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Team Research Project

Year: 2024-2025
Deadline (Letter of intent): Not applicable
Deadline (Application): September 19, 2023 at 4:00 pm
Annual amount: $50,000
Duration of funding: Maximum of 3 years
Announcement of results: end of April 2024

Program rules

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Important changes for 2024-2025

- Eligibility criteria for status 3 Principal investigator pertaining to the teaching or researcher experience is removed. (Section 3.1)

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The Team Research Project program refers to FRQ's Common General Rules (CGR), which govern all of the FRQ's programming. The information below provides guidelines specifically applicable to the **Team Research Project** program, and these rules take precedence over the CGR.

A link to the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio, as well as the forms associated with this competition, may be found by visiting the "Portal Access" section of FRQ's website. More information is also available in the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio under "Documents." Please note that it is the applicant's responsibility to us the correct application form. In the event that an error is made, the FRQ will not transfer the application from one program to another and the application will be deemed as not eligible.

The FRQ requires that the Canadian Common CV and a list of detailed contributions be included in the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio application. The applicant must ensure that the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et technologies (FRQNT) version is used. The information in these documents should be updated as of June 2022.

For complete instructions, please consult the documents *Instructions for detailed contributions and the Canadian Common CV - FRQNT* and the *Application Presentation Standards - FRQNT* which may be both found in the "Portal Access" section of the FRQ website as well as in the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio under "Documents."

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE COMPETITION DEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 AT 4:00 PM WILL BE DEEMED INADMISSIBLE BY THE FRQNT.

1 Objectives

The purpose of the Team Research Project program is to:
- Foster the emergence of new and exciting research areas in the scientific fields that are within the FRQNT's scope
- Enhance the ability of Québec researchers to compete in federal and international funding competitions by developing innovative projects
- Encourage researchers that have complementary expertise to collaborate together in developing research projects
- Promote high quality environments that will provide opportunities for the training, mentoring and skill development of students

2 Characteristics

Grants may be awarded within the Team Research Project program for a maximum of three years and up to **$50,000 per year**. This grant is non-renewable.

Indirect costs of research (ICR) will be paid to managing institutions. The ICR will equal 27% of the grant awarded, and is in addition to the grant amount.

The Team Research Project program is part of a **funding and career advancement continuum** that includes the following three FRQNT programs:
- Research Support for New Academics
- NOVA
- Team Research Project

Each of these three programs has eligibility requirements related to the career stage of the principal investigator (PI) of the application. Please refer to the chart below to determine if the Team Research Project program applies to your situation.

IMPORTANT
For Principal Investigators who fall under the Status 3 category, please refer to the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3 further below.

CAREER CONTINUUM 2024		
Number of years since the **PI's first position** as a university professor		
LESS THAN 3 YEARS	**FROM 3 TO 6 YEARS**	**MORE THAN 6 YEARS**
RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR NEW ACADEMICS	**NOVA-FRQNT-NSERC**	**TEAM RESEARCH PROJECT**
In office **since Sept. 2 , 2020**	In office **between Sept. 2, 2017 and Sept. 1, 2020**	In office **before Sept. 1, 2017**

3 Eligibility

All research projects, principal investigators, research teams and participants must comply with the eligibility requirements as per the program rules and CGR that are in effect at the time of the application submission. These rules will also apply throughout the award period covered by the grant. Any project, researcher, research team or participant that does not meet the eligibility requirements listed below will not be eligible. Failure to comply with program rules or failure to provide information needed to establish eligibility or evaluate the project may result in a declaration of ineligibility.

3.1 Principal investigator

The principal investigator (PI) of the application may be a researcher who:

- Meets the definition of Status 1.i or 2, as stated in the CGR, **AND**
- Has accumulated a minimum of 6 years of experience as a professor. This would mean that the PI had started this position on or before September 1, 2017*.

*Similar positions held outside Québec may be counted in the total number of years of experience.

OR
- Meets the definition of Status 3 as stated in the CGR*
*Cumulated years of teaching experience in a college or research position in a College Center for the Transfer of Technologies (CCTT) does not limit the eligibility in the Team Research Program.

Researchers who meet the Status 1.ii definition of the CGR are not eligible to be PIs, but may join the team as co-investigators.

Contracted researchers who meet the CGR's Status 1 definition and hold a non-tenure track position at their university must provide a letter from their university (see Section 4 below for more details).

3.2 Team composition

The project team must include an eligible PI and a **minimum of two eligible co-investigators**.

The team may include co-investigators from any of the research areas that fall within the scope of the three branches of the FRQ.

3.3 Co-investigators

A co-investigator (Co-I) may be of Status 1, 2, or 3, as defined in the CGR.

Co-I may be at any stage of their career and may be working under contract or retired, provided they have an affiliation with a university that allows them to supervise students on their own.

