



Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program

Information session for prospective applicants

February 7, 2024

Welcome

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- Program Officers:
 - Guy Faubert (pre-award)
 - Samantha Gollop (post-award)
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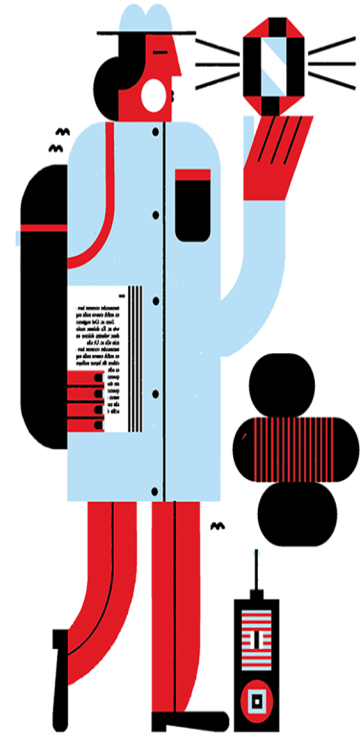
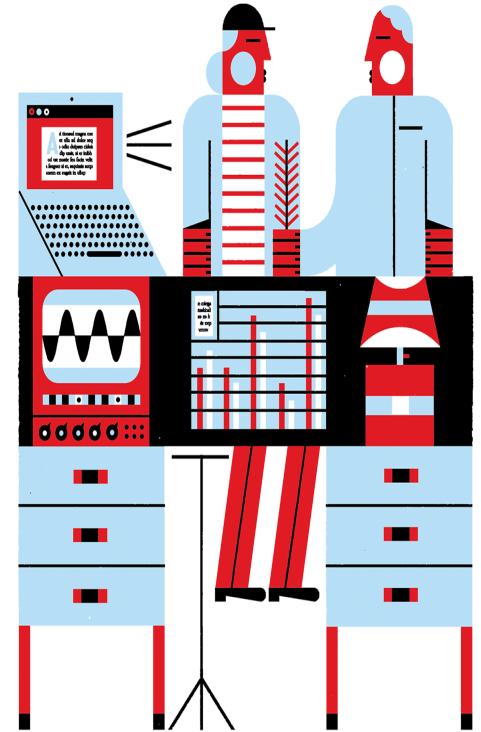
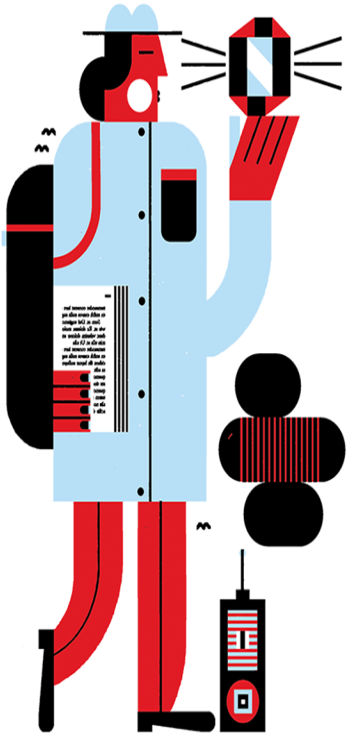


Table of contents

1. Program overview
2. Application procedures
3. Competition statistics and other information



1. Program Overview



Program overview

New this year

1. The LOI stage is now non-competitive, meaning that the LOIs are not adjudicated by selection committee and proceed directly to the application stage.
2. LOI submissions are still required, but the information to be provided is reduced.
3. The industrial stream has been eliminated. Industrial participation in CREATE initiatives is encouraged, but the extent and nature of industrial participation is determined by the applicants and their industrial partners.
4. Mobility experiences are now mandatory for all M.Sc. and Ph.D. trainees, with a minimum duration of 1 month for M.Sc. and 2 months for Ph.D.
5. University Letter of Intent (LOI) quota the same as in previous years: 6 for large institutions, 4 for medium sized, and 2 for small institutions.

