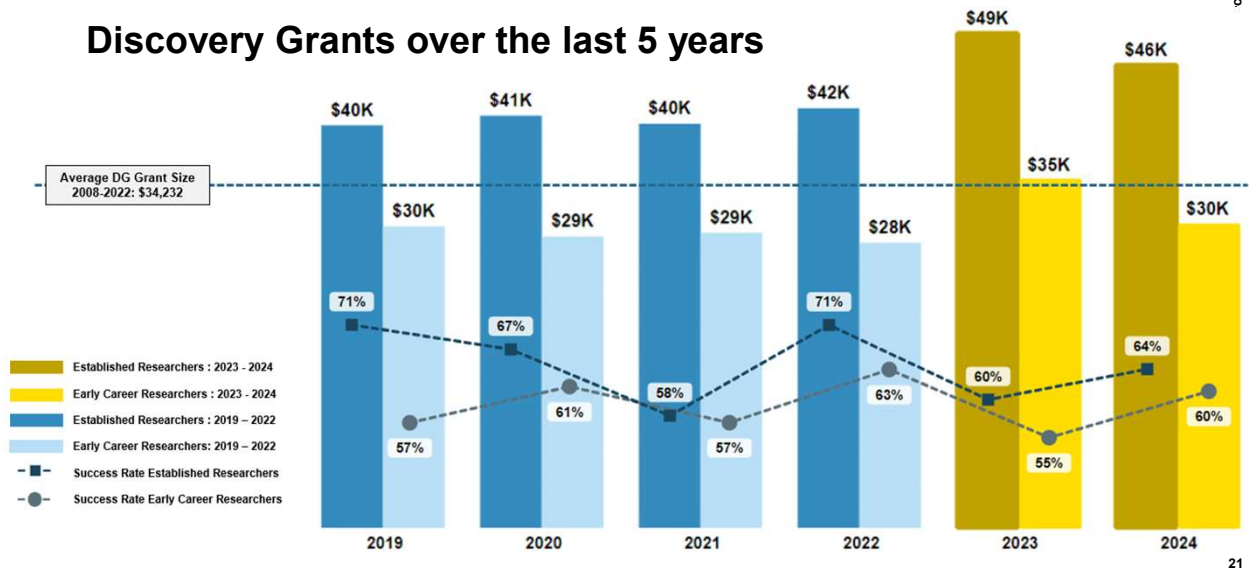**Slide 24**

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2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)				Overall
		First Renewals	Other Renewals	Not Holding a Grant	All Established Researchers	
# of applications	886	452	1186	662	2,300	3,186
# of awards	536	325	920	234	1,479	2,015
Success Rate	60%	72%	78%	35%	64%	63%
Average Grant (yearly)	$30,195*	42,456	49,245	$38,736	$46,090	$41,862

* Does not include additional Discovery Launch Supplement funding provided in first year ($12,500)

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1/15/2025

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2024 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

EG1506 – Geosciences – Results by Applicant Category

	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)				Overall
		First Renewals	Other Renewals	Not Holding a Grant	All Established Researchers	
# of applications	51	28	66	26	120	**171**
# of awards	28	22	52	5	79	**107**
Success Rate	55%	79%	79%	19%	66%	**63%**
Average Grant (yearly)	$29,375*	$41,455	$45,596	$36,640	$43,876	**$40,081**

* Does not include additional Discovery Launch Supplement funding provided in first year ($12,500)

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Other Research Grants Results

Discovery Development Grants (DDG)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Awarded	24	47	22	28	40	**38**
Accepted	20	44	21	26	38	**37**
Declined	4	3	1	2	2	**1**

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Other Research Grants Results

Research Tools and Instruments (RTI)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	Geo (1606)
Budget	$25.3M	$30.7M	$25.3M	$25.0M	$26.0M	**$25.1M**	**$1.5M**
# of Applications	1,005	893	811	713	585	**666**	**39**
# Funded	210	248	201	207	204	**199**	**12**
Success Rate	21%	28%	27%	29%	35%	**30%**	**31%**
Funding Rate	22%	29%	25%	29%	36%	**29%**	**30%**

