

QUÉBEC-FLANDERS BILATERAL RESEARCH COOPERATION PROGRAM

Guidelines for Applicants

The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
 The Fonds de recherche de Québec - Nature et Technologies (FRQNT)
 The Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS)
 The Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et Culture (FRQSC)

*** FRQNT, FRQS and FRQSC can be referred jointly as FRQ. This document describes the procedures for the present Call of the Québec-Flanders Bilateral Research Cooperation Program.

SUMMARY	CONTACTS
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DEADLINE (FOR APPLICATION): May 31, 2023 5:00 PM – Brussels Time For info: 11:00 AM – Montreal Time	
AMOUNT: Up to \$100,000/year for Québec teams Up to 85,000€/year per project for Flanders	
PROJECT DURATION: 3 years	
RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT: December 2023	

1. BACKGROUND

This fourth joint Call for proposals (hereafter referred as the “Call”) is part of a rich and continuous collaboration between the Fonds de recherche du Québec (hereafter referred as the “FRQ”) and the Research Foundation - Flanders, Belgium (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen), (hereafter referred as the “FWO”). It has been implemented through the Bilateral Québec-Flanders Research Cooperation Program (hereafter referred as the “Program”), since 2013.

The FWO supports fundamental research, strategic basic research, as well as infrastructure in the Flemish community, stimulates international cooperation and promotes equal opportunities.

The FRQ supports and promotes excellence of research in Quebec, as well as the training of the next generation of researchers in order to stimulate the development of knowledge and innovation.

2. OBJECTIVES

The first objective of this program is to contribute to (1) the excellence of research in Flanders and Québec and (2) to the development of scientific cooperation by financially supporting collaborative research projects between both research communities. It also aims to foster **interdisciplinary research** (or cross-domain research) as defined by the FRQ. For further information on interdisciplinarity as it relates to this Program, please refer to the ‘Eligible Proposals’ and ‘Evaluation’ sections below. **This Call is open to all scientific domains and only funds fundamental research.**

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Eligible Proposals

To be eligible, the proposal must comply with the following points:

- Research projects should be carried out both in Québec and in Flanders, for a duration of 3 (three) years.
- Project proposals have to be submitted by **May 31, 2023** (5:00 PM Brussels time).
- The proposal must involve a minimum of two research teams, one in Québec and one in Flanders. The Québec research team must include at least two researchers fulfilling conditions under Status 1 and/or 2, as defined in the FRQ’s [Common General Rules](#):
 - In cases where only one institution from Québec is involved, a supervisor-spokesperson (who will act as principal investigator (PI)) and will be in charge of the funding), as well as at least one co-supervisor (also called co-investigator), must be listed.
 - In cases where multiple institutions from Québec are involved, researchers will have to agree which research institution will act as the main Québec research institution. For the main host institution, a supervisor-spokesperson (who will act as the PI and

will be in charge of the funding), as well as at least one co-supervisor (also called co-investigator), must be listed. For each additional research institution at least one supervisor must be listed.

- Flemish applicants are subject to the [regulations on FWO research projects](#). Québec applicants are subject to the FRQ's [Common General Rules](#) and FRQ policies such as the [FRQ Open Access Policy for the Dissemination of Research](#), [the Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) and [FRQ Knowledge Mobilization Strategy](#) (these policies are available in French only).
- Please note that a researcher may participate in only one project submitted under this Call.

Important note: In order to promote interdisciplinarity, the proposal must prove a **coherent project in which research and team members (from Québec and Flanders) must cover research domains falling under at least two of the three branches of the FRQ:**

- Health ([Domains covered by FRQS](#))
- Society and Culture ([Domains covered by FRQSC](#))
- Nature & technologies ([Domains covered by FRQNT](#))

For more information about the definition of interdisciplinarity, please refer to the 'Evaluation' section.