Program overview

Program objectives

CREATE supports the training and mentoring of students and postdoctoral fellows from Canada and abroad through the development of innovative training programs that:

- Encourage collaborative and integrative approaches that address significant scientific challenges
- Facilitate the transition of new researchers from trainees to productive employees in the Canadian workforce

Program overview

Program objectives

CREATE encourages

- Enriched training and mentoring experiences
- Improved job readiness
- Technical and Professional skills development
- Industrial collaboration
- Student mobility
- Interdisciplinary research

Program overview

Program objectives

Qualities of successful CREATE Initiatives

- Innovative nature
- Rich training and mentoring environment
- Strong delivery of technical and professional skills along with mechanisms to ensure all trainees fully benefit and participate
- Capacity to raise the standard for best practices in training and mentoring
- Equity, diversity and inclusiveness of research team and trainees
- Promoting collaboration and international awareness

Program overview

Value of grant

Year 1: Normally, \$150,000 (\pm \$50,000)

Years 2 – 6: Normally, \$300,000 (\pm \$50,000) per year

Total: up to \$1,650,000 over 6 years

- Non-renewable
- Start Date: April 1 default or Sep 1 by request

Program overview

Expectations

- **Year 3-6 funding is dependent on positive performance evaluations by NSERC.**
- 1 progress report and a final report are required. An improvement report may be required due to inadequate progress or missing information in the progress report.
- Must demonstrate that proposed objectives, training elements (especially professional skills), graduate student mobility, HQP targets, EDI actions, etc., are being met.
 - Mobility experiences (exchanges, internships, etc.) are mandatory for graduate students, and must be a minimum of 1 month duration for M.Sc. and minimum 2 months duration for Ph.D.
- **i.e., applicants are held accountable and must follow through on what is presented in the proposals.**

Program overview

Allowable expenses

- **New!** At least 70% to trainee stipends
 - Up to 30% of this may go toward non-NSE trainees
- Remaining 30% may be used for...
 - Trainee travel (conferences, exchanges, internships, etc.)
 - Training program administration (e.g., salary of program coordinator)
 - Dissemination of training materials
 - **New!** Initiative website maintenance for duration of the grant
 - **New!** Travel & accommodation costs of the applicant, co-applicants or program coordinator to attend training events are eligible
 - Etc.

Program overview

Trainee stipends

- No minimum or maximum
- May be complemented by other sources
 - Supervisors
 - Collaborators
 - Scholarships
- A stipend from CREATE is not a requirement for trainee participation in the initiative
- Emphasis of the initiative must be on graduate students, but undergraduate and postdoctoral trainees may also be supported
 - At least 60% of the trainees need to be graduate students

Program overview

Teams leading CREATE initiatives

- A complementary group of researchers
- From eligible Canadian universities
- For multi-university applications: must have at least one co-applicant involved for trainees at that institution to be eligible to receive CREATE stipends
- Work collaboratively to offer a defined training program to a group of trainees

Program overview

Teams leading CREATE initiatives

- Lead applicant must be from an NSERC-supported field at an eligible university and a full-time professor
 - Cannot be an adjunct professor
 - If the lead applicant leaves their institution, a replacement should be found at the lead institution
- At least **70%** of the group of co-applicants must be in NSE
 - An NSE researcher conducts most of their work in areas supported by NSERC, as evidenced by their publication record.
- A researcher can be involved in a maximum of two initiatives at any given time and a maximum of one as an applicant
- **The grant end date includes the Covid 1-year extension!**

Program overview

Program committee

- Program committee (PC) consists of a variety of stake holders
 - e.g. potential future employers of graduates, collaborators, curriculum developers, trainees
- Program evaluation and guidance
- Refer to the [program committee guidelines](#) webpage for more information

Program overview

Covid-19

- **New!** Applicants do not discuss Covid-19 impacts and mitigation strategies
- The free form section of the application is still the same length, i.e., the one page previously reserved for Covid provisions is available for the other parts of the free form section

Program Overview

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

CREATE initiatives are expected to increase the inclusion and advancement of under-represented groups in the natural sciences and engineering as one way to enhance excellence in research and training.

