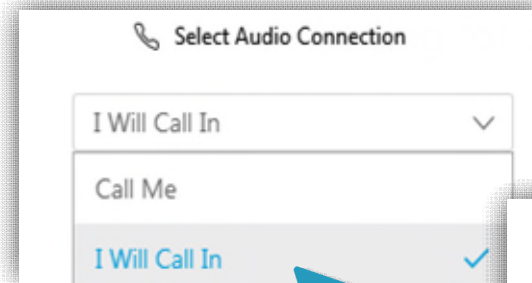


If you are experiencing **technical difficulties with the audio**, please connect with a **landline or cell phone**.

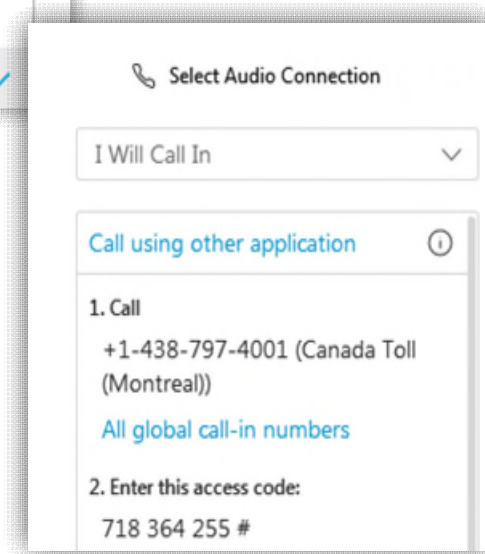
- Under “**Select Audio Connection**” choose one of the following:

1. “**Call Me**” or;
2. “**I Will Call In**”

1.
2.



- Follow the instructions
- Use the Q&A box for questions**





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

2021 Exploration Competition

Information Webinar

July 2021



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Overview

1. Important notes for the 2021 competition
2. Program description
3. Eligibility and roles
4. Review process
5. NOI requirements
6. Information for RGOs
7. Questions and resources

Important Notes for the 2021 Competition

2021 Exploration Competition

Two-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)
2. Full Application





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Program Description

2021 Exploration Competition



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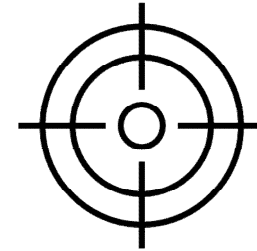
Program Description

Exploration Stream Objective

Goal: Inspire research that is **high risk, high reward**, and **interdisciplinary**.

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**.



Range of impacts:

Social, cultural, economic, health-related, technological, etc.

Proposals led from any discipline:

Social sciences and humanities, health, natural sciences and engineering.

Program Description

Value and Duration

Value → Up to \$125,000 per year (including indirect costs of up to 25% of direct costs)

Funds should be used primarily to support research activities, **not to acquire** or maintain infrastructure*

**Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration*

Duration → Up to 2 years

Number of grants → Minimum of 100 grants

A proportion of awards will be reserved for **Early Career Researchers (ECR)***

**Research interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are recognized as an eligible delay → New 2021*

Program Description

Competition Timeline

August 10, 2021
8:00 p.m. (eastern)

- NOI deadline

October 19, 2021
8:00 p.m. (eastern)

- Full Application deadline

March 7-11th, 2022

- Multidisciplinary review panel meeting

March 31, 2022

- Start date of awards

Program Description

High Risk



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.

Program Description

High Reward



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.

Program Description

Feasibility

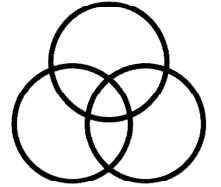


Feasibility considers elements such as the:

- 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 Metis peoples (for Indigenous research), where appropriate; and
- suitability of the research environment.

Program Description

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program

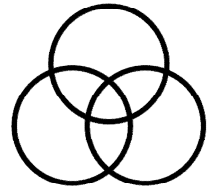


Interdisciplinarity requirements:

- at least two different disciplines (group-level classification of the Canada Research and Development Classification codes [CRDC](#)); and
- the onus is on the applicant to explain **the novelty** of the interdisciplinary approach to justify the fit to program.

