

NFRF EXPLORATION 2020 INFORMATION SESSION

September 1, 2020



Outline

- NFRF Exploration 2020 information and resources
- Full application sections and review criteria
- Team
- Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+)
- Research Proposal
 - High Risk
 - High Reward
 - Interdisciplinarity
 - Feasibility
- References
- Team Bio
- Budget justification
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- SPARC support
- Q&A

SPARC support

- SPARC can review your full application
 - Note: we have capacity to provide only 1 review per application
 - Applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis
 - Please send documents for review to Sharon.Marsh@ubc.ca in Word format by Tuesday, October 13th
- Resources are available through the SPARC website (sparc.ubc.ca) – CWL log in is required
 - Resources include sample grants, and links to webinar recordings
 - Note: The previous 2 competitions had different formats, consequently the flow of sample grants may not be helpful, but some sections, e.g., EDI, may be very useful.
- Please check the UBC [Vancouver](#) and [Okanagan](#) ORS sites for important submission information and internal deadlines.

NFRF Exploration 2020 information and resources

- The goal of the Exploration stream is to inspire high risk, high reward and interdisciplinary research.
- Exploration stream grants support projects that:
 - bring disciplines together beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches;
 - propose to explore something new, which might fail; and
 - have the potential for significant impact

<https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2020/competition-concours-eng.aspx>

NFRF Exploration 2020 information and resources

- [NFRF Exploration homepage](#)
- [NFRF 2020 Exploration Competition homepage](#)
- [NFRF Convergence Portal](#)
- [NFRF 2020 Exploration Applicant and Subject Matter Eligibility](#)
- [NFRF 2020 Exploration Full Application Submission Guide](#)
- [NFRF 2020 Exploration Evaluation Matrices](#)
- [NFRF Best Practices in EDI in Research](#)
- [NFRF 2020 Exploration Instructions for Attachments](#)
- [SSHRC Indigenous Research Statement of Principles](#) and [SSHRC Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)
- [Status of Women Canada's information on GBA+](#) and [CIHR Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis \(SGBA\)](#)
- [Canadian Research and Development Classification](#)
- [NFRF 2020 Exploration Reviewer Manual](#)
- [NFRF 2020 Exploration FAQ](#)

NFRF Exploration 2020 information and resources

- Full application deadline: October 20 (check UBC [Vancouver](#) and [Okanagan](#) ORS for internal deadlines)
- Funding decision: March 31, 2021
- NOIs received nationally: 733
- Anticipated number funded: minimum of 100
- NOI information and summary are transferred over to the full application stage (summaries cannot be modified).

Full application sections and review criteria

- Research Proposal (4 page attachment, including figures and tables)
 - High Risk (40%)
 - High Reward (40%)
 - Interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)
 - Feasibility (20%)
- References (max. 5 page attachment)
- Budget (convergence portal)
- Budget justification (1 page attachment)
- GBA+ (yes/no; text box justification if “no”)
- EDI (pass/fail; text boxes in convergence portal)
- Team biographical section (2 page attachment, included in feasibility score)

Full application sections and review criteria

- If you fail either EDI or Interdisciplinarity, your application will fail.
- ALL SECTIONS except the team bio need to be anonymous – any with identifying information will be withdrawn from the competition.
- Attachments must be in size 11 Arial font, with 3/4” (1.87cm) margins all around, and page numbers.
- Attachments must be uploaded as pdf.

Full application sections and review criteria

- External reviewers (likely 3), will receive the NOI summary, GBA+ text box if applicable, research proposal, reference list, and budget justification
- They report on 4 criteria: high risk, high reward, interdisciplinarity and feasibility
- All sections of the NOI and full application, and the external reviewer reports are reviewed by the multidisciplinary panel (minimum 5 reviewers – 3 expert, 2 non-expert). They score all 5 criteria.

Full application sections and review criteria

- Scores are assigned according to the evaluation matrix, with in-between scores also allowed
- Feedback will be given to non-successful applications

Team composition

- Team must have an NPI and either a co-PI or at least 1 co-applicant.
- A co-PI is not required, you are only allowed up to 1 co-PI
- Number of co-applicants and collaborators is unlimited (but bear in mind feasibility)
- You can add/remove or change roles after the NOI stage (but must maintain minimum team requirement)
- To qualify as ECR application, both the NPI and co-PI need to be ECRs (if there is no co-PI, only the NPI needs to be an ECR)
- You can only be NPI, Co-PI, or co-applicant on 1 active NFRF Exploration grant or application at a time.
- Trainees can be collaborators but not if they are supervised by a member of the team.