- Team (self-ID questionnaire)
- Program Committee
- HQP
- [NSERC guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research](#)

Program overview

Evaluation criteria

- Merit of the proposed training program – 50%
 - **New!** Provisions related to the industrial stream and Covid are no longer part of this evaluation criterion
- Excellence of the team of researchers – 25%
- Program management and long-term sustainability - 25%

Program overview

Streams

- **New! No industrial stream**
- **Regular stream** may involve any collaborations: academic/government/industry/NGO, Canadian/international
- **International stream** Germany's DFG-IRTG for collaboration with German researchers. Funding aligned with DFG-IRTG program duration: up to 9 years instead of 6 years for regular stream CREATE (same grant value).
- Applications to the DFG-IRTG are not evaluated separately from the regular stream applications

Program overview

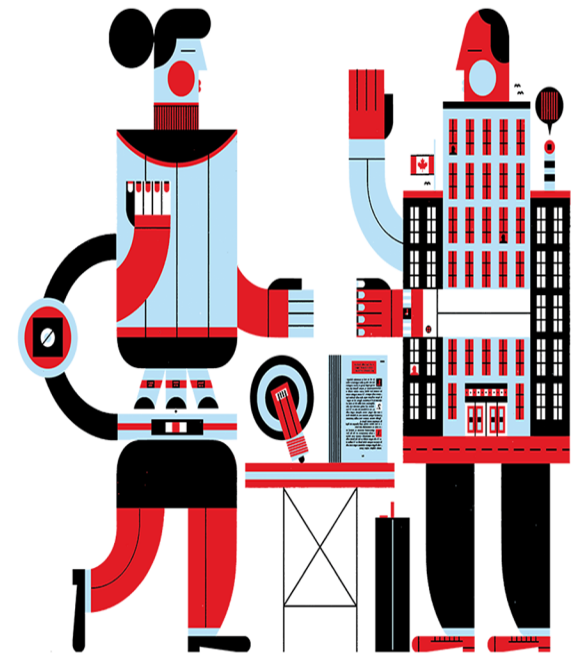
Mobility - locations

- Mobility experiences are mandatory for graduate students (minimums: 1 month for M.Sc. and 2 months for Ph.D.) and are encouraged for undergraduate or PDF trainees but are not mandatory.
- Can occur in industry, government, non-governmental organizations and/or academia at locations inside or outside of Canada.
- Due to conflict of interest, trainee internships at companies owned wholly or in part by the applicant or by a co-applicant are prohibited.
- To expose trainees to new environments and to promote networking opportunities, internships at university incubators, on campus industrial parks, or companies started by a trainee do not count.
- For the international stream: Same minimum durations, but at the laboratories of collaborators in Germany.

2. Application Procedures

Phase 1: **Letter of Intent (LOI)**

Phase 2: **Application**



Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

1. Internal selection at university
2. **New!** Administrative only, not appraised by the CREATE Selection Committee.
3. The LOI procedures apply to both the regular and international streams. For the International stream, the title must reference the International DFG-IRTG stream.
4. At the LOI stage the applicant's submission proceeds directly to NSERC via the NSERC Online System without intervention from the research grant office.

Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent (LOI)

Form 187: LOI to Apply for a CREATE grant

- List co-applicants (min 1, max 10) **New!** Do not complete the self-ID questionnaire at LOI stage
- Collaborators
 - For the international stream, it is mandatory to list all the collaborators in Germany.
- External Reviewers suggestions (8)
 - Including 2 from Canada and at least one from abroad

Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

- Personal Data Form (Form 100) – applicant only
- For both the regular and international streams: A letter from VP Research of the lead university confirming the university's support. For the regular stream also a statement that it was selected as part of the university's quota.
- **New!** Do not describe your university's support and commitment for your initiative, financial and/or in-kind. This will be done at the application stage.

Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Outline of Training Program

- **New!** 300-word summary of the proposal
- State the objectives of the proposed research training program, and summarize the approach, originality and novelty, as well as the expected significance of the proposed program.

Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Excellence of Proposed Team

- **New!** To satisfy system requirements, include the Excellence of the proposed Team section, but leave as blank.
- The excellence of the team will be described at the application stage.

