

UBC SPARC Resource

NFRF Transformation 2024: August 31, 2023, Q&A Session for LOI Webinar

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Team

Q: Are there limits to the number of individuals in any one team role?

A: No there are no limits, except for the NPI

Q: Can an individual's role change between the NOI and LOI stages?

A: The NPI cannot change once the NOI has been submitted.

Q: For the transformation track, beyond the NPI, are there any requirements/guidelines of how many must be associated with Canadian institutions? Are there any guidelines on how many participants should be involved overall?

A: The research team should reflect the project scope and needs.

Q: Re: team members - I understand that participants included at the NOI should remain part of the project at LOI or full application. Could you please confirm if this applies to collaborators as well? Or can collaborators be removed at LOI and/or at full application?

A: This rule doesn't apply to the collaborators.

Q: Are there limitations for team members being on multiple applications? Can someone who is an NPI on one project also be a co-applicant on another application, for example?

A: To ensure that teams awarded a Transformation grant have sufficient time to dedicate to the project, award holders may serve as an NPI or co-PI on only one Transformation grant. It is, therefore, recommended that individuals limit their participation as an NPI or co-PI to a single application. If an individual is listed as an NPI or co-PI on more than one application, they will be required to remove themselves from all but one at the full application stage.

Use of funds

Q: Can funding be used to support travel for Collaborators (e.g. if bringing the team together for meetings)?

A: No funds can be used to support someone listed as a collaborator

Q: Can you please clarify re: the statement that funds may be transferred to any organization (other than for-profit or government) within Canada. Must there be a co-PI or co-applicant at an organization for this to be possible?

A: Yes - that is correct. Funds can only be used to support the expenses associated with research activities of co-PIs and co-apps.

Q: Can co-applicants be based outside of Canada? And can they receive funding from the grant?

A: Yes, co-applicants can be outside of Canada and funds can be shared with them.

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Q: Can funding be used for activities outside Canada e.g., Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Ghana

A: Yes. Research expenses may be covered by NFRF funding outside of Canada.

Q: Could you please provide examples of what costs are eligible for funding? Does it cover manhours of all disciplines (technical, management, admin)? Does it cover overhead? does it cover equipment purchases to build a pilot plant? Does it cover analytical equipment purchases?

A: The NFRF program follows the TAGFA for the use of funds. https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/interagency-interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp

Q: Can funds be transferred to academic NGOs, or only to individual independent researchers?

A: Funds are transferred only to institutions. and from the institution can be given to the researchers

Q: There was an answer earlier about using funds to support collaborators, saying that funds "could not" be used to cover travel for meetings, etc. Is that correct?

A: Yes, funds cannot be used to support collaborators

Applicant eligibility

Q: Please clarify whether Indigenous persons may not be eligible if working for *any* government, or just a government in Canada?

A: Individuals whose primary affiliation is with an Indigenous government are eligible to be co-PIs, co-applicants or collaborators, with eligible expenses limited to those related to the execution of the project that are not within the mandate of the Indigenous government.

Q: Must there be an ECR on the team at the NOI stage? Or could someone be added at LOI?

A: The ECR doesn't need to be included at the NOI stage and can be added at the LOI stage however, the intent is for them to be fully participating members of the research team, which would mean that they should be part of the research team from its conception.

Q: Thanks - must co-Is outside Canada be based at post-secondary institutions? Can they also be at academic NGOs/think tanks?

A: They can be from academic NGOs / Thinktanks:

Co-PIs and co-applicants can be practitioners, policy-makers, educators, decision-makers, health-care administrators, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, patients, community leaders, individuals working for a charity, and a range of other individuals. To be eligible as a co-PI or a co-applicant, researchers and professors must be considered independent researchers.

The co-PIs' and co-applicants' affiliation may be a Canadian postsecondary institution, a Canadian institution or organization. Co-PIs outside of Canada can be at academic NGO institutions as long as they fit the eligibility of an independent researcher.

Q: Can co-applicants be non-academic members (e.g., professionals from NGOS, police)

A: Yes, Co-applicants can be non-academic members. There is a section about this here:

<https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2024/competition-concours-eng.aspx#4>

Q: Can someone who was on the management committee of a previously funded NFRF Transformation be a Co-PI on another grant.

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A: as a Co-pi , you can only be on 1 funded transformation grant at a time. if they are part of another Transformation Grant, they can only join a new team as a co-applicant.

Subject matter

Q: Does the NPI need to be an expert from the field of research that has been identified as primary?

A: No, they do not need to be an expert

Q: Can you define the key differences between multi and inter disciplinary.

A: Multidisciplinary: people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge.

Interdisciplinary: integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a real synthesis of approaches.

Q: Would projects that don't specifically include indigenous communities be considered?

A: Yes, projects that do not include Indigenous communities are considered. If Indigenous research does not fit into the goal of the project, it does not make sense to have it as a part of the research plan.

Q: Can you give an example of a "novel risk"?

A: a novel world-leading approach that is different from the current state-of-the-art approaches to the issue

Review process

Q: Should suggested peer-reviewers be based in a Canadian institution?

A: A portion of the suggested reviewers will need to be from outside Canada.

Q: If you are invited to the full application stage, do we receive comments from the reviewers from the LOI stage?

A: the LOIs that are triaged to be discussed will receive those comments

Miscellaneous

Q: When it comes to outcomes, how does NFRF define short-term, medium-term, and long-term?

A: NFRF doesn't have specific definitions for these, but generally short-term would be within the project timeframe and/or immediately after; medium-term would be within a few years after the end of the project, long-term would be beyond that.

Q: can we apply for both NRF Transportation and Exploration in a year?

A: Yes, you may apply to both the Transformation and Exploration streams in the same year. Although, a researcher may only be listed as an NPI, co-PI or co-app on a single Transformation project.

Q: Can one still apply to the Transformation stream if we hold an Exploration grant?

A: An individual's status as an applicant or grantee of other NFRF competitions (Exploration, International or special calls) does not affect their eligibility for the Transformation stream.

Q: 2022 competition stats

A: NOI: 233. LOI: 178. App: 25 invited. 12 invited to Jury. 6 selected for funding

The title between the NOI and LOI cannot change. Make sure the title reflects the project and interdisciplinarity (and not skew towards one discipline).

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