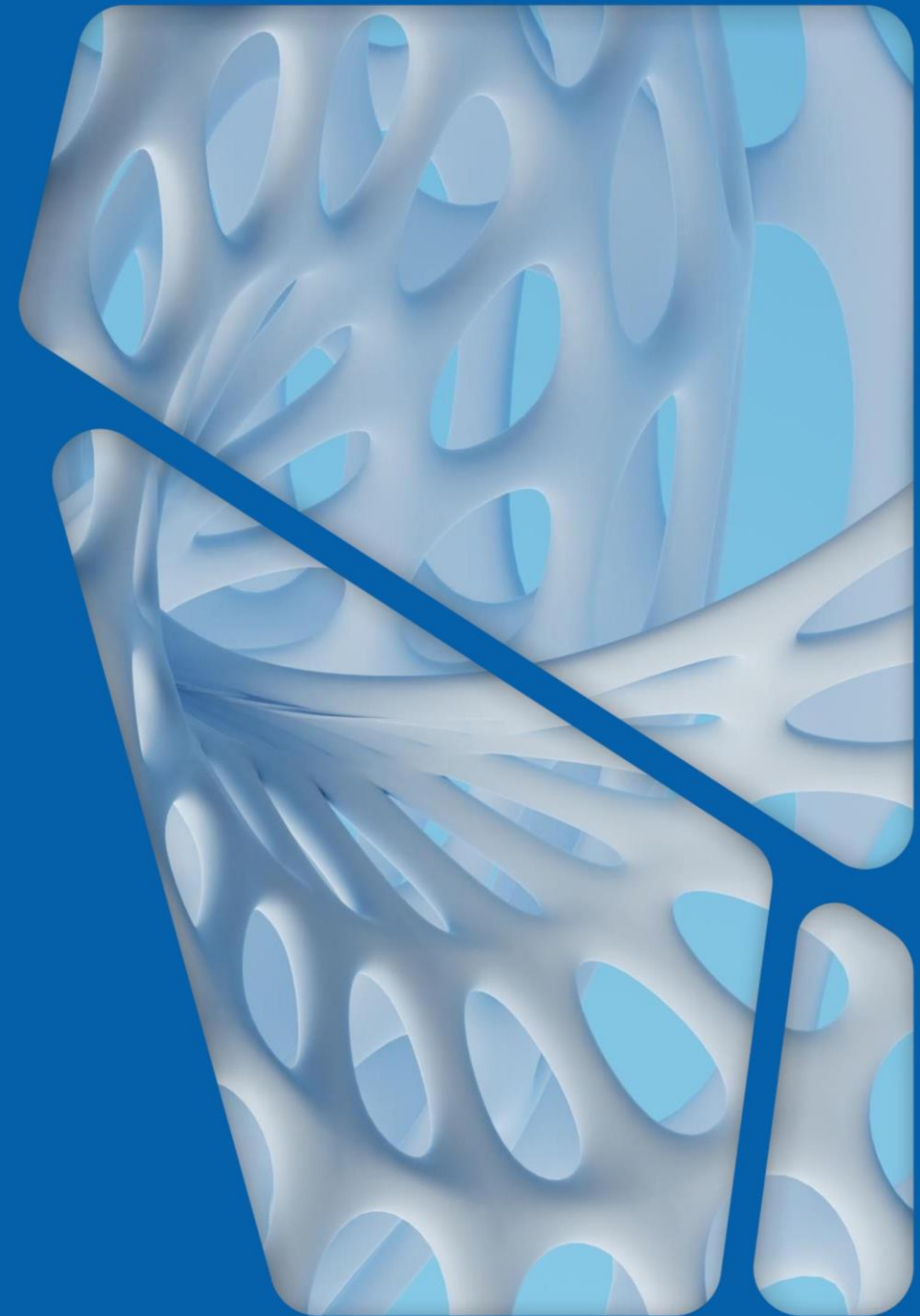




Mitacs & NSERC Joint Application

Anastasiya Boika

Spring 2024



Purpose

Mitacs **empowers** Canadian innovation through partnerships that deliver solutions to our most pressing problems. We drive economic growth, productivity, and meaningful change to improve quality of life for all Canadians.

