

FAQ NOVA 6th Edition – EN page

NOVA – FRQ-NSERC PROGRAM for junior researchers – 6th competition

Q1: How should I write my FRQ CV?

A1: Consult the page dedicated to the FRQ CV. To guide you in preparing your CV, put yourself in the position of an evaluation committee member who reads several NOVA applications: visual clarity and the direct relevance of the information presented will highlight the strengths of your application. The information provided in your CV must be aligned with the program objectives and evaluation criteria.

Q2: What is the purpose of the FRQ CV Supplement document?

R2: Submission of the complement_admissibilite_NOVA document is mandatory for (1) the PI, (2) Quebec Co-Is, and (3) non-Quebec Co-Is. It is used to provide FRQ (via FRQnet) and NSERC (via the simplified Letter of Intent) with the information required to assess the eligibility of your funding application.

Q3: Who must submit an FRQ CV? Where should these FRQ CVs be uploaded?

A3: The FRQ CV must be provided for (1) the PI, (2) all Quebec Co-Is, and (3) all non-Quebec Co-Is. These FRQ CVs must be uploaded (1) in the FRQnet form under the corresponding tabs **AND** in the Simplified Letter of Intent form to be submitted to NSERC. The same FRQ CVs are expected to be submitted to both FRQ and NSERC.

Q4: I can't find the NOVA form in FRQnet. Where is it?

A4: For one final year, this form is located in the “previous FRQnet portal.” It can be accessed by signing in to the FRQnet portal. Click the “Previous FRQnet portal” tab in the top left corner of the page, then “Electronic portfolio,” then Nature and Technology, and finally “Available competitions.”

Q5: Is there a maximum number of CO-I per team?

A5: 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 (evaluation criterion #2).

Q6: Can the Quebec Co-I be from the same university as the PI?

A6: Yes, there are no constraints on the affiliation 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.

Q7: Regarding the PI eligibility criteria, what are the deadlines for holding a first career position? Are positions outside Quebec counted?

A7: Please refer to Section 2 of the program rules. The PI's first career position must have been obtained between September 2nd, 2020 and September 1st, 2023, inclusively. The first career position must have involved supervising students and conducting research. Career positions obtained outside Quebec are counted toward the eligibility period and must be declared in the FRQ CV supplement. Anyone who obtained their first career position **either** on September 2nd, 2023 - or after, **or** before September 2nd, 2020 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).

Q8: 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?

A8: 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.

Q9: What is the purpose of the EDI document submitted to NSERC? What should it contain?

A9: The one-page document regarding the EDI considerations in the training plan 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_CRSG_EDI_NOVA* document located in the Toolbox of the FRQ NOVA web page. This one-page document is used to establish the eligibility of the application, and is an NSERC elimination step.

Q10: Why do applicants have to separate the project budget justification between FRQ and NSERC?

A10: **It is imperative to submit two separate budgets for the FRQ and NSERC grants, including the presentation of the budget in table format in the expense justification.** The grant is provided in the form of two separate awards, one from FRQ (max \$30,000 per year) and one from NSERC (max \$45,000 per year). Applicants must therefore submit a budget to FRQ and a separate budget to NSERC, respecting the eligible expenses for each organization in each budget. The two separate 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 FRQ, if applicable.

Q11: 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?

A11: The PI will hold both awards. **The FRQ 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.

Q12: What importance will be given to intersectorality in the evaluation?

A12: 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 this expertise within the team.

Q13: Does a score of 80% or higher automatically mean a grant?

A13: 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.