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Other Research Grants Results

Northern Research Supplements (NRS)

CY	# Apps Received	# Apps[B] Eligible	# of Apps Funded	Success Rate	$ Requested	$ Awarded	Funding Rate
2024*	**61**	**41**	**26**	**63%**	**$917,739**	**$420,000**	**46%**
2023	57	41	28	68%	$926,896	$395,162	43%
2022	49	40	27	68%	$930,029	$376,700	40%
2021	44	29	19	66%	$717,685	$266,000	37%
2020	82	58	36	62%	$1,308,436	$533,900	41%
2019	69	46	31	67%	$985,890	$526,000	53%

B – Eligible Apps = Number of NRS applications AFTER unsuccessful DG applicants are removed
Statistics only represent the final number of eligible applications.

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Other Research Grants Results

Ship Time Program (STP)

CY	# of Applications Reviewed	# of Applications Awarded	Application Success Rate	Request Funding Rate	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Awarded
2024*	**4**	**4**	**100%**	**100%**	**$503,216**	**$503,216**
2023	11	6	55%	57%	$1,906,014	$1,086,614
2022	11	6	55%	46%	$2,150,359	$995,685
2021	8	7	88%	82%	$1,241,615	$1,013,751
2020	12	6	50%	45%	$2,270,323	$1,015,465
2019	11	7	64%	69%	$1,544,392	$1,061,899

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Research Grants (RGS) Program Updates

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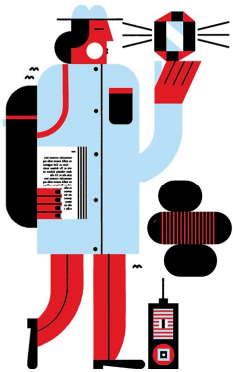
RGS Program Updates

NSERC Leave Policies

Primary Caregivers
- Researchers who become primary caregivers following the birth or adoption of a child and who are eligible for maternity or parental leave through the institution 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.

Paid Maternity / Parental Leave for Students and Postdoctoral Fellows paid from Grants
- Students and Postdoctoral fellows who are paid out of an NSERC grant, and those receiving awards directly from NSERC, are eligible to receive up to 12 months of paid maternity / parental leave.
- The leave supplement will be paid by NSERC.

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RGS Program Updates

RTI Program

Application deadline date is **October 25;** Research Portal opens in August

Recent changes:

- Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) grants applicants and co-applicants who were **successful in the previous year's** RTI competition are **ineligible to apply for one year**. Eligibility will be reinstated the following competition year.

- Changes to selection criteria (names have been shortened, and 2nd criterion no longer assesses the excellence of the researcher)

- Clarified instructions in Budget Justification section and added a template budget table applicants are to use to show tax and currency exchange rates and totals

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Ship Time Program (STP)

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

- Typical duration of grant: one year (two years possible, with proper justification)

- Applicants must hold a Discovery Grant (or be successful in current DG competition)

- Three weighted selection criteria:
  - Scientific or Engineering Excellence (40%)
  - Need and Urgency for Ship Time (40%)
  - Contribution to the training of HQP (20%)

- **New 2024:** Q&A session was offered in August

- **Deadline:** September 1st

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

RGS Program Updates

Northern Research Supplements (NRS)

- **Objective:** To augment and promote Canadian university-based northern research, training, and community outreach by recognizing the added costs unique to conducting research in the Canadian North.

- **Canada's North:** The land- and ocean-based territory north of the southern limit of isolated patches of permafrost from northern British Columbia to Labrador, including the entirety of the three territories (not the stretch down the central Rocky Mountains along the BC/AB border)

- **Application process:**
  - ✓ Part of the Discovery Grant (DG) application process, with additional components required for NRS
  - ✓ Separate review committee – they **do not** see the full DG application

- Up to $25,000/year for duration of the DG award

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

RGS Program Updates

Discovery Development Grants (DDG)

Description:

- No separate application is required – offered according to DG results
- Provide resources to established 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:** $20K/year for 2 years

Objectives:

- To promote a diversified base of high-quality research in small universities
- To foster a stimulating environment for research training in small universities

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RGS Program Updates

PromoScience Program

- Provides financial support to organizations working with young Canadians in elementary school and high school (including the equivalent first year of college in Quebec), and their educators, to promote an understanding and interest in STEM through hands-on, interactive learning experiences.