Program Description

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program



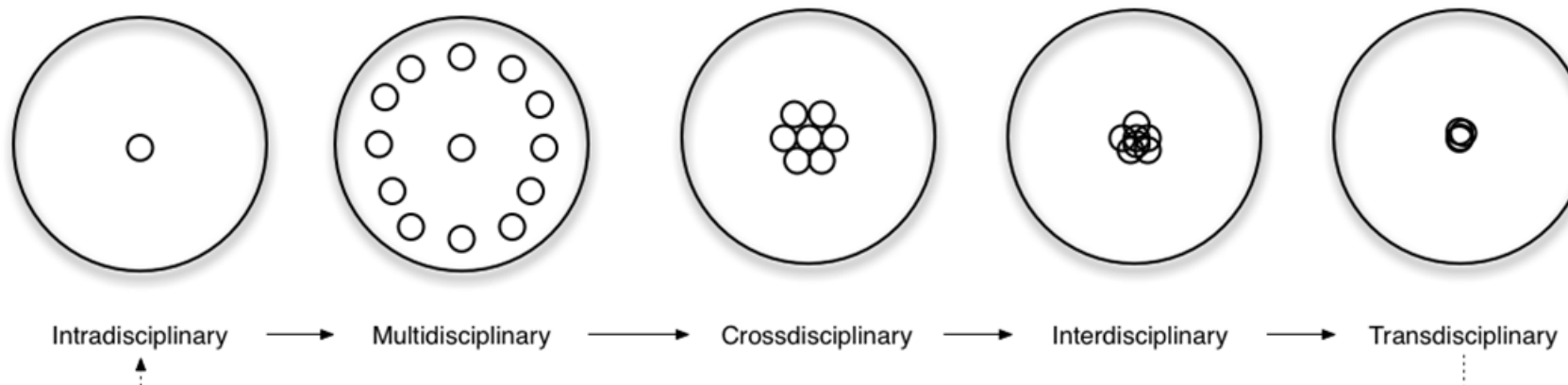
Interdisciplinarity can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- Novelty of the Perspective → integrating two or more disciplines not commonly combined.
- Novelty of the Approach → application or adaptation of frameworks/ tools/ methods/ techniques from one discipline to solve a problem in another discipline.
- Project Design → designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Fit to Program → pushes the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies.

Program Description

Disciplinarity: multi, inter and trans

- **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.
- **Transdisciplinary**: creating a unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives.

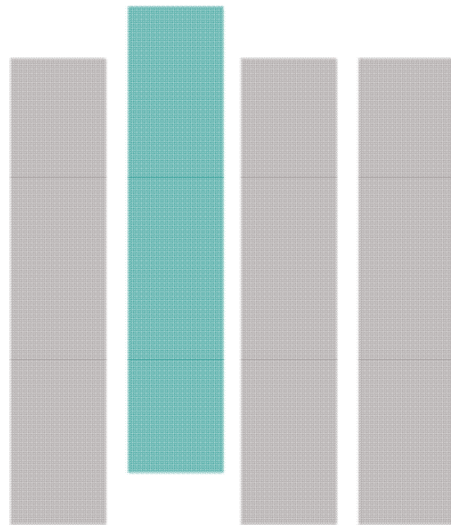


Program Description

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Teams

Multidisciplinary Teams

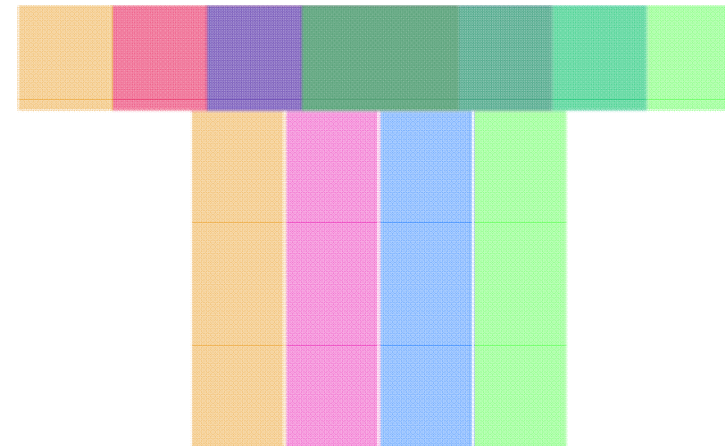
Each member operates as a part of a chain of responsibility



Members working in silo, by disciplines

Interdisciplinary Teams

Individuals from different fields are expected to contribute ideas to the entire project stack



Members listen and learn from others

Program Description

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

EDI is a core element of the NFRF program

3 key areas:

1. team composition and recruitment processes;
2. training and development opportunities; and
3. inclusion.

