Canada-France call on Artificial Intelligence

Webinar

February 2025

Canada-France call on Artificial Intelligence

- ANR Generic Call - Canada-France collaboration
- Objectives
- Research topics
- Opportunity for Canadian researchers
- Application process
- Review
- Decision
- FAQ / Advance Questions

Deadline for the French team to submit the full proposal to <u>ANR</u>:
March 27th, 2025, at 5pm CET

Deadline for the Canadian team to submit the simplified proposal to <u>NSERC</u>:
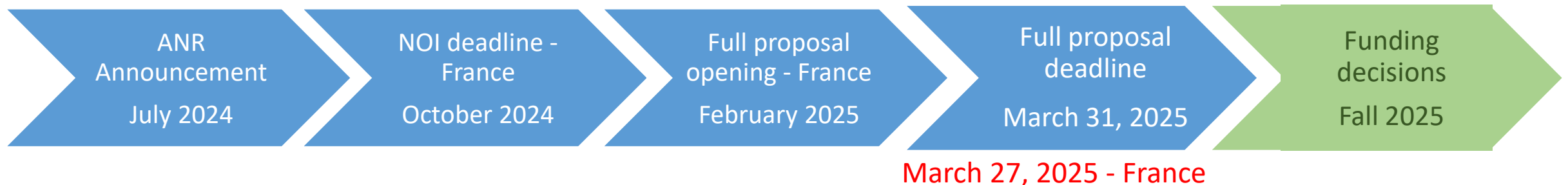**March 31st, 2025, at 5pm ET**

Canada-France call on Artificial Intelligence

French National Research Agency (ANR):
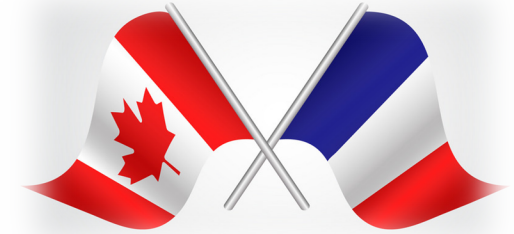
Generic call for proposals – AAPG 2025 – 57 themes

Canada: collaboration with NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR and IVADO

Annex for Franco-Canadian projects

ANR Announcement July 2024	NOI deadline - France October 2024	Full proposal opening - France February 2025	Full proposal deadline March 31, 2025	Funding decisions Fall 2025

March 27, 2025 - France

Objective

To foster scientific collaborations and knowledge exchange between leading-edge researchers in Canada and France, driving advancements in the field of **artificial intelligence**

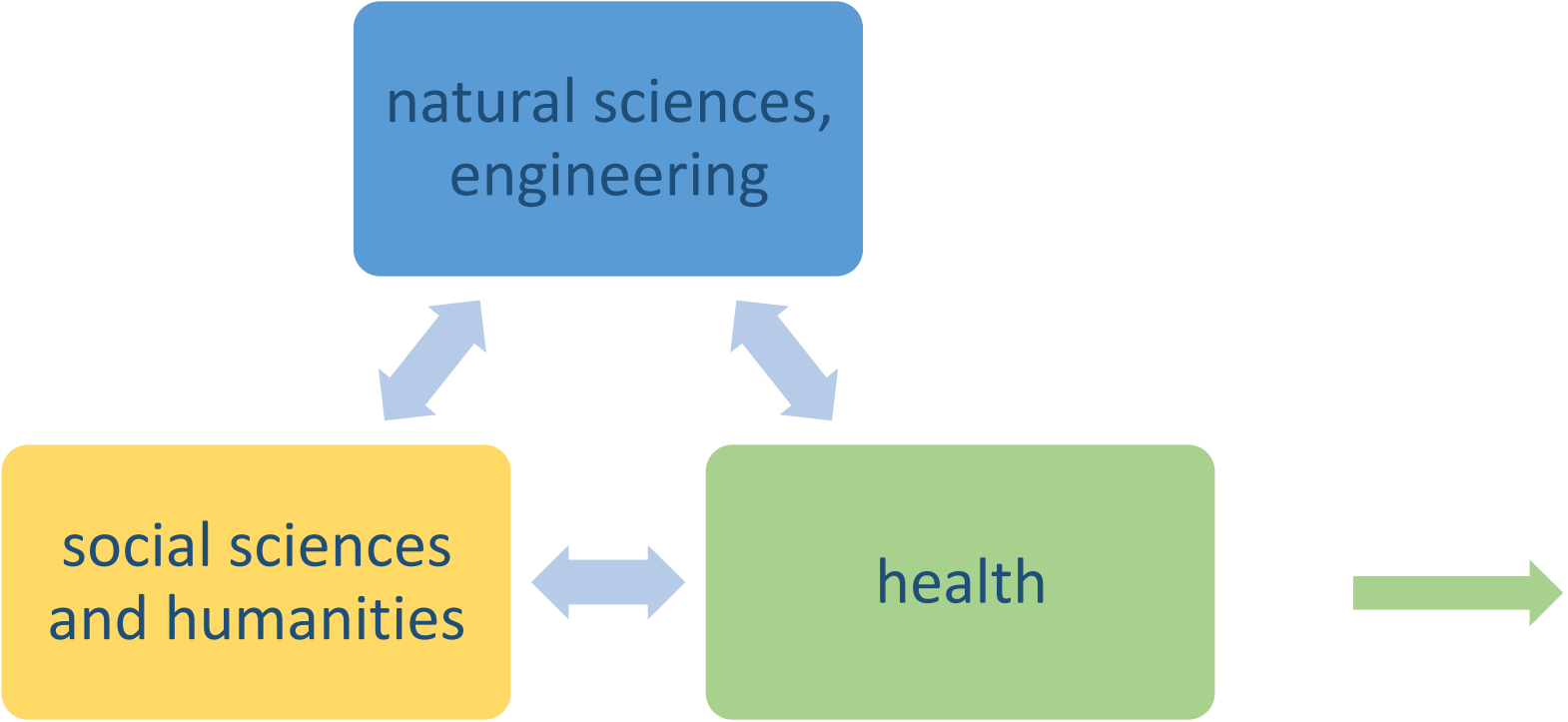multi- and interdisciplinary research projects that address:
generative AI and the **safety and security of embedded AI**.

