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# Research Support for New Academics

Year: 2026-2027

Deadline (pre-application): Not applicable

Deadline (application): September 10, 2025, at 16:00

Annual amount: \$30,000 to \$40,000

Duration of funding: Maximum 2 years

Announcement of results: End of April 2026

## Program Rules

### Important notice

Implementation of the new CV-FRQ to be submitted with the application. This CV-FRQ replaces the Canadian Common CV and the detailed contributions document.

This program refers to the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) [Common General Rules \(CGR\)](#), which govern all funding offers. Only rules specific to the **Research Support for New Academics** program are indicated in this document, and these prevail over the CGR.

A link to the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio, as well as the forms associated with this competition, may be found in the “Portal Access” section of the FRQ website. More information is also available in the [FRQnet Electronic Portfolio](#) under “Documents.” Please note that it is the applicant’s responsibility to use the correct application form. Incorrect forms will result in ineligibility, as the FRQ will not transfer applications between programs.

The Fonds requires the descriptive CV of the FRQ to be attached to the application form. The candidate must ensure that this [CV-FRQ](#) is completed according to the [Instructions for the descriptive CV of the FRQ](#) and the [Presentation Standards](#) available on the [CV-FRQ](#) Web page.

**AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED AFTER THE COMPETITION DEADLINE OF 16:00 ON SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, WILL BE EXCLUDED BY THE FRQ.**

# 1 Objectives

The *Research Support for New Academics* program in natural sciences, mathematics and engineering aims to:

- Contribute to fostering a new generation of researchers within the university research and teaching community by assisting new researchers who have just launched their academic career to become established as independent researchers and become competitive nationally and internationally.
- Strengthen the research system by encouraging new researchers to develop original avenues of research.
- Foster the mobilization of technological and scientific knowledge to user communities and the general public.
- Inspire university students to engage in research activities.

## 2 Characteristics

The *Research Support for New Academics* program is intended for researchers at the beginning of their academic careers.

The grant is available for a maximum of two years with the following funding amounts:

- Maximum of \$30,000 per year for:
  - New researchers from institutions located within the metropolitan communities of Montréal and Quebec (NCM).
- Maximum of \$40,000 per year for:
  - New researchers from institutions **in the regions**, i.e., those located **outside** the metropolitan communities of Montréal and Quebec (NCR).
  - New researchers who work in a regional institution whose managing institution is in the metropolitan community (NCR).

This grant is not renewable.

In addition to these amounts, indirect costs of research (FIR) of 27% are paid to the managing institution.

#### Equipment funding

An additional amount of up to \$50,000 (including taxes) may be requested by the applicant for the purchase of scientific equipment, with the cost of each piece of equipment being \$7,001 or more. This amount is awarded based on the quality of the research project, identified needs, and within the limits of the budget envelope.

The *Research Support for New Academics* program is part of a **continuum of funding and career advancement** within a portfolio of three programs of Nature and technologies sector:

- Research Support for New Academics (NCM, NCR)
- NOVA-FRQ-CRSNG
- Team Research Project (PR)

Each of the three programs has eligibility requirements related to the career stage of the principal investigator (PI) of the application.

Please refer to the diagram below to verify that the *Research Support for New Academics* program applies to your situation.

CAREER CONTINUUM 2026		
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 : FRQ-NSERC	TEAM RESEARCH PROJECT
Holding the position since Sept. 2, 2022	Holding the position between Sept. 2, 2019 and Sept. 1, 2022	Holding the position before Sept. 2, 2019

## 3 Eligibility

The principal investigator (PI) must meet the eligibility requirements as per the program rules and the CGR in effect at the time of submitting the funding application and throughout the funding period covered by the grant.

A PI who does not meet, or no longer meets, the eligibility requirements set out below is not, or is no longer, eligible.

Applications that do not comply with the program rules or lack the necessary information to determine eligibility or to be evaluated will be deemed ineligible.