Application procedures

Phase 2: Full Application

- Personal data form (Form 100) for the applicant
- Personal data form (Form 100), CCV, or regular CV for all co-applicants (max 10)
- Self ID questionnaire for applicant and co-applicants
 - For more information, refer to the [FAQ about the self-identification questionnaire](#).
- One support letter from the lead applicant's university
- Up to 3 support letters from collaborators

Application procedures

Phase 2: Full Application

Form 102 – Application for a CREATE grant

- Application profile
- Plain language summary of proposal
- Co-applicants and collaborators
- Proposed expenditures

Application procedures

Phase 2: Full Application

Research training program proposal

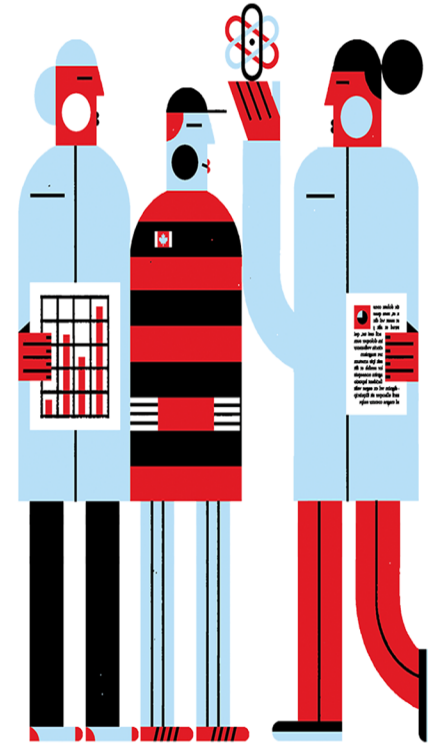
- Free-form, 14 pages + 1 page for references
- Objectives
- Elements of the training program
- Estimated number of trainees
- Job prospects
- Program Committee
- List of deliverables - used by NSERC to assess the program's effectiveness at the progress reports

Application procedures

Phase 2: Full Application

- Budget justification (free form, 2 pages)
- Support from other sources (free form, 2 pages)
- Maximum 1 Letter of support from lead university:
 - List of all contributions from the university
 - Describe the details of support
 - Involvement in the training program
 - Plans to ensure sustainability
- Application is submitted by the RGO office at the lead university

3. Competition statistics and other information



Competition Statistics

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Quantum call	2024
LOIs received	125	118	123	123	17	97
Candidates invited	55	38	43	51	9	41
Applications received	53	37	42	49	9	38
Grants awarded	15	13	13	17	3	TBD

Other information

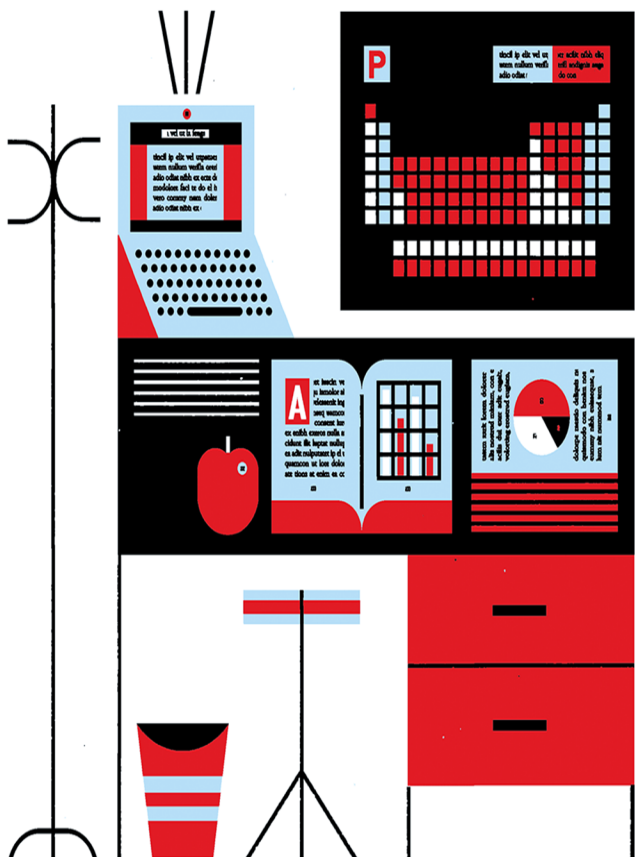
Important Dates

- March/April 2024: Letter of Intent deadline (Univ.)
- May 1, 2024: Letter of Intent deadline (NSERC)
- September 23, 2024: Application deadline (NSERC)
- March 2025: Notification of results

Other information

More Information

- [Program description](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- Your university's research grant office
- The CREATE Team
 - E-mail: CREATE@nserc-crsng.gc.ca



Questions?

CREATE Team

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