

FAQ for 2024 EDITION (NOVA 4th Competition) – EN page

## NOVA – FRQNT-NSERC PROGRAM for junior researchers – 4<sup>th</sup> competition

Q1: For the team composition, what is the minimum number of researchers?

A1: The team must be composed of a minimum of three people: the principal investigator (PI) from a Quebec university, at least one co-investigator (Co-I) from Quebec and at least one Co-I from other provinces and territories in Canada (Outside Quebec).

Q2: Is there a maximum number of COC per team?

A2: No. However, the size of the team must be consistent with the scope of the project. The multiplicity of expertise brought together must be justified and meet the needs of the project. Regardless of the size of the team, the proposal should clearly describe the collaboration and interactions among team members, as well as individual roles and contributions.

Q3: Can the Quebec Co-I be from the same university as the PI?

A3: Yes, there are no particular constraints on the origins of the Quebec Co-I. However, the project description must demonstrate that the best expertise in Quebec and in Canada is brought together to achieve the project's objectives. In addition, if the team includes more than one Co-I from Quebec, a diversity of affiliations would be recommended.

Q4: Regarding the PI eligibility criteria, what are the deadlines for holding a first career position? Are positions outside Quebec counted?

A4: Please refer to Section 2 of the program rules. The PI's first career position must have been obtained between September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 and September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, inclusively. The first career position must have involved supervising students and conducting research. Career positions obtained outside Quebec are counted toward the eligibility period. Anyone who obtained their first career position on or after September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, inclusively, should refer to the continuum of funding and career advancement to identify the appropriate program for them. A PI who has interrupted or delayed their research career path may request an « Exceptional Extension of the Eligibility Period » (PEPA) (see Section 3.2 of the program rules).

Q5: Would a researcher from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, or from a non-eligible organization under NSERC, be eligible as a Co-I from other provinces and territories?

A5: No. However, if an individual is affiliated with an NSERC-eligible university in another province or territory, they could be eligible as a Co-I from other provinces and territories. If such is the case, it is important to verify that they meet the NSERC Eligibility Criteria for Applicants and Co-Applicants.

Q6: What is the purpose of the "EDI page" submitted to NSERC? What should it contain?

A6: The "EDI page" submitted directly to NSERC at the registration step (simplified Letter of Intent) must address the consideration of EDI criteria in the training plan. Applicants must use the *template\_CRSNG\_EDI\_NOVA* document located in the Toolbox. The EDI page is used to establish the eligibility of the application, and is an NSERC elimination step.

Q7: What is the purpose of the EDI section in the project description submitted via the FRQnet form? What should it contain?

A7: A document of a maximum of one page must be submitted to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion section of the FRQnet form. This document allows you to meet evaluation criterion #5: **Consideration of equity, diversity, and inclusion principles (5 points).**

This document is evaluated by the members of the Multidisciplinary Evaluation Committee during the evaluation process of eligible applications. This section may be based on the content of the "EDI page" submitted for eligibility to NSERC.

IMPORTANT: The "EDI page" for NSERC and the EDI section in the FRQnet form are independent of each other and are handled at different stages of the application process.

Q8: Why do applicants have to separate the project budget justification between FRQNT and NSERC?

A8: The grant is provided in the form of two separate awards, one from FRQNT (max \$30,000) and one from NSERC (max \$45,000). Applicants must therefore submit a budget to FRQNT and a separate budget to NSERC, respecting the eligible expenses for each organization in each budget. However, both budgets and their respective justifications must be consolidated into a single PDF document. This document must also include the justification for the equipment request to FRQNT, if applicable.

Q9: How can the funds be spent? Is there a minimum or maximum portion of the funding that must be spent in Quebec? Does the NSERC portion only go to co-applicants outside of Quebec?

A9: The PI will hold both awards. **The FRQNT funds (max \$30,000) must be spent in Quebec**, including equipment purchases. NSERC funds (max \$45,000) can be spent in Quebec or elsewhere in Canada.

Q10: What importance will be given to intersectorality in the evaluation?

A10: Intersectorality is encouraged but will not be evaluated as such. If university and college Co-Is from fields other than NSE join the team, the portion of the budget allocated to their "non-NSE" research activities must not exceed 30% of the NSERC portion of the NOVA grant, and the proposal must justify the inclusion of these expertise within the team.

Q11: Does a score of 80% or higher automatically mean a grant?

A11: No. The NOVA program is competitive. Applications that receive a score of 80% or higher are ranked based on merit. Awards are then made according to the program's funding envelope.

Q12: What CCVs / detailed contributions should be submitted via the FRQnet portal or NSERC e-Services? And by whom?

A12: a) On the FRQnet portal: CCVs and detailed contributions in the FRQNT format from applicants as PI or Co-I from Quebec must be submitted via their portfolio. For Co-Is from outside Quebec, the PI must attach the Form 100A, the CCV and detailed contributions in PDF format in the "Other Documents" section of the FRQnet form.

b) On the NSERC e-Services: Each team member must submit Form 100A at the registration stage (simplified Letter of Intent). Therefore, applicants as PI or Co-I from Quebec must submit the CCV-FRQNT on the FRQnet portal AND the F100A on the NSERC e-Services. Applicants as Co-I from outside Quebec must submit the F100A on NSERC e-Services AND provide the F100A in PDF format to the PI.