3.2. Eligible applicants

In Québec:

This Call is specifically open to researchers (a supervisor and at least one co-supervisor) who are affiliated with a Quebec university establishment and who meet Status 1 (university researcher) and/or Status 2 (clinical university researcher), as defined in the FRQ's [Common General Rules](#).

The following cases also qualify as having the status of "university researcher":

- Individuals at the beginning of their career who meet Status 1a and hold a position that will enable them to meet Status 1b pending the end of administrative processes and delays; and
- Individuals who are retired from a recognized institution who no longer meet Status 1a and who continue to pursue research or supervision activities in the institution from which they have obtained a formal commitment.

In Flanders:

Eligible host institutions: Your research will be carried out under the supervision of an applicable Flemish principal (main) host institution defined in article 7§2 of the [regulations research projects fundamental research](#). Where appropriate, the principal (main) host institutions from article 7§2 can carry out their research in collaboration with a Flemish or Federal scientific institution, but not in collaboration with a non-Flemish research institution other than those in Québec, eligible for funding at FRQ.

Eligible (co-)supervisor(s): Your research project will be carried out under the direction of a supervisor per host institution, possibly in collaboration with one or more co-supervisors in line with Article 10 (except §4 till §6 - there is no division into junior and senior projects in this call) and Article 11 (except §3) of the [regulations research projects fundamental research](#).

Applications submitted in the frame of this FWO-FRQ project call are not taken into account for the maximum of two projects per application round for which you may act as (co-)supervisor, nor are they taken into account for the maximum of two projects applied for and ongoing on the start date of the newly allocated project.

3.3. Eligible expenses

In Québec:

The Québec part of the project budget can only be used as described in the FRQ's [Common General Rules](#). Please note that the Québec side of each application may receive up to \$100,000 CAD per year for three years. Indirect costs of research (ICR) will also be paid to managing institutions. The ICR will equal 27% of the grant awarded and will be in addition to the grant amount.

In Flanders:

The Flemish part of the project budget can only be used for one or more of the following cost categories:

- Scientific staff and consumables;
- Equipment;
- Travel and accommodation costs of Flemish researchers going to Quebec;
- To cover production costs of joint publications.

On the Flemish side the following budget regulations apply in the frame of this bilateral collaboration with Québec:

- The total project budget for staff and consumables may not exceed 85,000 EUR/year;
- The budget for staff and consumables of the Flemish main host institution must be minimally 45,000 EUR/year;
- Per project a maximum amount of 150,000 EUR for equipment can be applied for. This can take the form of matching funding;
- No overhead costs must be charged on the Flemish budgets.

During their travel and stay abroad, all Flemish researchers involved in FWO-FRQ projects and independent of nationality, can rely on a travel and assistance insurance ('reis-en bijstandsverzekering') and repatriation covered by FWO. This insurance is not a health insurance. Regardless of the aforementioned insurance, all researchers should have a valid health insurance entitling the holder to free emergency medical treatment in the host country. The responsibility for the provision of adequate insurance against accidents that may occur during the stay in the host country ('arbeidsongevallenverzekering') rests with the research institution to which the researcher stays affiliated during the joint exchange project.

4. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

4.1. The form

The proposal is to be designed jointly by Québec and Flemish research team(s). One joint application form has to be completed and submitted by the Flemish PI through the FWO online platform '[E-loket](#)'. The Flemish PI has to consult his/her Québec partner to jointly complete the application to make sure that both FWO and FRQ provisional funding related activities are included.

No application received after the deadline (May 31, 2023 at 5:00 PM Brussels Time) will be accepted. Only forms filled out and submitted electronically are accepted.

Note: No submission is necessary in Québec. The information in the application form can be shared with the other teams by extracting a PDF file from the application. This means that all information regarding the Québec research team and the budget requested (in CAD) by this team needs to be included in the online application form submitted at FWO.