GBA+

- Sex and gender as well as many other identifying factors, like race, ethnicity, religion, age, and mental or physical disability **must be integrated into the research design, when appropriate.**
- You must answer yes/no if GBA+ is incorporated into your research
- If “no” a 500 character justification text box will appear and you must state why GBA+ is not applicable (this text must not contain any identifying information)

Resources: [Status of Women Canada's information on GBA+](#) and [CIHR Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis \(SGBA\)](#)

Research Proposal

- Exploration grants support research that pushes boundaries into exciting new areas.
 - Researchers are encouraged to think “outside of the box,” undertake research that would defy current paradigms, and bring disciplines together in unexpected ways and from bold, innovative perspectives.
 - With the Exploration stream, there is recognition that innovation often carries risk; proposals for high-risk research projects that have the potential to deliver game-changing impacts are strongly encouraged.
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- <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2020/competition-concours-eng.aspx>

Research Proposal

- 4-page limit (including figures and tables)
- Should include:
 - High Risk
 - High Reward
 - Interdisciplinarity
 - Objectives
 - Feasibility (including GBA+ and/or Indigenous research if appropriate)
 - Methodology and design
 - Work plan and timelines
- Must not contain any identifying information
- Preliminary data not a requirement (if included, must word carefully - cannot identify self by stating “our publication”, etc.)

High Risk (40%)

High risk can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- proposing unique directions;
- challenging current research paradigms;
- enhancing understanding of complex and challenging issues;
- bringing new disciplines together with different perspectives, to use novel approaches for solving existing problems; and/or
- developing or adapting frameworks, methods and techniques.

High Risk (40%)

-	Exceptional	Very good
Unique directions	Develops a completely new theory.	Develops a novel concept that bridges theories established in different fields.
Challenging current paradigms	Aims to radically challenge accepted theories.	Aims to challenge accepted theories.
Enhancing our understanding	Aims to extraordinarily enhance our understanding of a complex and challenging issue and/or significantly enhance our understanding of multiple complex and challenging issues.	Aims to significantly enhance our understanding of a complex and challenging issue and/or notably enhance our understanding of multiple complex and challenging issues.

High Risk (40%)

Novel interdisciplinary approaches	<p>Is at the interface between disciplines, requiring a novel interdisciplinary approach (i.e., two or more disciplines that are not commonly combined).</p> <p>Goes beyond established approaches of any single discipline, bringing together disparate disciplines in new ways.</p>	<p>Crosses disciplinary boundaries and integrates approaches from two or more disciplines.</p>
Development or adaptation of methods and techniques	<p>Involves the development of novel methods or techniques.</p>	<p>Involves the adaptation of methods and techniques to a new field.</p>

High Reward (40%)

The potential for high reward balances the risk that projects might fail.

High reward can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- having an economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, technological or health impact;
- impacting and/or affecting large communities, or unique communities or subpopulations with the potential to provide lessons for other contexts;
- transforming and/or disrupting conventional thinking;
- resolving a longstanding issue or debate; and/or
- significantly advancing current knowledge, methods and/or technologies.

High Reward (40%)

-	Exceptional	Very good
Broad impact	Significant economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, technological or health impact.	Notable economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, technological or health impact.
Reach	Strong impact on a single or small number of unique communities or subpopulations, with lessons for other contexts, or strong impact on large or multiple communities.	Impact on a single or small number or unique communities or subpopulations, with lessons for others, or impact on large or multiple communities.
	Significantly impacts numerous fields or applications. Developed techniques/methodology will improve research in all integrated disciplines.	Impacts numerous fields or applications. Developed techniques/methodology will improve research in several integrated disciplines.