Mission

Mitacs is a **catalyzing force** in the Canadian innovation ecosystem. We will build a world-class, diverse community of innovators through our collaborative model, attracting and deploying top talent to industry, and matching need with expertise to create ambitious solutions to real-world challenges.

Vision

Canadian innovation will create change that **transforms** the world.



25

Years in operation



50,000+

Innovation Projects



100+

Business Development



11,000+

Partner Organizations



117+

Post-secondary Institutions



\$858M

Invested in the last 10 years



Host Partner Organization
(Lead Partner Contact)

- For Profit Companies
- Not-for-Profits
- Hospitals
- Municipalities

Student(s)
(Intern(s))

- College Students
- Graduate Students
- Undergraduate Students
- Postdoctoral Fellows
- Recent Graduates
- International Students

Home Academic Institution
(Lead Academic Supervisor)

- Colleges
- Universities

Mitacs Accelerate Program

- Internship Units (IU) = 4-6-month blocks of funding
- Multiple internship units can be stacked to create a project
- Partner Organizations & Mitacs each contribute 50% (10K/15K total per IU)
- Minimum of 10K per IU goes to intern as stipend/salary

Things to Note:

- No limit on number of IUs a faculty member can have on a project
- Limitation on how long a student can be funded based on degree levels
 - Undergrads/Recent Grads – 1 year
 - Master's Students – 2 years
 - PhD Students – 4 years
 - Postdoctoral Fellows – 3 years