4.2. Required documents

- Online project application form: General Info¹, Host Institutions – requested Funding, Project, Peer Review, Ethics, Data Management Plan, and Consent.
- All (co-)supervisors, both from Flanders and Québec, must have an online FWO [E-loket](#) profile including an updated list of publications before the submission deadline. Please note that the registration of your [E-loket](#) profile (login/password) takes 24 hours. It is therefore strongly advised to start well in advance.
- Each Flemish team member must upload a short CV according to the template provided in the online application form.
- Each Québec team member, including the PI, must also upload the following to the online application form:
 - A complete [Canadian Common CV](#), including detailed contributions in the format of one of the three branches of the FRQ, and
 - A signed declaration by the applicant (this form may be found on the program specific page of the FRQ website under “Toolbox”).

5. EVALUATION

5.1. Evaluation procedure

The process will be divided in three steps:

- a. *Administrative eligibility check*, by both agencies, based on the regulations of each agency.
- b. *International Independent Peer Review*: All applications will be peer-reviewed by international experts based on the evaluation of three criteria: Researchers, Project, Collaboration (see Annex 1). Applicants are allowed to list up to three referees to be excluded from the international peer review process. The International Independent Peer Review will serve as input/recommendations for the panel review.
- c. Evaluation by cross-domain *Joint Selection Committee*, composed of Flemish and Québec researchers who will evaluate all eligible applications based on four criteria: Researchers, Project, Collaboration, Interdisciplinarity (see Annex 1). This Committee, will compare the applications and establish a ranking separating them in three categories:
 - i. Proposal with the highest score, to be funded with the highest priority to the extent that the budget allows it
 - ii. Proposals with a score above the scientific excellence cut-off point, to be funded if the budget allows it (*reserve list*)

¹Including French title and abstract. These may be used by the FRQ and the FWO for promotional and dissemination purposes.

- iii. Proposals with a score below the scientific excellence cut-off point, not to be funded

The *Joint Selection Committee* is sovereign, its decisions remain final and will be ratified by FWO and FRQ boards.

5.2. Evaluation criteria Joint Selection Committee

1. RESEARCHERS (25%)
 - a. Competence of the individual researchers
2. PROJECT (40%)
 - a. Scientific added value, rationale and originality
 - b. Quality of the research approach (methodology), feasibility and focus
 - c. Work plan
3. COLLABORATION (15%)
 - a. Added value of the proposed collaboration
 - b. Balance in terms of work contribution amongst the diverse research groups
4. DEGREE OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY (20%): Domains falling under at least two of the three branches of the FRQ ([FRQS – Health](#) // [FRQSC – Society and Culture](#) // [FRQNT – Nature and Technologies](#)) must be represented in an integrated way through (1) the composition of the bilateral research team, (2) the joint design and development of the project, of issues mobilizing questions or objects of research of the different domains and (3) the innovative methodology adapted to each issue and integrating approaches.
Projects receiving a score of 0 on ‘Degree of Interdisciplinarity’ will be excluded from funding.

5.3. Integrity of the evaluation process

The FRQ and FWO Board of Director members are not involved in the scientific evaluation of funding applications, and at no time may applicants and their institutional authorities make contact with the evaluation committee chairperson or members. The agencies have the right to withdraw an application from competition if there is any attempt to lobby the committee or sway the evaluation process.

Every person recruited to sit on an evaluation committee must comply with standard rules of confidentiality regarding the application packages, committee makeup, deliberations and recommendations. The evaluation committee chairperson, members and outside experts are required to disclose any conflicts of interest and must sign a written statement in this regard. For Québec reviewers, refer to the FRQ’s [Common General Rules](#).

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES

The applicants shall address the intellectual property rights resulting from research conducted under the Bilateral Research Cooperation Program, on a case-by-case basis, by taking into account the intellectual contribution of each participant to the research. For Québec applicants, the management of their intellectual property rights shall be conducted in accordance with FRQ’s [Common General Rules](#) and in accordance with the affiliated

institutions' internal policy on intellectual property. For Flemish applicants, the management of their intellectual property rights shall be conducted in accordance with [Article 2 of the General Regulations](#).