**To be eligible, the PI must have Status 1 as defined in the CGR and meet the following conditions:**

- The PI has held this position for less than 3 years, i.e., since September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, or later, but no later than September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.
- Similar positions held in Quebec or outside Quebec must be included in this 3-year eligibility period. (See Section 4-Application: Letter from the PI's institution).
- As a contracted professor, the PI must occupy a position or have received a firm offer of appointment to a position with an annually renewable contract in a Quebec University. The appointment must have been ratified by the responsible authority for university appointments (or their representatives) according to the university's constitution. The position held must allow the PI to perform research without any supervision from another researcher and to individually supervise undergraduate or graduate students or postdoctoral fellows.
- The PI must have obtained their doctorate or PhD or successfully defended their doctoral dissertation no later than September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.
- The PI must benefit from a teaching release of at least 25% to carry out the research project for the duration of the grant, i.e., from April 2026 to March 31, 2028. The managing institution must provide a letter of confirmation (see Section 4-Application: Letter from the PI's institution). This condition cannot be complied retroactively.

**A PI is ineligible for this program if:**

- The PI whose research project is in a field that is not covered by the [mission and research fields of the Nature et technologies sector](#) ;
- The PI who is applying simultaneously for, or has been or is currently funded by, any of the following programs:
  - Research Support for New Academics of the Nature et technologies sector (NC).
  - Research Support for New Academics of the Société et culture sector (NP).
  - Research-Creation Support for New Academics of the Société et culture sector (CCZ).

- Research Scholars, Junior 1 of the Santé sector (CB).

Also, within the framework of all Continuum programs, and in accordance with Section 6.12 of the CGR, the FRQ reserves the right to declare ineligible any research proposals submitted by the same researcher that present the same activities or whose description suggests overlap.

### **Exceptional Extension of Eligibility Period (PEPA)**

A PI who has interrupted or delayed their research career due to parental leave, major family obligations, disability, bereavement or for health reasons, or a career period outside the research community, may have their eligibility period extended.

- a) In the event of an interruption for parental, family, health, bereavement or disability-related leave, the extension granted is equivalent to twice the duration of the leave.
- b) In the event of an interruption outside the research community, the extension granted corresponds to the duration of the interruption.
- c) In the event of a slowdown, the Fonds determines the extension to be granted after analyzing the supporting documents provided with the PEPA application.

A PI who wishes to apply for an exceptional extension of their eligibility period are invited to complete the form by clicking on this link [Request PEPA](#).

This form and supporting documents can be sent at any time between July 10<sup>th</sup>, and September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 16:00. The Fonds determines the exceptional extension to be granted based on the documents provided and will send the response via the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio.

### **Participation Limits as PI**

The PI may submit a maximum of two applications for funding during their eligibility period.

Also, per Continuum competition year, the researcher may participate in a maximum of **ONE** application as PI, regardless of the program involved.

**The outcome of the administrative eligibility analysis will be sent by email to the PI in November.**

## **4 Application**

The PI will not be notified of any elements missing in their application. Any documents received after the application deadline will not be considered and applications cannot be updated. Pages that exceed the maximum page limit will be removed. These rules will be strictly applied. An incomplete application will be deemed ineligible. See Section 3.6 of the [CGR](#) for information on the language of submitted forms and documents.

## NCM-Metropolitan Community and NCR-Region forms

Two forms are available based on the geographic location of the PI's university's head office:

**NCM form:** For universities located in the metropolitan communities of Montréal (MMC) and Quebec (QMC).

**NCR form:** For universities in the rest of Quebec (outside the MMC and QMC). Also applies to regional academic institutions whose managing institution is in a metropolitan community (CMM or CMQ).

A complete application includes the following documents:

**The funding application form (FRQnet Electronic Portfolio)** including the following sections:

- **Selection of the multidisciplinary evaluation committee:** Select the multidisciplinary evaluation committee best suited to the research topic, discipline, research field and key-words of your proposal. Please consult the list in the program Toolbox with descriptions of the different research areas covered by each committee.

The Nature et technologies sector scientific council will confirm the allocation of applications to the different committees, as well as compliance with eligibility requirements related to the research field.