Mitacs Accelerate Program Objectives

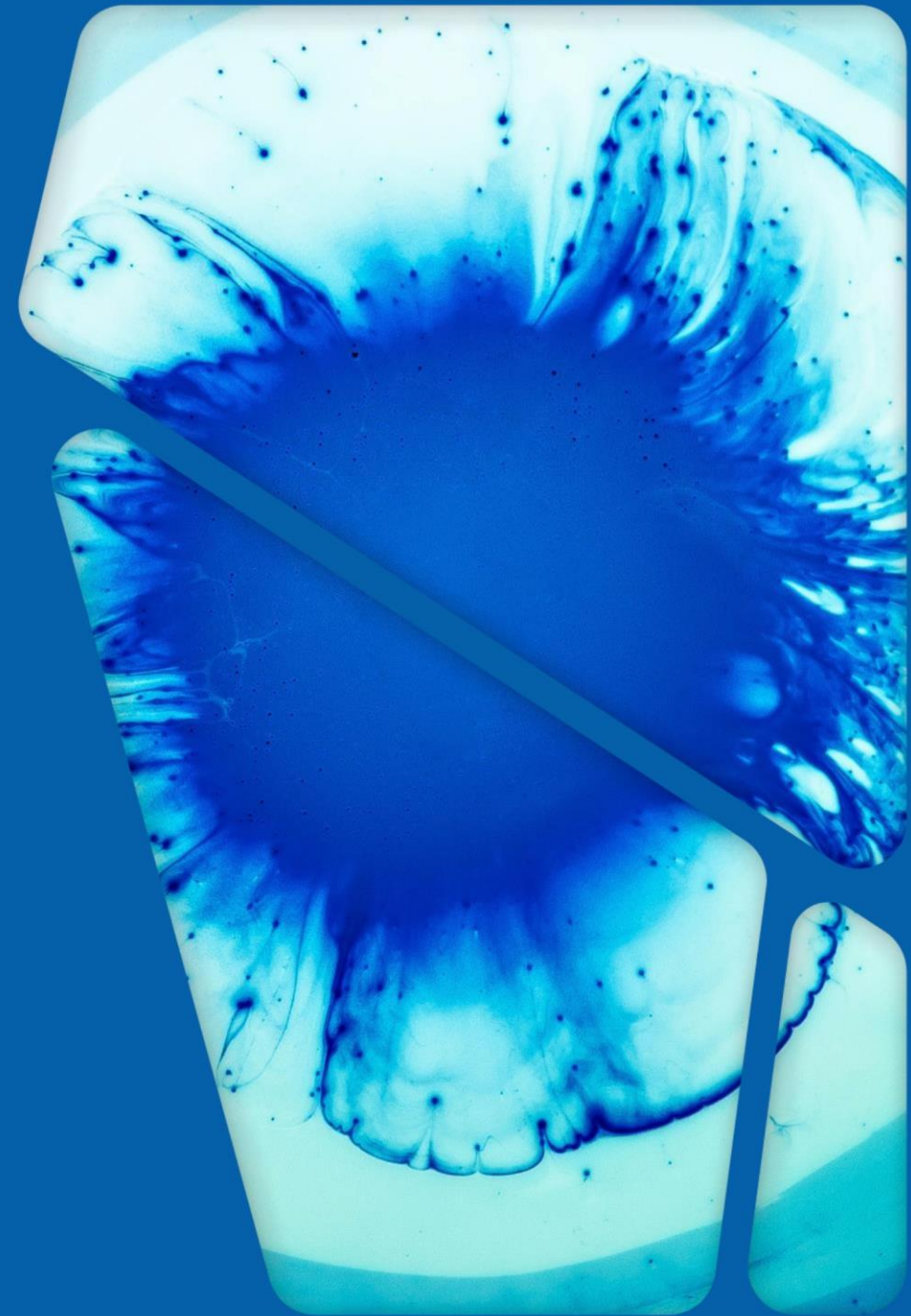


- Promote high-quality research and innovation
- Champion all disciplines and sectors
- Provide access to flexible and scalable programs
- Offer alternative sources of funding
- Support expansion of collaborative opportunities
- Increase trainee/HQP employability



NSERC Alliance Advantage and Mitacs Accelerate

Joint Application Process



NSERC – Mitacs Joint Application Overview

- Available with NSERC Alliance Advantage
- Eligibility criteria for both programs must be met
- Applications developed concurrently and submitted using NSERC portal
- Cash contribution from partner required
- Mitacs cannot be the only mechanism for HQP training in the joint proposal



***NSERC
CRSNG***



NSERC – Mitacs Joint Application Benefits

- Reduces administrative burden
- Application strengthened for NSERC through additional HQP training
- Expanded project scope through combined program offering
- Streamlined submission and cost sharing
- Collaborative funding decision



Joint Application Process Steps

1 Discuss Application with Faculty RF and Mitacs BD

2 Confirm partner eligibility for Mitacs and NSERC

3 Draft NSERC and Mitacs forms with RF/BD support

4 Obtain informal feedback on drafts from RF/BD

Things to Note:

- Please ensure you discuss research security early in the process
- Internal Carleton Forms are required as part of the submission process (ex. CU Research and Security Forms)
- Create draft budget early on to ensure that the split of HQP support across NSERC and Mitacs accurately reflects both funders' requirements

Joint Application Process Steps

5 Use NSERC Portal to start application

6 Submit Finalized Mitacs form for formal review

7 Complete NSERC submission through NSERC portal

8 Wait for NSERC decision – Mitacs to follow

Things to Note:

- BD will provide instructions on how to include Mitacs in NSERC portal
- Mitacs sign-off through the NSERC portal takes approximately 2 weeks and may take longer if there are changes or clarification required
- Mitacs decision provided within 2-4 weeks of NSERC

Distribution of funds – Standalone

Accelerate
(1:1 standalone)



Alliance-Advantage
(2:1 standalone)



NSERC-Mitacs Joint Application – Industry Funds

- Industry cash counts towards the project's global budget
- No additional industry cash required to add on Mitacs funding
- NSERC will not match Mitacs contribution to the project
- Mitacs cannot match in kind, just cash contribution
- Partner organizations are required to pay tax on top of Mitacs contribution