Based on the FWO regulations, Flemish researchers involved in funded FWO-FRQ projects will be obliged to enter into a partnership agreement with their Québec partners to ensure, amongst other items, the effective protection and correct distribution of the intellectual properties resulting from the projects funded under this Call. Please note that no specific format for this agreement will be provided by FWO. The involved host institutions are free to elaborate such a document as long as it contains the necessary basic information.

7. COMMITMENTS

7.1. Financial commitment

Both the FRQ and FWO commit to contribute the equivalent of \$400 000 CAD (FRQ) and 340 000 € (FWO) per year for this Call. The FRQ and FWO strive to fund around four projects in this current call. FWO will only fund the Flemish part of the project. FRQ will only fund the Québec part of the project.

The FRQ receives annual credits from the Québec government to fund its grant programs. It then undertakes annual commitments, conditional on the availability of funds.

7.2. Applicants' commitment

In accepting the grant, applicants agree to comply with all the terms and conditions stipulated in the Call and the general regulations of the funding agencies that support them. It is the responsibility of the candidate to be aware of these terms and conditions.

Besides the clauses specific to their funding organization, in accepting the grant, the team will:

- Submit a mid-term and final research report to FRQ and FWO. FRQ and FWO will contact their respective awardees to inform them on the form it has to take.
- Mention the funding organization supporting the project (FRQ and FWO) in any report, article or other communications related to the project.

8. TIMELINE

March 9, 2023	Launch of the Call
May 31, 2023 (5:00 PM Brussels time)	Deadline for proposals
June 2023	Eligibility check
June – September 2023	International Independent Peer Review
November 2023	Joint Selection Committee
December 2023	Results Announcement
January 1, 2024	Start of the projects

Annex 1: Québec-Flanders Bilateral Research Cooperation Program – Evaluation Criteria and Score Grid:

- Criteria to be evaluated by International Independent Peer Review: Researchers, Project, Collaboration;
- Criteria to be evaluated by Joint Selection Committee: Researchers, Project, Collaboration, Interdisciplinarity.

Annex 1:

Québec-Flanders Bilateral Research Cooperation Program - Evaluation Criteria and Score Grid

1. Competence of the individual researchers							
D	C	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
	<50%	>50%	>40%	>30%	>20%	>10%	>5%
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Unacceptable	Not competitive	Fair/Reasonable		Good/Very good		Excellent/Outstanding	
<p>This criterion assesses to what extent the individual researchers, included in the bilateral research project, have the necessary competences (i.e. knowledge and skills) and infrastructure to implement the proposed project. Assess to what extent the individual researchers, <u>taking into account their scientific seniority</u>, have made important scientific contributions to the state-of-the art in their respective domain, as evidenced by a range of scientifically relevant activities and achievements, such as the quality and impact (rather than the quantity) of the publication record, as well as other meaningful scientific output and achievements. The latter may include education activities, supervision of pre- and postdoctoral researchers, institutional responsibilities (governance, administration, ...), membership of scientific organisations, societies, networks, R&D services provided to third parties, sabbaticals, relevant training, scientific awards and other relevant information. Consider a variety of scientific or other (societal, economic, ...) impact beyond publications and obtained research funding. International recognition of the included individual researchers in their scientific domain is necessary to receive outstanding scores for this criterion.</p>							
Some of the included individual researchers lack the inherent competences required to perform the proposed research. Teamwork will not compensate for this weak link. This is reflected in the track record and main research achievements of some of the included individual researchers which is, considering their scientific seniority and a variety of activities/achievements, unacceptable and as such insufficient to adequately contribute to the proposed research.	Some of the included individual researchers do not fully possess the necessary competences, expertise, skills and/or experience to carry out their part of the research in a proper way. Only through close collaboration among all included researchers, will they manage to carry out the actual research. This is reflected in the track record and main research achievements of some of the included individual researchers which, taking into account their scientific seniority and a variety of activities/achievements, is poor and as such possibly insufficient to adequately contribute to the proposed research.	The competence, expertise, skills and/or experience of some of the individual researchers in the consortium leads to concerns on a successful execution of the proposed research. However, as a whole, the research consortium possesses the necessary competences to carry out the proposed research. This is reflected in the track record and main research achievements of the included individual researchers which, taking into account their scientific seniority and a variety of activities/achievements, is sufficient to carry out the proposed research.		All the included individual researchers are competent and independent researchers with (very) good skills and knowledge to execute the proposed research. Taking into account the scientific seniority and a variety of activities/achievements, the track record and main research achievements of all included individual researchers is (very) good. Together they will bring the proposed research to a good end. Some of the included individual researchers are less internationally recognized for the contributions made within their scientific domain, but this is being compensated by the more international contributions of other included individual researchers.		All the included individual researchers are competent and independent researchers with excellent skills and extended knowledge to execute the proposed project. Taking into account the scientific seniority and a variety of activities/achievements, the track record and main research achievements of all key members of the consortium is impressive. The excellent competence and available expertise, skills and/or experience gives confidence in a successful execution of the proposed research. Key partners of the consortium are internationally recognised amongst the best of their scientific domain (or 'rising stars' in their domain, taking into account the scientific seniority).	