Focus on new methods and innovative concepts that incorporate both theoretical and practical approaches are strongly encouraged.

ANR's Generic call (AAPG 2025) **section E.2: Artificial intelligence and data science**. Projects must meet **both** the **scientific axis of E.2** and the **research areas of generative AI or safety of embedded AI**.

Research topics

Projects can span across:

Health research topics

- Cancer
- Improving preparedness for and/or response to pandemics and infectious health emergencies through AI-based approaches to:
    (a) surveillance
    (b) predictive modeling and/or
    (c) genomic tools to help guide the development of interventions, including pathogens and/or genomic characterization of host response.

Research topics

Applicants may request supplemental funding from IVADO to conduct activities that align with the IVADO research program:

R³AI: Shifting Paradigms for a Robust, Reasoning, and Responsible Artificial Intelligence and its Adoption

Opportunity for Canadian researchers

Who	- Canadian university researchers **eligible to receive NSERC or SSHRC** funds, **or** - **independent researchers appointed at a CIHR eligible institution*** **at least one co-applicant must meet NSERC's eligibility criteria* - Canadian researchers can apply only once as the PA, but multiple times as a co-Applicant - Additional Canadian or international collaborators are allowed - Partner organizations from the private, public and not-for-profit sectors are allowed
How much	Up to CAN$100,000 per year from NSERC, SSHRC and/or CIHR collectively, and Up to CAN$20,000 per year in supplemental funds from IVADO
How long	2 to 3 years

Application process

Le CRSNG invite les personnes candidates à présenter leur demande dans la langue de leur choix, soit en français ou en anglais.

NSERC invites applicants to submit their application in the language of their choice, either French or English.

Application process

Funding partners

Lead agency for the General Call:

- The French National Research Agency (ANR)

Team Canada:

- NSERC (lead agency for Canada)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
  - Institute of Cancer Research
  - Institute of Infection and Immunity
  - Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies
- IVADO

Application process to NSERC

- Full application submitted by the **France-based Principal Applicant to ANR** on behalf of the entire team.
    - *The French PA must have registered in October 2024*

- Designated **Canadian Principal Applicant*** submits a simplified application** **to NSERC** on behalf of all Canadian team

* SSHRC and CIHR Principal Applicants apply via NSERC. Applicants and co-applicants will need to create an NSERC PIN

* SSHRC research code: 8000; CIHR research code: 9000

** Includes a copy of the full application submitted to the ANR (see instructions to upload)

Application process to NSERC

Creating an application:

Form 101 (application for a grant)

- Log in to [NSERC's online system](#) and choose Create a new form 101

- Select *Research partnerships programs*, then *Alliance grants*

- Select *Full Proposal,* for the Proposal type field

- Select *International-Collaboration-ANR-AI* from the drop-down menu, for the Type of call field

Application process to NSERC

Form 101 (application for a grant)

Mandatory items

- Information on the project, title, keywords, code of research, summary, etc.
- Canadian co-applicants and collaborators
  - personal data form 100A with CCV attachment for each Canadian applicant /co-Applicant.
- France-based Principal Applicant and co-Applicants are listed as collaborators
- 2-page biosketches for all collaborators, Canadian and French
- A simplified proposal (template provided)
- A copy of the application that is submitted to the ANR