While retired university researchers cannot be PIs of a research project, they may join the team as a Co-I. In this case, retired Co-I must include a letter from their institution in the final application (see Section 4). Retired college researchers are not eligible for this program.

3.4 Collaborators

Any person meeting Status 1 to 4 as defined in the CGR or research institution may join the team as a collaborator. A CV is not required. In addition, international researchers are eligible to participate as collaborators.

The team composition must reflect the complementary expertise that is necessary to carry out the research project.

3.5 Research project

Please note that all applications for financial assistance [must fall within the scope of the FRQNT's research fields](). In the event that a researcher is uncertain about the applicability

of their project's research topic, researchers may contact the program officer to ensure that the project falls within the FRQNT's research fields.

Under all Continuum programs and in accordance with section 6.12 of the CGR, FRQNT reserves the right to rule ineligible research proposals submitted by the same researchers that involve the same activities or that are described in a way that suggests overlap.

3.6 Participation limits

<u>**As a PI**</u>

In any given Continuum competition year, researchers may participate in a maximum of **ONE** application as a PI, regardless of the program.

If a PI has…	Number of times participation is allowed
No active grants within the Continuum	ONCE
One active grant within the Continuum*	NONE

<u>**As a Co-I**</u>

In any given Continuum competition year, researchers may participate in a maximum of **TWO** applications as a Co-I, regardless of the program.

If a Co-investigator has…	Number of times participation is allowed
No active grants within the Continuum	TWO
One active grant within the Continuum*	ONCE
Two active grants within the Continuum*	NONE

* A researcher in their final year of a Continuum grant is eligible for additional participation in this competition.

While there are participation limits in place for PIs and CIs, researchers may participate in other funding applications as collaborators.

Notifications regarding the evaluation process or ineligibility of the application will be sent by email to the PI in October.

4 Application

Applicants will not be requested to provide any information missing from the application. Any documents received after the deadline for submitting applications to the FRQNT will not be accepted and files will not be updated. In addition, any excess pages will be removed from submitted applications. These rules will be rigorously applied and incomplete applications will not be eligible. Please refer to Section 3 of the CGR for more details regarding application procedures. With regard to the language of submitted forms and documents, please refer to Section 3.6 of the Common General Rules.

A complete application will include the following documents:

Funding Application Form (via the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio) that includes the following:

- **Project description**: Provide a description related to the 4 evaluation criteria (maximum of 10 pages including tables, figures - see Section 5 below for more details)
- **Bibliography** (maximum of 1 page)
- **Release from teaching duties - colleges**: Identify any team members who are requesting to be released from teaching duties, and provide explanations regarding why the release is requested (1 page)
- **Budget**: Attach a PDF document that includes an explanation of anticipated operating expenses (1 page maximum)
- **Other Documents**:
    A. A letter from the university or college of retired researchers from Québec, if applicable
    B. A letter from academic institutions of principal investigators and co-investigators from Québec who are under contract, if applicable

The following documents should be attached to the *Other documents* section of the form:

A. Retired researchers

A letter must be provided from the university attesting that, for the duration of the grant, the retired researcher will have access to the facilities and logistical support that is necessary to carry out the proposed research activities, and will continue to train students and prepare them for a research career in the field in question. The university must also confirm that it will manage and administer the funds in the usual manner.

B. Contracted researchers

For principal investigators who hold a non-tenure track position at their university, as well as for non-tenure track co-investigators who meet the Status 1 definition of the CGR (Section "Status and Roles"), a letter must be provided from the academic institutions indicating that the researcher(s) in question will maintain this status throughout the duration of the grant. A letter that is not adequately documented could result in the ineligibility of the researcher.

Canadian Common CV and list of detailed contributions (FRQnet Electronic Portfolio)

The Canadian Common CV, including a list of his/her detailed contributions, must be attached to the application made in the **FRQnet Electronic Portfolio** for both:
  * Principal investigators
  * Co-investigators

The list of detailed contributions must present contributions from the last 5 years (starting from September 2018) in FRQNT's format. The Canadian Common CV and detailed contributions must have been updated since at least June 2022.

Proof of submission, acceptance or in-print publications must be attached to the PDF file of the Canadian Common CV detailed contributions.

IMPORTANT
• Please note that approval by institutions is required prior to submission of the application to FRQNT. Therefore, it is likely that internal deadlines have been established by your institution that are earlier than FRQNT's deadlines. **It is the researchers' responsibility to be informed of these deadlines so that applications can be <u>submitted to the FRQNT</u> before the competition deadline**.

5 Evaluation

Applications are evaluated by multidisciplinary evaluation committees (MEC) who may request the advice of experts to complement the committee's expertise.

The internal review process, including the funding decision, may be found in Section 4 of the CGR.