- **Description of the research project** (maximum 7 pages): Attach a document describing the project proposal (including figures and tables).
- **Bibliography** (maximum 1 page): Attach the references related to the project proposal description.
- **CV-FRQ:** The applicant must attach the descriptive CV of the FRQ to the application form using this [CV-FRQ template](#). This CV must be completed according to the [Instructions for the descriptive CV of the FRQ](#) and the [Presentation Standards](#).

The information provided in the descriptive CV must align with the program's objectives and its evaluation criteria. Therefore, it is recommended to clearly structure the information into subsections identified by the relevant criteria or sub-criteria, in order to highlight the relevant elements to the evaluation.

In addition to the descriptive CV, the applicant must complete and attach the Complément\_CV\_FRQ; the template is in the toolbox.

- **Justification of planned expenditures** (maximum 1 page): Provide a complete list of eligible expenses (see Section 8 of the CGR and Section 6 of the program rules).
- **Description of planned expenditures for the equipment grant** (maximum 2 pages) (if applicable).

This complement to the grant covers requests for equipment whose total cost exceeds \$7,000. The equipment grant must be spent during the first 12 months after receiving the funding letter.

Equipment that requires an assembly of modules or accessories to be functional may be accepted. The relevance of the assembly must be clearly indicated in the application (diagrams, etc.)

This justification will be evaluated under the *Methodology* criterion.

Ensure clear explanations for the following:

- a) The relevance of the requested equipment for the successful completion of the research project.
- b) Lack of overlap between this equipment request and any other sources of funding already obtained by the applicant since taking up their position (CFI or NSERC equipment grant, etc.).
- c) The availability (physical or usage) of similar equipment in the PI's institution or in the region.
- d) The structuring impact of the equipment on the sustainability of the laboratory and the training plan for users.
- e) The possibility of repairing or refurbishing existing equipment (if applicable).
- f) The possibility of using computing or genomics platforms (if applicable).
- g) Risk management plan if the equipment is not funded.



For each of the following categories, a description and appropriate supporting documents are also required:

**Equipment with a value of \$7,001 to \$25,000:** No quote required.

**Equipment with a value of \$25,001 to \$50,000:** When the cost of a single piece of equipment exceeds \$25,000 (including taxes, in Canadian dollars), **two quotes** from suppliers must be provided in the appropriate section (20 pages).

Exceptionally, a single quote may be accepted if provided with a full justification in the corresponding section of the form.

The assembly of equipment whose total cost exceeds \$25,000 (including taxes, in Canadian dollars) requires at least **one quote**.

**Equipment with a value over \$50,000:** For equipment whose total cost exceeds \$50,000, **two quotes** from suppliers must be provided in the appropriate section.

Furthermore, the PI must specify the source(s) of complementary funding in the description of planned expenditures for the equipment grant.

If, at the time of application, the PI does not have the complementary funding, the managing institution must undertake to pay the necessary amount before the first instalment of the grant year (June 1).

A letter of undertaking from the managing institution must be included with the application in the “Other documents” section of the form.

- **List of suggested experts:** The PI must suggest 10 experts who will be able to assess the scientific merit of the project (see the FAQ in the Toolbox for further details). The experts must have no current or recent (five years or less) collaborative relationship with the PI (see Section 4.2 of the CGR for examples of conflicts of interest situations).

- **Other documents: Letter of attestation from the PI’s institution**

A letter written and signed by the managing institution, attesting to the following:

- a) That the PI holds or will hold a full-time tenure-track position (no later than September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026).
- b) That the PI will be released from at least 25% of their teaching duties to carry out the research project for the duration of the grant (2026-2028).
- c) The hiring date and position held (**DD-MM-YYYY**).

- d) Where applicable, employment start and end dates (DD-MM-YYYY) for all full-time tenure-track professorial positions previously held by the PI at other universities in Quebec or outside of the province of Quebec.

Include any official documents that provide a definition of the position occupied at another Canadian or a foreign university.