High Reward (40%)

Impact on research or the research community	Resolves a long-standing issue, debate or critical question or questions.	Contributes to resolving a long-standing issue, debate or critical question or questions.
	Opens a new area of discovery, or changes the direction of thought in a discipline or disciplines.	Identifies a new area for discovery, or challenges the direction of thought in a discipline or disciplines.
	Will lead to ground-breaking advancements in the area and/or significant advancements in current knowledge, methods and/or technologies.	Will lead to significant advancements in the area and/or advancements in current knowledge, methods and/or technologies.

Interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)

Interdisciplinarity

- Applications must clearly demonstrate that the proposal integrates approaches from at least 2 disciplines that do not traditionally collaborate together, or combines them in a novel way.
- The application must also explain why an interdisciplinary approach is required, and/or the added value this approach brings to the research problem.

Interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)

Criterion: Interdisciplinarity

Whether a project meets the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) program's expectations for interdisciplinarity can be defined by elements including, but not limited to, the following.

-	✓ Pass	✗ Fail
Novelty of perspective	Pushes the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, integrating two or more disciplines that are not commonly combined.	Proposes an interdisciplinary approach where there is a long tradition and/or established co-operation/collaboration/interaction between the disciplines.
Novelty of approach	Proposes the application or adaptation of frameworks/tools/methods/techniques from one discipline to solve a problem in another discipline. (This can also apply to projects where there is a history of collaboration between the disciplines.)	The proposed frameworks/tools/methods/techniques are already in use in or easily applied to the second disciplinary area, requiring little adaptation or development.
Project design	Designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.	The project is an interdisciplinary component "added on" to a more conventional project or program of research.
Other	-	The application did not adequately establish the interdisciplinary nature of the project.

Interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)

Interdisciplinarity subcriterion: Fit to Program

Fit to Program is a subcriterion of Interdisciplinarity.

-	✓ Pass	✗ Fail
Fit to Program	Proposes a project that pushes the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies, according to their mandates and existing suites of programs, as a result of its interdisciplinary approach and high-risk nature.	The scope of the proposed project (subject and approach) fits within the parameters of the mandate and existing suite of programs of one or more of the agencies.

All applications are assessed for Fit to Program and must receive a pass to be considered for funding.

Feasibility (20%)

While a focus on high risk may seem at odds with feasibility, risk must be related to the idea being proposed, and not to a lack of a concrete plan or inability to execute the activities.

Feasibility considers elements such as the:

- research problem being addressed;
- knowledge, expertise and capacity of the research team;
- current research in the field;
- workplan and timeline;
- proposed approach, including GBA+/SGBA where appropriate;
- project's engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis peoples (for Indigenous research), where appropriate; and
- suitability of the research environment.

Feasibility (20%)

-	Exceptional	Very good
Objectives	The proposed research project is clearly presented and objectives are clearly defined.	The proposed research project is presented adequately and objectives are sufficiently described.
Building on current knowledge or prior art	<p>The application demonstrates that the research team is aware of current and relevant research and prior art or knowledge.</p> <p>The proposed research may challenge paradigms, but is built off of sound principles.</p>	<p>The application demonstrates that the research team is aware of most current and relevant research, and prior art or knowledge.</p> <p>Knowledge of some developments might be lacking, but this does not impact the feasibility of the proposed research.</p>

Feasibility (20%)


Scored by multidisciplinary panel
only (team bio section)



Work plan	The proposed workplan, including methodological approach, is well described, reasonable and likely to be achievable within the proposed time frame.	The proposed work plan, including methodological approach, is described, reasonable and likely to be mostly achievable within the proposed time frame.
Research team	The application clearly demonstrates that the research team has the required expertise in all relevant disciplines to meet the objectives.	The application demonstrates that the research team likely has the required expertise in all relevant disciplines to help meet the objectives.

Feasibility (20%)

Mainly scored by multidisciplinary
panel (team bio section)



Resources	The research team has acquired or has concrete plans to acquire the necessary resources to complete the work. All aspects have been described.	The research team has acquired or has concrete plans to acquire the necessary resources to complete the work. Some aspects have not been well described.
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Feasibility (20%)

GBA+/SGBA	GBA+/SGBA has been integrated into the methodological approach (if applicable). The impact on the methodological approach and/or design has been clearly described.	GBA+/SGBA has been integrated into the methodological approach (if applicable). The impact on the methodological approach and/or design has been described.
Indigenous research	Active engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis peoples are present and clearly described.	Engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis peoples are present for Indigenous research and described.