- **Objectives:**
  - Increase interest in STEM
  - Inspire young Canadians to study science and engineering, and to pursue careers in these fields
  - Promote diversity in STEM through initiatives targeting underrepresented groups

- **Grants of up to $200,000 per year for 3 years**

- **Eligible organizations:**
  - Canadian registered non-profit organizations
  - Post-secondary institutions
  - Non-federal museum or science centre

Contact: promoscience@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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RGS Program Updates

Program updates

- **CREATE program:**
  - Letter of intent (LOI) stage is now non-competitive; LOIs will proceed directly to application stage
  - The Industrial stream has been eliminated. Industrial participation in CREATE initiatives is encouraged, but the extent of industrial participation is determined by the applicants/partners
  - Mobility experiences are now mandatory for all Masters and PhD trainees, with a minimum duration of one month for Masters and two months for PhD trainees
- **Black Scholars:**
  - Announced in Budget 2022; $40.9 million over five years and $9.7 million ongoing
  - Eligibility is based on applicant self-identification data and consent
  - In 2023-24, nearly 300 students/fellows benefitted from this initiative
- **Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements (ISAS) Pilot Initiative:**
  - NSERC and SSHRC are continuing the ISAS pilot initiative
    - New Tri-agency Policy on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation and associated directive will apply
  - 2023 competition: 24 individuals offered both an IS award and IS supplement; 14 individuals awarded an IS supplement
  - Effective this year, NSERC recipients may be eligible for other supplemental funding

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RGS Program Updates

Scholarships and Fellowships Updates

- **Tri-agency Training Strategy**
  - Centred on five themes: 1. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Accessibility   4. Indigenous Research & Training
    2. Evolving Career Paths   5. International Mobility & Globalization
    3. Harmonization & Streamlining Efforts
  - Held five meetings with a new external advisory committee where actions and ideas were discussed
  - The strategy is expected to be published on the CRCC website in the coming months
- **Tri-agency Talent Evaluation**
  - Scope: Direct and Indirect funding of graduate student training by the three agencies
  - Areas: access to training opportunities, contribution to training environment, student career trajectory
  - Next: Publication of the evaluation report and management response
- **PGS/CGS D and PDF competition results**
  - PDF results provided to applicants February 8, 2024
  - PGS/CGS D results will be released by end of April 2024

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RGS Program Updates

NSERC Prizes

Timelines:

- The call for nominations will launch in August of 2024
- Application deadlines
  - November 28, 2024, for the **Herzberg, Polanyi, Brockhouse** and **Strickland** Prizes
  - December 14, 2024, for the **Synergy** Prize and **McDonald** Fellowships

In nominating a person or a team, please consider:

- Including various contributions to research such as transfer of knowledge, training and mentoring of highly qualified personnel, or communication of research to non-specialist audiences.
- Encouraging your colleagues to nominate someone as there can be more than one nomination per institution.
- Thinking broadly before nominating to ensure diverse candidacies are considered.
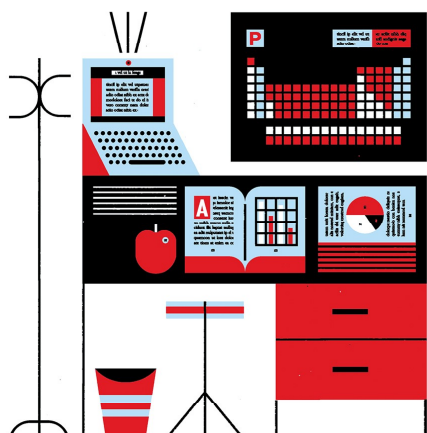
Questions?

Tiffany Lancaster
Program Officer, Geosciences

tiffany.lancaster@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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