2. Scientific quality of the bilateral research project.							
D	C	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
	<50%	>50%	>40%	>30%	>20%	>10%	>5%
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Unacceptable	Not competitive	Fair/Reasonable		Good/Very good		Excellent/Outstanding	
2.a. Scientific added value, rationale and originality. The targeted research goals of a bilateral research proposal must contribute to the current international state-of-the-art. To what extent is the proposal original and will it generate knowledge that goes beyond the state-of-the-art (e.g. novel concepts or novel approaches)? Does the bilateral research project contain a strong rationale and robust/original hypothesis, does it propose innovative methodological approaches and is it sufficiently detailed?							
The targeted research results are not original at all, do not build upon the international state-of-art and will not offer an added value to the state-of-the-art in its domain. AND/OR Have even been studied before (duplicate of previous studies). AND/OR The rationale and hypothesis are lacking.	The targeted research results are not very original and their innovative character is limited. The planned research activities will not result in much added value for the domain, but are rather a catching up with respect to the international state-of-art. AND/OR The rationale and hypothesis are rather weak.	The project is moderately original and/or the targeted research results are primarily incremental in terms of contribution to the current state-of-the-art. The rationale and hypothesis are present, however, not strongly motivated.	The targeted research goals are timely, innovative and original. The research results will contribute clearly to the current international state-of-the-art in the scientific domain. The rationale is strong and hypothesis clear.	The project is timely, unique and extremely original. It distinguishes itself in an outstanding manner from ongoing research efforts at the international level. It is a pioneering project based on ground-breaking and challenging ideas, concepts and research strategies.			
2.b. Quality of the research approach (methodology), feasibility and focus. A bilateral research proposal must be scientifically challenging and nonetheless feasible. To what extent is the outlined scientific approach challenging, feasible and focussed, bearing in mind the project the requested budget and a project duration of maximum three years?							
The research methodology is not appropriate/not suited to reach the scientific goals, is overall vaguely described/lacking or irrevocably outdated compared to the state-of-the-art. AND/OR The project is not feasible and/or not focussed at all, because e.g. it involves too many planned activities (too broad). AND/OR The project is not ambitious at all and does not require the requested budget or could be finished in much less than the foreseen time.	The research approach shows serious weaknesses and/or shortcomings. AND/OR The research approach lacks key elements and should be improved substantially to meet the state-of-art. AND/OR The feasibility and/or focus of the scientific project objectives are doubtful. AND/OR Overall the project is not ambitious enough given the requested budget and/or foreseen timeframe.	The research approach is appropriate, but lacks some elements and/or contains some shortcomings. The methodology is state-of-the-art. AND/OR The project is feasible, but could've been more focussed. It is, however, likely that the scientific goals will be delivered partly. AND/OR Despite some ambitious aspects, the project could have been somewhat more challenging given the requested budget and/or foreseen timeframe.	The proposed methodology is (very) well elaborated, relevant and suitable to reach the targeted scientific objectives. There are no significant gaps and/or shortcomings and methodologically sufficiently innovative. AND The balance between scientific challenges and feasibility of the scientific project objectives is (very) good. The work plan proposes an efficient use of the budget and the foreseen time frame. Risk mitigation strategy is present.	The proposed methodology is the most relevant, efficient and effective to reach the scientific goals and is considered as international state-of-the-art methodology in its domain. The methodology is highly innovative, well elaborated and perfectly clear. AND Excellent focus, optimal balance between high-level scientific challenges and intrinsic feasibility of the scientific project objectives. The work plan fits perfectly the foreseen time frame and requested budget. In addition, the proposal clearly identifies potential risks and proposes carefully designed alternative research strategies and 'fall back' options.			
2.c. Work plan. A bilateral research project must have a clearly defined work plan outlining the different work packages with their goals, research activities, timing and deliverables. A clear description of the roles of each included researcher is crucial to understand how a bilateral research project will be executed and managed. The presence of well-defined coordination tasks and a good communication strategy in the work plan can lead to outstanding scores in this criterion.							
The project proposal does not include any sufficiently elaborated work plan that allows the assessment of this criterion. It is not clear at all by whom, when and how each proposed research activity will be performed.	The work plan and task allocation is not sufficiently developed. Important information is missing and significant structural adjustments are necessary.	The work plan is satisfactory and touches upon the different roles and responsibilities of each research group to the different work packages. However, in particular aspects the work plan and/or task allocation amongst the consortium partners remains vague or confusing and could be significantly improved.	The work plan, including the different work packages, is (very) clear and concretely defined, including the roles and responsibilities of each research group to the different work packages.	The work plan is sound and meticulously defined including the different roles and responsibilities of each research group to the different work packages. The goals and research activities of each work package are described in detail. In addition, the work plan includes well-defined project management tasks and a good communication strategy which contributes optimal to the smooth execution of each work package.			