Budget Example		
Industry Funds	NSERC Funds	Mitacs Funds
\$30,000	\$60,000	\$30,000
	2:1 match of partner funds	1:1 match of partner funds
Total Project Budget		\$120,000

Distribution of funds – Joint NSERC and Mitacs

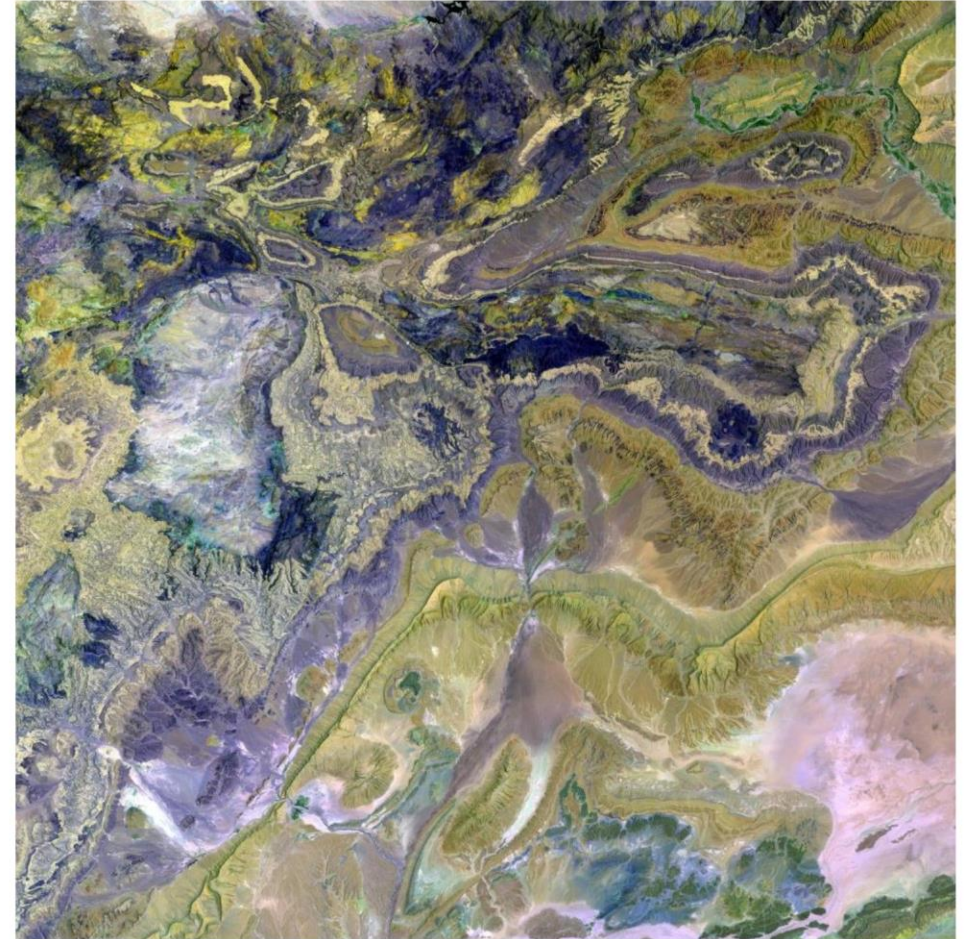
Example Budget: Applicant Request \$60K/year from NSERC and 4 units through Accelerate



Total Funding reflects 4 IUs (valued at \$15K each, half from Mitacs half from the partner) for a total of \$30K contributed by Mitacs and an additional \$60K (2:1 match of partner cash) provided by NSERC towards HQP training and eligible project costs

NSERC-Mitacs Joint Application – Review Overview

- Application goes through a joint merit review process
 - Each funder has own evaluation criteria
 - Mitacs pre-review requires a few weeks
 - NSERC peer review depends on project size (11-26 weeks)
- Awarded projects administered separately by Mitacs and NSERC
- Mitacs decision communicated 2-4 weeks following NSERC