Applications for funding are evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criterion 1: Scientific quality of the research project (35 points)

- Innovative, promising or emerging aspects of the project
- Need to call on complementary expertise in order to carry out the project
- Methodological approach
- Timetable and budget realism

Criterion 2: Expected benefits of the project (25 points)

- Impact on the advancement of knowledge and solving social, economic, cultural and technological issues
- Leveraging potential for Québec
- Potential for developing highly qualified personnel
- Possibility of establishing partnerships with end-users
- Communication of research results to the public

Criterion 3: Scientific quality and complementarity of team members (25 points)

- Demonstration of creative potential
- Research achievements and recognition by the research community
- Appropriateness and adequacy of the team's expertise for the proposed research
- Methods of integrating scientific skills
- Quality of collaboration and networking potential between team members and with other key players or partners, where applicable

Criterion 4: Quality of the training environment (15 points)

- Team member experience in supervising students
- Integration of college or university students (undergraduate or graduate) or postdoctoral fellows with the research project
- Contribution of the project to training and skills development
- Capacity to integrate highly qualified personnel into the job market

Funding requests that have an evaluation score **below 80% will not be retained** for funding.

6 Expenses

Grants must be used only for expenses directly related to the conduct of the current research project.

All budget items as outlined in the CGR (Section 8) are eligible. Grants may include an annual amount to purchase equipment having a unit cost of $7,000 or less, including taxes. These amounts must be reported in the "Equipment (purchase, rental, operating costs, maintenance, installation, repair)" category of the budget section of the application form.

More specific information regarding eligible expenses for this program are described below.

Individuals whose salaries are included in the budgets of government-funded institutions or other government agencies

With the exception of college researchers (Status 3 according to the RGC), grants must not be used to pay salaries or salary supplements to PIs, COCs and individuals whose salaries are included in the regular budget of a government-funded institutions such as universities, ministries or affiliated institutions, or any other government agency. See the CGR for more details.

Salary support for eligible Status 3, <u>non-teaching researchers</u> from CCTTs

A portion of FRQNT grants may be used to support salaries for team members who are college researchers that do not have teaching duties. The PI's institution may transfer this portion directly to the college institution or to the college affiliated with the CCTT (in the situation where the researcher is from a CCTT).

Salary support for eligible Status 3 <u>researchers who have teaching duties</u>: supplement for release time from teaching

For each college researcher who is a member of the team and has regular teaching duties, an additional amount of up to $16,000 per year will be paid directly to the college. This amount, paid directly to the managing college institution, may be used to compensate for the portion of the researcher's salary dedicated to the release from teaching duties or to ensure that the researcher's teaching duties are performed by another college faculty member.

Supplement - student maternity leave

The student maternity leave supplement is designed to encourage the retention of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, where they have historically been under-represented.

A student who receives an award funded by a grant under this program can get paid maternity premium from the FRQNT for a period of up to twelve months for the birth or adoption of a child. To be eligible, the student must have been paid from the FRQNT grant for at least six months. In addition, she may not hold an award from another granting agency and may not receive benefits from the Québec Parental Insurance Plan.

To obtain the maternity leave supplement, students must make the request by email to the FRQNT program officer and provide copy of a medical certificate attesting to the pregnancy. Also, when the time comes, copies of the birth certificate or proof of adoption of the child, as well as proof of suspension of registration from the Québec post-secondary institution, should be sent to the FRQNT program officer. The maternity supplement may begin up to eight months prior to the birth or adoption of the child. The FRQNT will transfer the maternity premium to the post-secondary institution upon receipt of the required documents.

The FRQNT authorizes the maternity leave supplement on the condition that the student's post-secondary institution allows the time to be taken off. In addition, the PI of the grant must agree to resume supervision of the student after the absence. The FRQNT reserves the right to reject any application that does not provide adequate explanation.

7 Management and Follow up

Please refer to Sections 5 to 7 of the CGR for more details.

Grants are awarded for a maximum period of three years. Grants are paid annually for the period **from April 1 to March 31 of each year**.

Funds that are not spent by the end of the grant may be carried forward by one additional year, and will be subject to the conditions stated in Section 6.10 of the CGR.

Final Report
The final report is administrative in nature and allows FRQNT to document the impact of the grants offered. The PI must complete and submit the final report via FRQnet Electronic Portfolio no later than 6 months after the submission of the last financial report.

If the final report is not submitted within the timeframe specified by the FRQNT, or if the report is not to the satisfaction of the FRQNT, the funding holder will not be eligible to receive another funding as a PI and a Co-I from any of the three branches of the FRQ and may have payments suspended until this condition is met.

8 Open Access Dissemination Policy

Peer-reviewed publications resulting from the research made possible by this award shall be published as immediate open access (without embargo), under an open license, in accordance with the FRQ Open Access Policy for the Dissemination of Research (revised in 2022).

9 Effective Date

These rules will apply for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

10 Contact Person

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