3. Quality of the proposed collaboration of the bilateral research project.

D	C	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
	<50%	>50%	>40%	>30%	>20%	>10%	>5%
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Unacceptable	Not competitive	Fair/Reasonable		Good/Very Good		Excellent/Outstanding	

3.a. Added value of the proposed collaboration

This criterion assesses whether the collaboration has an added value for the bilateral research proposal. To what extent is the collaboration, containing the right combination of partners and expertises, unique and crucial to execute the proposed research. Is the rationale for bringing together these researchers/research groups clear and strong or is this partnership rather randomly composed and artificial? The complementarity/synergy of the included researchers and equipment must be clearly motivated in the research proposal.

<p>The collaboration is artificial: There is no added value in the proposed bilateral collaboration. The proposed research can be performed alone or with local partners equally well. AND/OR The synergy in expertises and the rationale for collaboration is completely lacking. AND/OR The bilateral research team is not adequately composed and as a result will not reach the targeted research objectives.</p>	<p>The added value of the proposed bilateral collaboration is limited and its rationale is (rather) lacking. It is not clear how the included expertises are relevant and needed for the project. AND/OR Not every necessary expertise is either present or some expertise is doubled. It is unlikely that the consortium as a whole will be able to remedy the lack of expertise.</p>	<p>The added value of the collaboration is acceptable, but not fully convincing. The complementarity is present ,however, not strong. The synergy between the research groups end expertises could've been stronger and/or needs a better argumentation. AND/OR The composition is not optimal as expertise is lacking, however, deficiencies may be compensated by the other consortium members. The role of each researcher in the execution of the project is not clear.</p>	<p>The added value of the bilateral collaboration is clearly present and contributes (very) well to the execution of the project. There is a (very) good rationale for setting up this collaboration. The synergy between the research groups/expertises is (very) strong. AND/OR All the necessary expertise and equipment to execute the proposed research is present. The composition of and task allocation amongst the bilateral research team is clearly described and (very) well motivated.</p>	<p>The synergy between the consortium partners is pronounced and the complementarity is key for the successful execution of the proposed research activities. The reasons for including these specific research groups/expertises are perfectly clear and valid. The proposed collaboration is crucial to achieve the proposed research goals. The bilateral research team is a perfectly balanced team of excellent internationally recognized researchers (taking into account the scientific seniority), in which each one of them has a vital role to play in the execution of the proposed research activities. All the required expertise and equipment is present in the most optimal way.</p>
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3.b. Balance in terms of work contribution amongst the diverse research groups

