

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHANGES TO THE COMMON GENERAL RULES

The following changes were made during the latest update of the Common General Rules (CGR) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ).

- **Terminology changes:**

- The term “letter of intent” has been replaced by “pre-application”.
- The term “financial year” has been replaced by “funding year” (Section 6.3).

- **New definitions:**

- **Excellence award:** Funding awarded following merit-based assessment by a peer committee. There are two types of excellence awards, namely training awards—including internship awards—and career awards.
- **Prize:** Recognition given for an outstanding research achievement or research career.
- **Deferral:** A deferral is an extension of the period during which the funding may be used. A deferral does not in itself imply any additional funding.
- **Supplement:** A supplement implies additional funding with or without an extension of the funding period.

Adjustment of the terminology in various sections of the document to reflect these definitions.

- **Recognized managing institution:** The definition has been revised to mention the four categories and add a permalink to these categories.
- **Research status and roles:** Addition, before the category definitions, of the note “The statuses and roles eligible for each program are specified in the program rules”, in order to clarify that the CGR are meant to define the different categories possible, but do not indicate which combinations are allowed for a given program. It is necessary to read the program rules to know who is eligible to apply.
- **Research status:**
 - **College researcher (Status 3):** The status has been extended to include master’s degree holders. Note that individual program rules may continue to set more specific criteria.

Section 1.7 – Liability of the Fonds: Adjustment of the text to include a reference to the law (Civil Code of Québec), which includes exceptions to the limitation of liability in the event of an intentional or gross fault or bodily or moral injury caused to another. Clarification of the limitation of liability of the FRQ.

- **Section 2.1 – Citizenship and Domicile:** Addition of the note that, in the event of funding, the conditions and privileges attached to the award in relation to citizenship status at the time of application will continue to apply for the duration of funding, even if citizenship status changes during the funding period.

- **Section 3.2 – Instructions for Completing and Submitting an Application:**
 - The application must be submitted before the deadline date and time;
 - The persons responsible for approving the funding application within the institution may then approve the application in the FRQnet Institutions Portal up to 24 hours after the competition deadline. Any application that does not comply with these requirements will be deemed ineligible.
- **Section 5.8 – Open Access to Research Output:** Adjustments to reflect the new provisions of the FRQ Open access policy for the dissemination of research.
- **Section 5.9 – Acknowledgement of Funding Received:** Specification of the types of dissemination that must acknowledge the funding received.
- **Section 6.2 – Funding Manager:** Modification of the date of submission of financial reports. These must now be sent to the Fonds within six months after the end of the fiscal year, i.e., by September 30.
- **Section 6.5 – Changes during Funding Period.** Specifications to the effect that:
 - The composition of a group (research infrastructure or project) may be updated at any time, but the composition profile considered as the reference by the Fonds is that of March 31.
 - An individual award, such as an excellence award or a grant that is not attributed to a team, is not transferable to anyone other than the person who applied for funding and received the funding offer.
- **Section 6.10 – Residual Balance, Unexpended Funds and Overpayments:** The submission date was changed from June to September 30.
- **Section 6.13 – Parental Leave:** The supplement is now for 8 months for excellence award holders from the three Fonds.
- **Sections 6.13, 6.14, 6.15 and 6.16 – Parental Leave, Medical Leave and Other Types of Leave, Leave without Pay and Research Sabbatical Leave:** Terminological adjustments to the titles and the vocabulary used in these sections in order to refer to “deferral during leave” instead of “leave”, since the FRQ do not actually grant “leave” in the true sense of the word. The FRQ recognize that funding holders may experience different types of leave situations and assist them in the ways described in the CGR and the program rules.
- **Section 8:** Specification that this section no longer applies to training award holders due to the deletion of Section 8.3, which is now null and void.
- **Section 8.2 – Indirect Costs of Research:** Adjustment indicating that college institutions can now receive indirect costs of research (FIR) funding, as is already the case for university institutions. This adjustment is in line with the new [ministerial normative framework for the Program de soutien aux organismes de recherche et d’innovation \(PSO\)](#).
- **Section 8.9 – Dissemination and Knowledge Transfer Costs:** Clarification of the criteria to be met in order for costs related to open access publishing to be considered

eligible, in the case of a program subject to the new requirements of the 2022 Open Access Policy for the Dissemination of Research.

- **Section 8.4 – Eligible Expenses:** Training and upgrading costs for personnel required to use specialized equipment or facilities necessary for carrying out the research activities are now an eligible expense.
- Addition of FRQ guidance document names and links in the following sections:
 - **Section 1.4:** Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and website;
 - **Section 5.5:** FRQ Action Plan for Environmental Responsibility in Research;
 - **Section 7.3:** Knowledge Mobilization Strategy.
- Clarification in several sections to reflect the FRQnet system procedures, and the removal of obsolete texts.