For each of the three key areas below, applicants must explain:

- ☐ what actions they will take;
- ☐ the outcomes expected; and
- ☐ the assessment planned.

Program Description

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Actions proposed are expected to:

- **remove barriers**; and
- **provide opportunities** for the meaningful integration of individuals from all groups, including the four designated groups (women, Indigenous peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities).

Refer to the
[NFRF Best Practices in
Equity, Diversity and
Inclusion in Research](#)



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Eligibility and Roles

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Eligibility and Roles

Project Team Eligibility

At least 2 participants:

- a nominated principal investigator (NPI) who is an [independent researcher](#) at an eligible institution

AND

- a co-principal investigator (co-PI), who must also be an [independent researcher](#)

OR

- a co-applicant (co-App), who may be an independent researcher **or** not

Eligibility and Roles

Team Roles

Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI)

- Responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed research activities.
- Completes the NOI and full application on [Convergence portal](#) and submits to their research administrator.
- Assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the grant.

Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI)

- Shares responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities
- May access grant funds

Co-Applicants (co-App)

- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Various backgrounds and affiliations
- May access grant funds

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who contributes to the project
- Cannot be supervised by the team
- Do not have access to grant funds

Eligibility and Roles

Project Team Eligibility

NPIs, co-PIs and co-Apps:

- **must not** be affiliated with a government or for-profit company; and
- can participate in **only one Exploration stream application or grant at one time.**

**Exploration grantees must submit their final report before the full application deadline of a subsequent competition to be eligible to apply.*

For a proposal to be considered led by early career researchers (ECRs), **both the NPI and co-PI** (if applicable) must be ECRs.

Refer to the [Eligibility](#) section of the Competition Overview

Eligibility and Roles

Exceptions

- **Federal government employee** and **adjunct professor** whose students are participating in the research project may be a co-applicant, with the use of funds limited to salaries or stipends and travel costs for the students.
- **Adjunct professor** whose contributions to the project do not fall within the mandate of their federal organization and will not be performed within the employer's facilities or with the employer's resources.
- **Individuals whose primary affiliation is with an Indigenous government** are eligible to be co-principal investigators (if they are considered to be an independent researcher), 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.



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Review Process

2021 Exploration Competition



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Review Process

Notice of Intent and Full Application

Notice of Intent (NOI) (Not adjudicated)

Purpose:

Used by staff to:

1. identify external reviewers; and
2. compose the multidisciplinary review panel.

Full Application

Purpose:

Used in the merit review process to identify the most meritorious applications to be recommended for funding by the multidisciplinary review panel.

Merit review process steps:

- Evaluation by external reviewers
- Adjudication by the Multidisciplinary Review panel

Review Process

External Review

External reviewers will evaluate the proposed project according to only 3 criteria → **New 2021**

- High risk
- High reward
- Feasibility

This process is **double-blinded** (i.e. the external reviewers are not provided information that identifies the research team, and vice versa).

The external reviewers will be provided with the following sections:

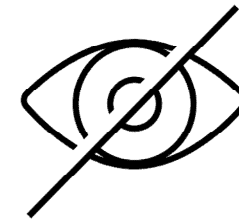
- NOI Stage: Summary of the Proposal
- Full Application stage:
 1. gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) section;
 2. research proposal;
 3. budget justification; and
 4. literature references.

Review Process

External Review

To ensure anonymity:

- Do **not include any identifying information about the team members** (e.g., names, previous work, research groups, departments, institutions or organizations) in these sections.
- When referring to prior research, use non-identifying statements (e.g., “article was published,” “research was conducted on,” etc.)



Review Process

Multidisciplinary Review Panel

Adjudication involves scoring according to the evaluation [matrices](#) for the selection criteria:

- equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) (pass/fail);
- interdisciplinarity / fit to program (pass/fail);
- high risk: 40% of overall score;
- high reward: 40% of overall score; et
- feasibility: 20% of overall score.

This is **not** a double-blind review process





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NOI Requirements

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NOI Requirements

NOI Requirements and Content

NOI Requirement

- The NPI must submit a NOI to be eligible to create and submit a full application.
- Completed profiles of at least two members.
- Additional members can be added at the full application stage.