NSERC-Mitacs Joint Application – Common pitfalls

- Inconsistencies between proposals:
 - Budget misalignment
 - Timing of internships
 - Project titles, degree level of students etc
 - Research security and declarations
 - Unclear linkages between objectives
- Incorrect invitation of Mitacs via NSERC portal
- Missing Mitacs Appendix B for companies with international parent or subsidiary



NSERC-Mitacs Joint Application – Tips

- Finalize budget with RF and BD prior to drafting application to ensure alignment
- Work with your RF and BD on application review
- Ensure that the NSERC application outlines the entire project, including what Mitacs funded interns will be completing
- If multiple interns, clearly indicate in the Mitacs application which intern is responsible for which task/objective
- Once Mitacs form is finalized, ensure alignment is maintained with NSERC forms



Thanks to our funding partners

Canada 

Alberta 

 BRITISH COLUMBIA

 Research Manitoba

New Brunswick  Nouveau

Newfoundland Labrador 

NOVA SCOTIA 

Ontario 

innovationpei 

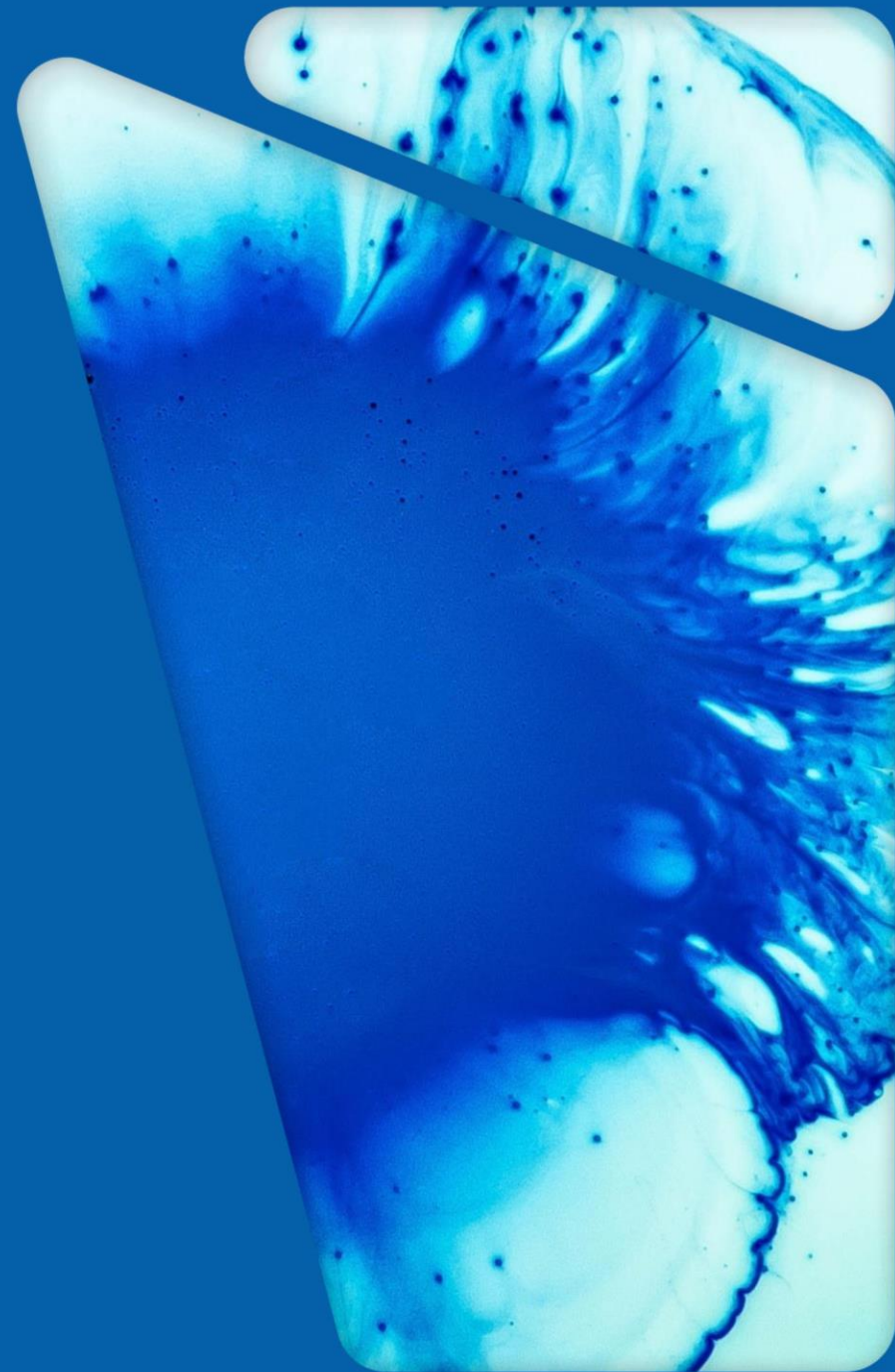
Québec 

Saskatchewan 

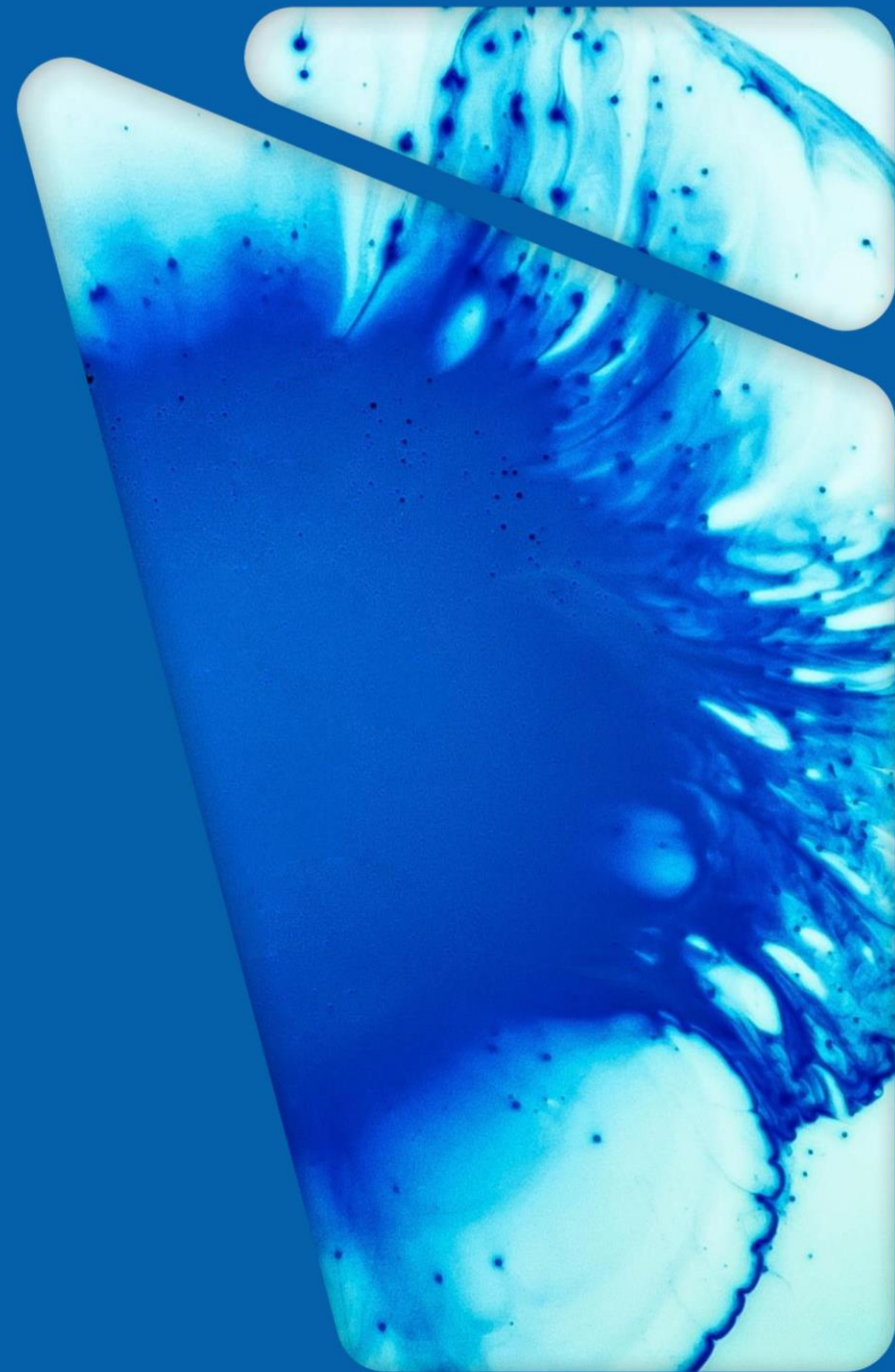
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 mitacs