- A budget (in CAD) and justification for the funds requested from NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR

Break down by funding source

- A certificate of completion of one of the available sex- and gender-based analysis training modules (Canadian PI only)

Application process to NSERC

Simplified proposal template

- List the names of the France-based PA and co-applicants

- Title of the proposal submitted to ANR

- Narrative responses **(1 page for each of the following sections)**
  - Alignment with the research topics
  - Impacts and benefits to Canada
  - Collaboration
  - Training plan and concrete actions or practices implemented to support Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in your project

- If applicable: Justification for the IVADO supplement

Do not:
- **remove the titles or bullets**
- **exceed the indicated page limit for each section**

Application process to NSERC

Form 101 (application for a grant)

If applicable

- One-page justification of planned activities and their alignment with IVADO's research program, and a detailed list of the related costs.

  Do not include the IVADO costs in the main application budget

- Impact assessment form (appendix A)

- Research security:
  - Attestations related to the policy on Sensitive Technology Research Areas and Affiliation of Concern for each person with a named role in the Canadian and in the French applications
  - Risk Assessment Form (if private sector organizations are involved)

Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern

- The STRAC Policy addresses risks related to sensitive technology research areas performed with research organizations and institutions that pose the highest risk to Canada's national security.

- Attestation certifies that the person in question is not currently affiliated with, nor are in receipt of funding or in-kind support from, a Named Research Organization.

Research Security

If you have **industry** and **not-for-profit*** partners on your application, both from Canada and from other countries

- **Canada's National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships apply**

- You must fill out the Research Security module (**Risk Assessment Form**) as part of your application

* industrial and producers' associations etc.

Note: fully SSHRC files do not require RS but you must still complete the RS module in the application form

Application process to NSERC

Deadline to submit: End of March (TBC) - 8 pm ET

Applicant

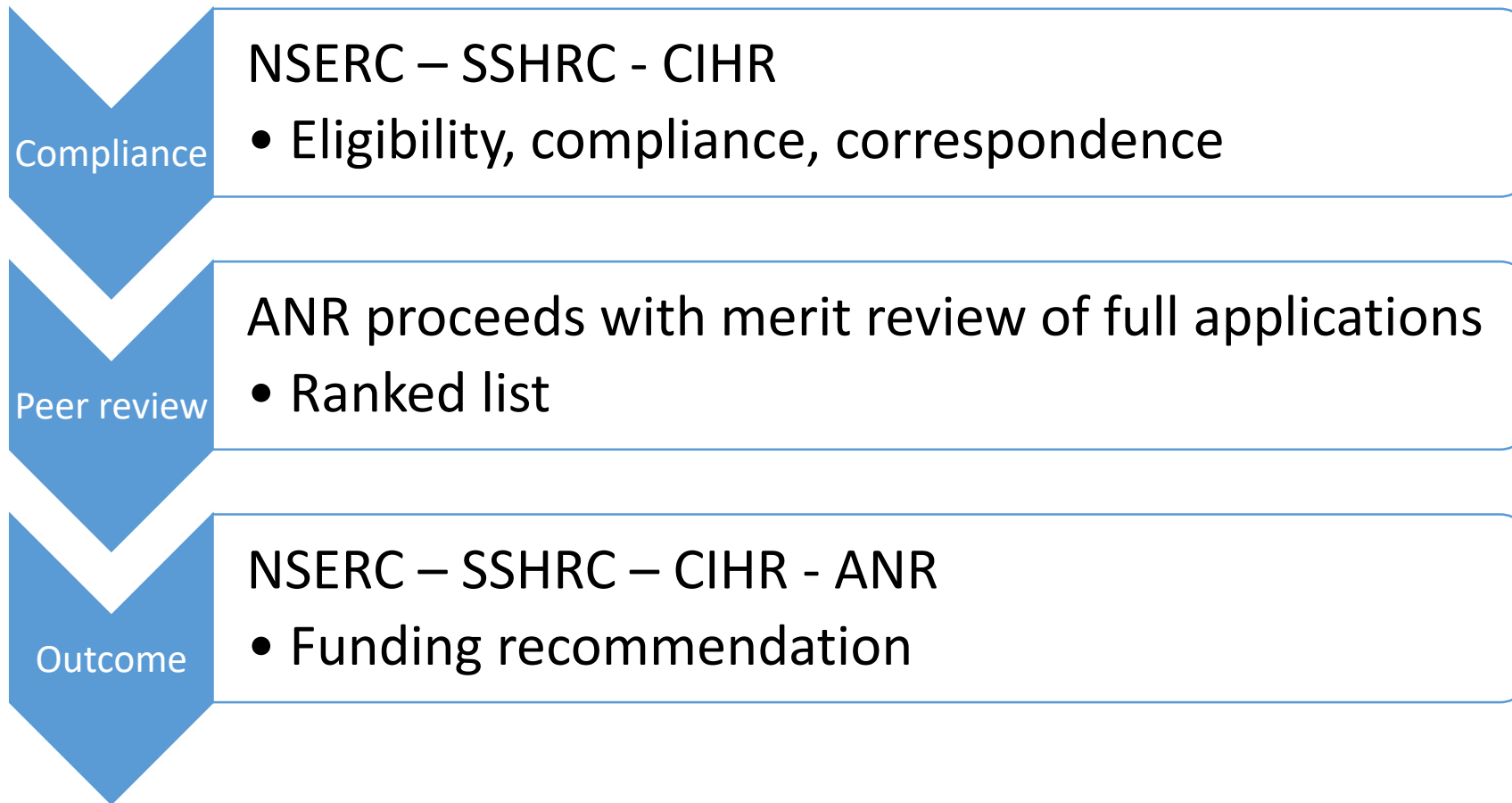submits in the system by deadline!