References

- Maximum 5 page attachment
- No mandated citation/reference format
- Do not highlight team members or trainees in the reference list

Team biographical information (2-pages)

- This is the only section that can identify team members
- This is reviewed **only** by the multi-disciplinary panel and is used along with the research proposal section to determine the feasibility score
- Include an overview of the team backgrounds, and contributions to this project
- Explain how the team will be coordinated and integrated
- Do not include self-identifying information (gender, race, disability, etc.) unless it is directly relevant to the feasibility of the research (e.g., your research plan includes people with lived experience).

Budget

- In the Convergence Portal you will be asked to fill out a budget table with the total for year 1 (cannot exceed \$100K direct costs) and the total for year 2 (cannot exceed \$100K direct costs).
- 25% indirect costs/year need to be added in the table

Budget justification (1-page)

- Justify year 1 and year 2 costs
- Do not include any identifying information
- You must follow the [Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration](#)
- Indirect costs do not need to be justified
- In-kind contributions, resources, etc. can be mentioned here (but must not contain identifying information)

EDI (pass/fail)

- **EDI is a core element of the NFRF program.**
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate their commitment to EDI in their research teams, including among students, postdoctoral fellows, co-PIs, co-applicants and/or collaborators, as applicable. They must explain what actions they will take, the outcomes expected, and the assessment planned for each of the following 3 key areas:
 - Team composition and recruitment processes;
 - Training and development opportunities; and
 - Inclusion.

EDI (pass/fail)

- Actions taken are expected to remove barriers and provide opportunities for the meaningful integration of individuals from all groups, **including the 4 designated groups (women, Indigenous peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities).**
- An application must **not** include any personal information about members of the research team in the EDI section; the focus is on the team's commitment to EDI, not its EDI profile.
- For more information, see NFRF's [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research.](#)

EDI (pass/fail)

- In this section you can name UBC and your faculty/department
- This section cannot contain any other identifying information
- There are multiple text boxes in the Convergence Portal
- Do not copy/paste text from the NFRF EDI best practices guide
- Cannot use formatting for emphasis – suggest using capitals for section subheadings
- Suggest drafting in Word to confirm character counts before pasting completed sections into the text boxes.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

- ✓ Application Details
- ✓ Invitations
- ✓ Participants
- ✓ Collaborators
- ✓ Fields of Research
- ✓ Keywords
- ✓ Summary of Proposal
- ✓ Suggested Reviewers
- ✓ Reviewer Exclusions
- Proposed Budget
- GBA+
- Certifications, Licenses and Permits
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- Supporting Documents
- Finalize Application

60% Complete PDF view

Application ID:	NFRFE-2020-00896	Administering organization:	ZZZ-INTERNAL TESTING ENVIRONMENT
Applicant:	McTait, Christy	Funding opportunity:	New Frontiers in Research Fund - Exploration
Title:	testing		

Applications **must not** include any self-identifying information about members of the research team in the EDI section. The focus should be on the team's commitment to EDI and not on its EDI profile. See the program's [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research guide](#) for more details.

If relevant, information that reveals the affiliation of the team members (including departments, lab groups, etc.) may be included in this section.

Analysis of Context

The description should relate to the specific circumstances of your research team, environment, institution and/or field.

Explain your team's specific challenges in relation to EDI (required)

Maximum character count: 2500 | Characters remaining: 2500

Team Composition and Recruitment Process

Identify the best practices implemented (required)

Maximum character count: 250 | Characters remaining: 250

Explain the relevance, approach and expected impacts of the best practices implemented (required)

Maximum character count: 2500 | Characters remaining: 2500



Analysis of context: 2,500 characters



Team composition and recruitment best practices: 250 characters

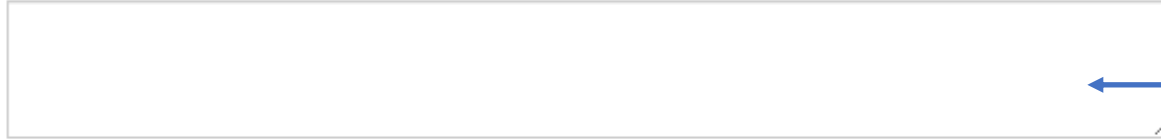


Relevance, approach and impact: 2,500 characters

Training and Development Opportunities

Identify the best practices applied (required)