Thank you



Appendix – Submission Process



Submission Process Overview

- Go to the NSERC On-Line Services page to create an application
 - [NSERC - On-line Services \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](http://nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
- Program Name: Select **Research Partnership Programs** then **Alliance Grants**
- Under 'Type of Call' select **Mitacs Accelerate** from the dropdown menu
- Indicate Mitacs contribution on Form 101 as Joint Call Funding partner

ebiz.nserc.ca

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada / Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

NSERC
www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Contact Us Help
Portfolio Instructions Logout

Form

Application Profile
Area(s) of Research
Certification/Requirement
Cover Letter
Co-Applicants
Collaborators
Collaborator Biographical Sketches
Summary of Proposal
Proposal

Form 101 - Contributions from Partner Organizations

Note: This page looks different from the other parts of NSERC Online. This is temporary as we work towards more uniform styling throughout the system.

Before completing this section:

- see [Funding your research project](#)
- consult the [Use of Grant Funds](#) section of the NSERC Program Guide for Professors concerning the eligibility of expenditures for the direct costs of research and the regulations governing the use of grant funds.

Organization Categories Select the category that applies to the organization. To determine the appropriate category for partner organizations (recognized or non-recognized for cost-sharing), refer to [Alliance Grants: Role of partner organizations](#).

Partner organization recognized for cost-sharing
 Partner organization not recognized for cost-sharing
 Joint call funding partner
 Other funder (not involved in the research)
 Postsecondary institution

Next

Submission Process Overview

- Include Contact information for Mitacs:
 - Contact from Mitacs: BD
 - Email address: Grant-management@mitacs.ca
 - Organization name: Mitacs
 - Department or Branch: Head Office
- Outline amount expected from Mitacs per year in Form 101
- Indicate partner contribution on form 101 (partner recognized for cost-sharing)

The screenshot shows a web browser window at ebiz.nserc.ca. The page displays a form for submitting a proposal. On the left, there is a vertical navigation menu with buttons for: Co-Applicants, Collaborators, Collaborator Biographical Sketches, Summary of Proposal, Proposal, Proposed Expenditures, Budget Justification, Contributions, Justification for In-kind Contributions, Other Documents, Environmental Impact, Reviewers, and Reviewer Exclusion.

The main content area shows the following information:

- call requirements.
- Before the authorized contact for the partner organization can be invited, you must complete the financial information in the table below, save the page, and then click the Lock/Invite button.
- Record 1 of 1 Status: New
- Organization Category :** Joint call funding partner
- Provide the full name and email address of the authorized contact person for the organization.
- Family Name :** BD LastName
- Given Name :** BD FirstName
- Email Address :** grant-management@r

Two red arrows point to the email address field and the 'Organization name' dropdown menu.

