

International research opportunities offered by Canada's Natural Sciences and Humanities Research Council (NSERC)

September 12, 2016

Q&A



The recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

Additional information on Canadian programs open to EU researchers is available in the ERA-Can+ [Guide for Europeans to Canadian Science, Technology and Innovation Programs](#). Multilateral initiatives, funded by Canadian and European organisations, are presented in the [Guide for Canadians on Multilateral Cooperation with Europe](#).

1. Where can I find additional information on funding schemes that can be used by European researchers?

CREATE program description: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/CREATE-FONCER_eng.asp

NSERC projects database: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ase-oro/index_eng.asp

ERA-Can+ has also published a [Guide for Europeans to Canadian Science, Technology and Innovation Programs](#) to help European researchers and innovators identify and access opportunities for collaboration with their Canadian colleagues.

2. What are the general success rates for NSERC programs?

In 2013-2014, 12.5% (23/184) and in 2014-2015, 12% (24/196) of NSERC Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants were successful.

For Discovery Grants, success rates are approximately 65% for individual researchers.

Strategic Partnership Grants are larger, long term projects and the success rate is 25%-30%.

3. Is there a limit to the number of NSERC projects a Canadian researcher may apply to?

There is no limit to the number of applications a researcher can submit. However, peer reviewers will consider a researcher's ability to manage multiple grants when evaluating proposals. Some researchers can hold up to three grants at a time, such as Canada Research Chairs (CRC) managing Discovery Research Grants and other grants.

4. How do NSERC programs link with existing inter-council collaboration agreements, such as the joint Canada-UK MOU on Polar Research?

Canada and the UK collaborate actively on polar research and there is considerable existing collaboration in this area. There is no specific stand-alone program linked to this agreement, researchers apply to any NSERC program to fund their research on polar research.

5. Is there any project specifically oriented toward environmental conservation?

Environmental conservation is an area of interest for many researchers applying for NSERC grants. As NSERC's programs are open to any topic within the natural sciences and engineering, there are no programs targeting specific research areas. Any NSERC program can fund research in environmental conservation.

To find projects and people working on this topic, you can search the [NSERC Awards database](#) or the [Canada Research Chairs database](#).

6. Are there any visiting scientist programs?

International researchers can collaborate with Canadian academics through NSERC funded projects. Stipends are available for foreign visiting researchers, up to a limit of \$2,000 per month for a maximum of 125 days (not including travel and subsistence costs).

The [Canada Research Chairs](#) program is an attractive program for international researchers, which represent almost 10% of chairholders. Canadian universities both nominate Canada Research Chairs and administer their funds. It is important to forge a relationship with a Canadian university, as this process is institution-driven.

7. How can foreign researchers apply to do joint research with Canadian partners?

For NSERC funded projects, the lead needs to be a Canadian researcher and the European researcher would be considered a partner. In terms of direct funding beyond the stipend for visiting research partners, European researchers normally bring their own funds to a project. There are some bilateral programs with France and Germany under the [CREATE program](#), where funding is provided by NSERC for the Canadian research and by a partner organisation for the foreign researcher. Other NSERC programs are open to any research area and can be a good way to leverage funds from various sources and partners.



8. Does NSERC have any Canada-Slovenia program?

There are no specific Canada-Slovenia programs.

9. Will the ERA-Can+ project continue after September 2016?

The project itself ends on September 30, 2016 and activities will not continue. However, resources produced by ERA-Can+, such as webinars and guides for Canadian and European researchers, will remain available on the ERA-Can+ website.

Advancing Canada-EU collaboration in research and innovation will continue through other avenues. The Canadian government and the European Commission will continue to hold the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee on a regular basis to discuss key areas for research collaboration between Canada and the EU.