Maximum character count: 250 | Characters remaining: 250



Training and Development Opportunities
best practices: 250 characters

Explain the relevance, approach and expected impacts of the best practices implemented (required)

Maximum character count: 2500 | Characters remaining: 2500



Relevance, approach and impact:
2,500 characters

Inclusion

Identify the best practices applied (required)


Maximum character count: 250 | Characters remaining: 250



Inclusion best practices:
250 characters

Explain the relevance, approach and expected impacts of the best practices implemented (required)

Maximum character count: 2500 | Characters remaining: 2500



Relevance, approach and impact:
2,500 characters

Save

EDI

-	✓ Pass	✗ Fail
Analysis of context	<p>Shows understanding of EDI considerations / systemic barriers in the context of the research team.</p> <p>Concrete and specific examples are cited in analysis.</p> <p>Demonstrates a strong commitment to EDI overall.</p>	<p>Analysis of context is generic and/or does not point to one or more systemic barriers.</p> <p>Evidence of commitment to EDI overall is lacking.</p>
Concrete practice for each area	<p>Lists at least one concrete practice that targets the specific context listed for each area.</p>	<p>A concrete practice is not listed for one or more of the areas, or the concrete practices listed are not related to the context that was described.</p>
Implementation	<p>Provides a description of how the concrete practice has been/will be realistically implemented.</p>	<p>Provides no or an unclear description of how the concrete practice will be implemented.</p> <p>The implementation plan is unrealistic.</p>
Impact	<p>Explains how the concrete practice will impact EDI, and how it will be measured.</p>	<p>Gives no indication of how the impact will be measured.</p> <p>Does not explain the anticipated impact of the concrete practice on EDI, or how it will be measured.</p>

EDI: Analysis of context (2,500 characters)

- Suggest subheadings pertaining to your Field, Institution, and Team
- Do NOT include numbers of your diverse team groups, do NOT name or otherwise identify anyone in your team
- Be honest – your field may have challenges with EDI – it is ok to discuss these
- Be specific – give concrete examples of EDI in the 3 subheadings
- UBC is a member of [Dimensions: EDI Canada](#) and was [selected as 1 of 17 pilot institutions](#)
- Check the [UBC EIO](#) for useful resources, e.g., faculty diversity and equity reports:
<https://academic.ubc.ca/vpa-initiatives/recruiting-supporting-top-faculty-students/faculty-equity-diversity-inclusion>

EDI sections

- Best practices (250 characters)
 - For each of the 3 sections, state at least 1 best practice (do not be overly ambitious, you only have 2 years).
- Relevance, approach, and impact (2,500 characters)
 - Break into subheadings
 - State the relevance of your best practice(s), how you will implement them, and how you will assess their impact. Only discuss the best practices you have listed
 - Be realistic – you only have 2 years.

Ideas...not prescriptive or exhaustive

- Team composition and recruitment:
 - Job ads with gender neutral language, advertised broadly
 - Unconscious bias training for interview panels
 - [UBC's Faculty Recruitment Guide](#) incorporates EDI considerations
- Training and Development Opportunities:
 - Mandate team EDI education and training (e.g., [EIO educational programming](#)); provide a formal plan, outlining team training, communication and team building strategies
 - Access to meetings, etc. taking into account people with care-giving responsibilities, daycare runs, etc.
- Inclusion:
 - Offer honest [Land Acknowledgements](#) at meetings/presentations
 - A confidential concerns reporting system with actionable outcomes (e.g., through EDI champion)

SPARC support reminder

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- Please check the UBC [Vancouver](#) and [Okanagan](#) ORS sites for important submission information and internal deadlines.

Q&A

- You can also email us with any questions:
UBC-Vancouver: sharon.marsh@ubc.ca
UBC-Okanagan: denise.maines@ubc.ca
- To ask NFRF competition related questions please email:
NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca
- For technical questions related to the convergence portal:
websupport@chairs-chaire.gc.ca