University RGO
verifies application and submits to NSERC

Internal deadline

NSERC

receives applications

Review process

Compliance

NSERC – SSHRC - CIHR
- Eligibility, compliance, correspondence

Peer review

ANR proceeds with merit review of full applications
- Ranked list

Outcome

NSERC – SSHRC – CIHR - ANR
- Funding recommendation

Review process

IVADO

If your application is selected for funding by the Councils AND if you have submitted a request for a supplement:

IVADO will make a separate funding decision

Funding

Final decision October 2025

- Tri-council Funding combined Envelope: $3,100,000 over 3 years
- IVADO Funding Envelope: $300,000 over 3 years

- Awards

  NSE + up to 30% SSH → NSERC Alliance grants.

  NSE + >30% SSH →NSERC Alliance + SSHRC grants

  CIHR and IVADO → issue their own grants (any amount)

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to common questions

- ONE Canadian LEAD (PA) for each application
- Canadian researcher can be LEAD on only ONE application
  - But can be co-applicant on more than one application
- Collaborators: List the French LEAD and their co-applicants
  - 2-page biosketches needed, STRA Attestations for all
- Partner organizations (private, public, NFP sector) from Canada, or Private sector from other countries allowed
  - No cash contributions required. Ensure to follow the requirement of the STRAC policy
- Whether this funding opportunity will be offered in the future is yet unknown

NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR research

- All applications, including those applying to SSHRC and CIHR must be submitted through the NSERC Online System

- NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR will work together to review the applications and allocate funding appropriately

- Where applicable, identify costs related to
  - natural science and engineering research (NSERC),
  - health sciences research (CIHR),
  - social sciences and humanities research (SSHRC)

If there is any overlap between the areas, it should be clearly indicated.

Questions received in advance

Advance questions

- Can we know the number of registrations received and the number of applications that could be funded?
    - We cannot give that number because this is the responsibility of the ANR. The number of applications that can be funded on our end will depend on the outcome of the peer review and the total budget envelope of the three councils.

- Do we need to have an external partner organization?
    - No, this is not mandatory. If you have any, there is no obligation to make cash contributions.

- What is an ideal partner?
    - An organization that is committed, contributes its resources to the success of the project, and that can implement the results and create a benefit to Canada.

- Can a research professional be the leader of the Canadian project or act as a co-applicant?
    - No, the project leaders and co-applicants must be university professors. A student also cannot hold such roles or submit an application.

Advance questions

- Can we have a template with page limits and an indication of the content of the sections?
  - The simplified template contains this information. Make sure not to exceed the one page per section, including the title and bullet points of the section concerned. This is easy to control with a text editor like Word or other.

- Is there a relationship with the Canada-France Research Fund?
  - No, this is a separate call with its own budget.

- Can we apply for funding to support research in health, life sciences and diseases affecting humans?
  - Yes, these funds will be covered by CIHR, **BUT** this research must be aligned with the specific objectives announced in this call (see the Research Topic page) .

- Who can be considered to have a named role?
  - Any person named in the Canadian and French applications. Candidates, co-applicants and collaborators.

Advance questions

- Many professors have difficulty determining non-demographic indicators. Do you have any examples that apply mainly to small research teams?

Retention, advancement, sense of inclusion, distribution of conferences & workshop participation across team members, etc.

Indicators and methods might include:

- An **annual audit** of proposed EDI-related actions

- Systems to **track access** to equipment, mentorship and training opportunities

- Anonymous trainee **feedback surveys** to measure sense of inclusion and/or identify persistent barriers

- Trainee **retention rates** relative to an established baseline

Questions?

ANR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Thank you