NOI content

A completed NOI must include:

- application title;
- fields of research (CRDC codes);
- keywords; and
- summary of the proposal.

**Once submitted by the RGO, these fields are locked in for the rest of the competition*

NOI Requirements

Summary of the Proposal

Maximum 2,500 characters

Should:

1. include the objectives and summary of the research approach; and
2. highlight the novelty and expected significance of the work.

To ensure anonymity, do not include any identifying information that would identify the team members

Once submitted by the RGO, it cannot be modified



NOI Requirements

Suggesting External Reviewers

Be mindful of **conflicts of interest**

Identify appropriate **expertise**:

- Minimum of **3 experts** from **each primary research field**. → **New 2021**
- Ability to review with confidence (incl. language).
- Experts familiar with the various disciplinary approaches in the interdisciplinary project.

Consider **diversity** in your selection

- Canadian, international
- Private, government, public sectors
- Gender
- Under-represented groups
- Established, mid career, early career researchers

NOI Requirements

Collection of Personal Information

Collected for the purpose of program performance management

Self-ID data collected as part of the user profile is NOT shared with reviewers (or agency staff) and is not accessible by RGOs or any other users of the Convergence Portal

Please consult
[Data Collection policy](#)
for more information



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Information for RGOs

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Information for RGOs

RGO Role

RGOs can:

- view NOIs from NPIs at their institution (expired, in progress and submitted);
- return submitted NOIs to the NPI; and
- forward submitted NOIs to the agency.

Before forwarding an application to the agency, **you will be asked to confirm:**

- that the participants meet the eligibility requirements; and
- that the proposed research project meets the eligibility requirements.

Information for RGOs

RGO Role

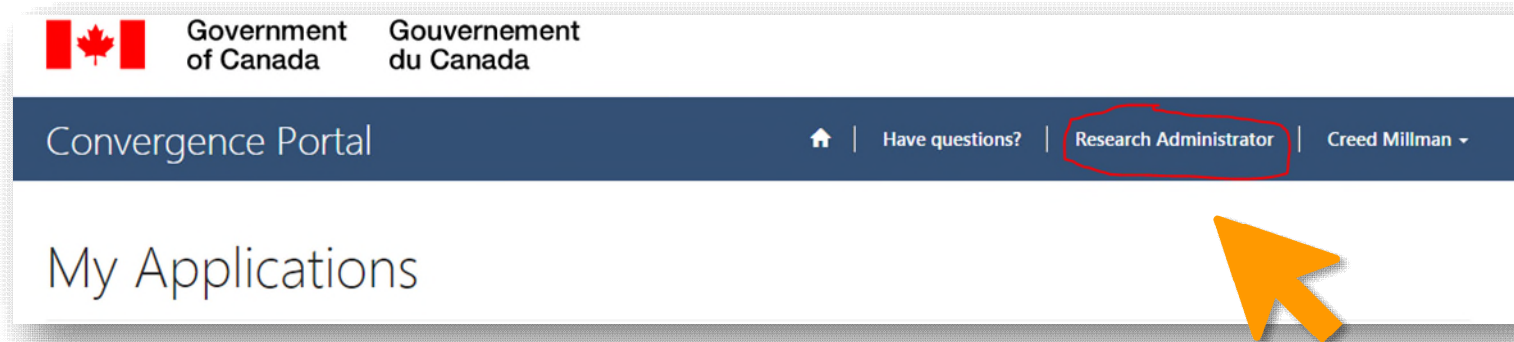
By forwarding the application, you will also be certifying, on behalf of the institution, that the NPI:

- is affiliated with the institution or organization;
- has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity; and
- will email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the partnership, such as the addition of new co-principal investigators, co-applicants or collaborators.

Information for RGOs

RGO Role

Use the “Research Administrator” button to access your institution’s applications



If you do not have this option, please contact websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

[NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough](#) (18:45)



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Questions and Resources

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Questions and resources

Questions?



Questions and resources

Resources

Contact Information

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

On-line Services Helpdesk

websupport@convergence.gc.ca

613-995-4273

Program Links

[NFRF Website](#)

[Competition Overview](#)

[Reviewer Manual](#)

[Evaluation Matrices](#)

Questions and resources

Video Capsule

[NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough](#)