In case of doubt as to the nature and duration of previous positions, the FRQ reserves the right to contact the appropriate university authorities to obtain further information.

- e) If applicable, that the PI's salary will be paid by the university or another source for the duration of the grant, in the case of a contracted professor.
- f) If applicable, that the PI has successfully defended their dissertation and that graduation is a mere administrative formality.
- g) If applicable, that the PI affiliated with an NCM managing institution will perform most of their functions in an NCR institution **for the duration** of the funding.

#### IMPORTANT

Please note that **institutional approval** is required before the application is submitted to the FRQ. It is therefore likely that your institution has established an internal deadline that is earlier than that of the competition.

**It is your responsibility to be informed of this in order to ensure that your application is submitted to the FRQ before the competition deadline.**

## 5 Evaluation

Applications are evaluated by intradisciplinary evaluation committees, which may call on other experts to complement the committee's expertise.

The internal evaluation process including funding decisions is explained in Section 4 of the CGR.

Funding applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

### **Criterion 1: Quality of the project (80 pts)**

#### **Sub-criterion 1.1 Excellence in research (20 pts)**

- **Originality**  
Creativity, potential for disruption and advancement in the field (relevance of the theme and issues addressed, theoretical approach, new approach, risk-taking, etc.).
- **Scientific scope**  
Scope of the objectives for the community and users and contributions within the field of research (applied and fundamental).

#### **Sub-criterion 1.2 Project presentation (40 pts)**

- **Methodology**  
Relevance in relation to the objectives; scientific and technical feasibility. Availability of infrastructure and equipment. Ethical and environmental considerations.  
  
Justification for the equipment grant, if applicable. Relevance of the requested equipment for the successful completion of the research project.
- **Collaborations and partnerships**  
Opportunities to establish collaborations in Quebec, Canada and/or internationally. Description of the contributions of the collaborators or partners in the implementation of the project (relevance, role and added value).
- **Realism of the time frame and budget**  
Appropriateness of budget and time frame: budget justification (details, quantification, etc.), relevance of the project duration to the research question and budget, risk management plan.
- **Quality of presentation**  
Project structure and understanding: description of objectives and keywords, clarity, popularization, quality of writing, compliance with the presentation standards.

#### **Sub-criterion 1.3 Project benefits (20 pts)**

- **Strengthening research capacity**  
Detailed training and mentoring plan: feasibility of the project for the training of highly qualified personnel (HQP), recruitment, tasks, pedagogical scope.
- **Democratization of knowledge**  
Sharing, valorization, plan for the dissemination of the results to scientific and user communities and the public. Consideration for access to data (open access, etc.).

## Criterion 2: Applicant's scientific competence (20 pts)

### Sub-criterion 2.1 Scientific capacity (10 pts)

- **Scientific expertise**

Relevance of CV to the project: The applicant must possess the expertise and knowledge necessary to successfully carry out the proposed project. Risk-taking through the exploration of a new research topic must be accompanied by a risk management plan in relation to the skills required to carry out the proposal.

- **Experience and potential**

Applicant's research experience: Quantity and quality of scientific contributions and achievements within the reality of the field of research, mentoring experience. Potential demonstrated by the applicant throughout their career and activities related to research and science: originality of academic background, risk-taking, engagement, collaborative network, leadership, etc.

### Sub-criterion 2.2: Track record in knowledge dissemination (10 pts)

Knowledge dissemination activities for the scientific community, the user community, and the public.

#### IMPORTANT

To be successful, funding applications must receive a **passing score of 80%**.

## 6 Expenses

The grant must be used for funding the operating expenses directly related to carrying out the research project.

All budget items listed in the CGR (Section 8) are eligible. Specific details for this program are described below. The use of computing and genomics platforms such as *Calcul Québec* and *Génome Québec* is encouraged where applicable.

### Maternity allowance for students and postdoctoral fellows

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

A female postdoctoral fellow or student enrolled at a Québec postsecondary institution who receives remuneration (in the form of an award or salary) funded by a grant under this program may receive a maternity allowance paid by the FRQ **for a period of up to eight months** for the birth or adoption of a child.