Each bilateral research consortium must be balanced in terms of work contribution between the Flemish and foreign research groups. To what extent does every included research group optimally contribute to the proposed research activities? How do the contributions relate to the requested budget?

<p>There is no balance in work distribution amongst the included research groups. There is imbalance between the requested budget and workload for some of the groups.</p>	<p>No possibility for scoring</p>	<p>There is a reasonable balance in terms of work distribution amongst the included research groups, taking into account the requested budget and the expertise within the different groups.</p>	<p>No possibility for scoring</p>	<p>Each research group contributes in the most optimal way to the proposed research activities. There are no imbalances in terms of work contribution, taking into account the requested budget of each included research group.</p>
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4. Degree of interdisciplinarity							
D	C	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Unacceptable	Not competitive	Fair/Reasonable		Good/Very good		Excellent/Outstanding	
Domains falling under at least two of the three branches of the FRQ (FRQS – Health // FRQSC – Society and Culture // FRQNT – Nature and Technologies) must be represented in an integrated way through (1) the composition of the bilateral research team, (2) the joint design and development of the project, of issues mobilizing questions or objects of research of the different domains and (3) the innovative methodology adapted to each issue and integrating approaches.							
The project is not interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary at all . The proposed research is focused within one branch of the FRQ and all team members fall under the same FRQ branch.	The project is multidisciplinary instead of interdisciplinary in nature. Although the research covers domains falling under at least two of the three branches of the FRQ, the expertise, methods, tools, data, etc. of one domain are merely used as an ‘instrument’ for the other domain. The various domains do not benefit or mutually influence each other. Instead, they are juxtaposed. Not all of the domains involved will be impacted by the outcomes of the project.	The proposed research includes domains falling under two of the three branches of the FRQ . Although mutual interactive input is necessary from specialists from domains covered by two out of three FRQ branches to address the proposed research question(s), the level of integration is not that extensive/profound. AND/OR Not all of the domains involved will influence each other to the same extent and therefore will not have equal benefits from the project.		The proposed research includes domains falling under two of the three branches of the FRQ . Mutual interactive input is necessary from specialists from domains covered by two out of three FRQ branches to (1) address the proposed research question(s) in an integrated way and (2) to advance fundamental understanding beyond a single domain. AND All of the domains involved will benefit from and mutually influence each other in the most optimal way. As a result, the outcomes will have an impact on all of the domains involved and will have substantial added value for each of the domains. New bridges between previously unrelated fields will be triggered.		The proposed research includes domains falling under all three branches of the FRQ . Mutual interactive input is necessary from specialists from domains covered by all three FRQ branches to (1) address the proposed research question(s) in an integrated way and (2) to advance fundamental understanding beyond a single domain. AND All of the domains involved will benefit from and mutually influence each other in the most optimal way. As a result, the outcomes will have an impact on all of the domains involved and will have substantial added value for each of the domains. New bridges between previously unrelated fields will be triggered.	

Projects receiving a score of 0 on ‘Degree of Interdisciplinarity’ will be excluded from funding.