Organization and department or branch
Select the organization name and department or branch from the list.

Organization name : Mitacs
Department or Branch : Head Office

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Cash contributions to direct costs of research	0	0	0	0	0
In-kind Contributions					
1) Salaries for scientific and technical staff	0	0	0	0	0
2) Donation of equipment, software	0	0	0	0	0
3) Donation of material	0	0	0	0	0
4) Field work logistics	0	0	0	0	0

Submission Process Overview

- Once Mitacs form is finalized, upload to 'Other Documents' section of the NSERC Portal
- Click 'Lock/Invite' to start the formal Mitacs pre-review process
- Send same application to Mitacs BD for internal submission to initiate review
- After Mitacs pre-review, application can proceed with submission to NSERC



New Research Security Updates for NSERC funded projects

Carleton University



NSERC updates shared with Carleton as of April 24th, 2024

- “In accordance with the Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) Policy, grant applications submitted by a university or affiliated research institution to the federal granting agencies and the Canada Foundation for Innovation involving research that aims to advance a Sensitive Technology Research Area will not be funded if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are **currently affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a Named Research Organization**.

The federal granting agencies are implementing the STRAC Policy in a harmonized manner, to funding opportunities **that launch as of May 1, 2024.**” The requirements will not apply retroactively to previously awarded grants.

- For clarity, the STRAC policy applies to NSERC-Mitacs Joint funding applications submitted to NSERC after May 1st, 2024.

NSERC updates continued

Please consult the STRAC policy guidelines to determine whether the policy applies to your research. Eleven STRAC categories have been identified:

1. Advanced Digital Infrastructure Technology
2. Advanced Energy Technology
3. Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
4. Advanced Sensing and Surveillance
5. Advanced Weapons
6. Aerospace, Space and Satellite Technology
7. Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Technology
8. Human-Machine Integration
9. Life Science Technology
10. Quantum Science and Technology
11. Robotics and Autonomous Systems

New Guidelines apply if project will **advance a technology** in the above areas

What does this mean for rolling intake funding opportunities, such as Alliance?

- Researcher's holding named roles on funding applications are asked to complete the new Attestation for Research Aiming to Advance Sensitive Technology Research Areas Form to identify any current affiliations with a Named Research Organization
- Please contact your research facilitator for support completing the new attestation form.
- **Funding pause:** There is a temporarily pause in place for NSERC Alliance, starting on April 26 at 12:00pm EDT, to update the online system to support the new requirements. Applicants will be able to submit their Alliance applications starting **May 3, 2024**.

No changes to NSERC Risk Assessment Form

- As per the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP), which have been in place since 2021, applicants are asked to submit a completed Risk Assessment Form alongside their NSERC proposal for projects involving a partnership with an Industry Partner.
- This requirement applies to the NSERC-Mitacs Joint funding program
- For Joint NSERC-Mitacs proposals, please contact your research facilitator for support in completing the Risk Assessment Form early-on in the process.
- Tip- Please answer the research security questions consistently in both the Mitacs and NSERC application forms so that the joint proposal will be processed smoothly by both funding agencies.

Update to the CuResearch Checklist

- There are two new questions included in the Research Funding checklist in CuResearch
 1. Does the proposal involve work advancing a Sensitive Technology Research Area, as outlined by the Government of Canada's Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concerns? (yes or no)
 2. Are any of the team members involved in the proposal affiliated with, or receiving funding or in-kind support from a university, research institution or laboratory on the Named Research Organizations List?

New questions are intended to flag projects where additional support may be required

Carleton Contacts

- **Mitacs Business Development Advisor (for Carleton):** Anastasiya Boika
- **NSERC Proposal Resource Contact (Research Facilitators):** Faculty Research Facilitators
- **NSERC Resource Contact (IPS):** Jenna Pepper
- **Mitacs Resource Contact (IPS):** Alisha Seguin
- **Director of Research Security and Risk:** Jessica Adam