To be eligible, the postdoctoral fellow or student must have been receiving the remuneration under this Nature and technologies sector grant for at least six months. In addition, she may not hold a FRQ excellence award and may not receive benefits from the Québec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP).

The maximum amount of the allowance is calculated on the basis of the annual value of an FRQ excellence award. If the postdoctoral fellow or student receives other supplements or payments in connection with the maternity leave, these amounts must be declared to the FRQ. The allowance will then be adjusted to top up the amount already obtained, up to the maximum calculated by the FRQ.

To obtain the maternity allowance, the postdoctoral fellow or student should contact the program officer by email. She will be asked to fill out a maternity allowance request form in her FRQnet Electronic Portfolio. The following must be attached to the form:

- A copy of the medical certificate confirming pregnancy, or proof of adoption of the child;
- Proof of interruption of studies issued by the Québec university institution;
- A copy of the postdoctoral fellow or student's remuneration contract;
- If applicable, supporting documentation indicating the amount of any other supplements or payments received in connection with the maternity leave must be provided in order to calculate the FRQ top-up amount.

The maternity allowance may begin up to eight months before the birth or adoption of the child. The FRQ will transfer the maternity allowance to the postdoctoral fellow or student upon receipt and analysis of the required documents. The FRQ reserves the right to reject any request with insufficient supporting documentation.

The principal investigator of the grant must agree to resume supervision of the postdoctoral fellow or student after her absence.

## 7 Management and follow-up

See Sections 5 to 7 of the CGR.

Grants are awarded for a maximum of 2 years. Funding is disbursed annually for the period from **April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.**

All requests for changes during the funding period must be sent to the Fonds via the *Manage my funding* section of the FRQnet Electronic Portfolio (section 6.5 of the CGR).

The unspent balance remaining at the end of the funding period may be carried forward for an additional period of one year only, subject to Section 6.10 of the CGR.

### **Funding condition for professors who will occupy a position as of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

A PI who will occupy a Status 1 position no later than September 2 of the year following this competition must have legal status to work in Quebec no later than **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026** (see Section 2.1 of the CGR).

### **Funding condition for equipment grants**

The equipment grant can only be used to purchase the equipment originally requested in the application (any equivalent purchases will need to be justified).

Equipment acquisition must be made within the first 12 months after receiving the funding letter. The grant for the purchase of equipment is funded, if applicable, specifically for one or more item(s) identified in the "equipment budget" section of the funding application, which are also in accordance with the program rules and recommended by the evaluation committee.

### **Equipment over \$50,000**

In order for the contribution of the FRQ to come into effect, the PI must provide supporting documents indicating the sources of complementary funding for the purchase of the requested equipment before **June 1<sup>st</sup>** of the funding starting year.

### **Final report**

The final report is administrative and allows the FRQ to document the impact of the funding it offers. The funding holder must complete and submit the final report, which will be available in their 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 time prescribed by the FRQ, or the report is not to the satisfaction of the FRQ, the funding holder is not eligible to receive new funding as PI or Co-I from

any of the three sectors of the FRQ or may have their payments suspended until the situation has been remedied.

## 8 Open access policy

Peer-reviewed publications resulting from the research made possible by this grant must be **released as immediate open access** (without embargo) and **under an open license**, in accordance with the [FRQ Open Access Policy](#) (revised in 2022).

## 9 Effective date

These rules apply to the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

## 10 Contact us

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Program manager

**Research Support for New Academics**

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## TOOLBOX

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### Quick Access

[Foire aux questions \(FAQ\)](#)

[Program Rules - PDF](#)

### Document to attach to the application

[CV-FRQ](#)

Complément CV-FRQ

### Reference Documents

[Choice of evaluation committee and associated fields — 2026-2027](#)

[Form for information - NC Métropole- 2026-2027](#)

[Form for information - NC Région- 2026-2027](#)

[Instructions CV-FRQ](#)

[Presentation standards for PDF attachments to FRQnet](#)

[Word template – using FRQ presentation standards](#)