Applying to NSERC’s Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) Program

Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) grants foster and enhance the discovery, innovation and training capability of university researchers in the natural sciences and engineering by supporting the purchase of research equipment and installations.

- Equipment cost between $7,000 and $250,000
- The maximum NSERC will contribute is $150,000; for equipment over $150,000 funding must be secured from other sources (up to a maximum cost of $250,000)
- NSERC will pay a portion of all applicable taxes as well as shipping and handling expenses, as long as the request from NSERC does not exceed $150,000

NSERC RTI is a quota-based program. In order to put forward the highest quality applications for this year’s RTI competition, Western will be accepting pre-applications for review to recommend the applications going forward to NSERC.

Western University’s RTI quota has not yet been announced. The quota for 2015-16 was 25 applications.

### Dates at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 27, 2016 at 5 PM</td>
<td>Notice of Intent Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- All Western applicants must submit an NOI to <a href="mailto:researchoffice@uwo.ca">researchoffice@uwo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- NOIs will be for administrative use only and will not be assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 2016 at 5PM</td>
<td>Pre-Application Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- All Western applicants must submit a pre-application and a Common CV for all applicants/co-applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- All pre-applications with CCVs will be submitted to <a href="mailto:researchoffice@uwo.ca">researchoffice@uwo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Western Internal Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- All pre-applications will be reviewed by an expert panel and recommendations made to Western’s Core Planning Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Applicants will be notified by September 30, 2016 to confirm whether they were selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14, 2016 at 5PM</td>
<td>Western Application + ROLA Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Selected applicants will be required to complete a ROLA proposal and;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Email the complete PDF application (exported from the Research Portal) to <a href="mailto:researchoffice@uwo.ca">researchoffice@uwo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25, 2016 at 2PM</td>
<td>NSERC Submission Deadline at 2PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Important Announcements

- Selected applicants will submit through the NSERC Research Portal
- The Common CV is mandatory for all RTI applicants and co-applicants
- Applicants and co-applicants must hold NSERC funding
NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI)

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, applicants and all co-applicants must currently hold, or be applying for/renewing, one of the following NSERC Research Grants: Discovery Grant, Strategic Partnership Grant, Collaborative Research and Development Grant, or NSERC-funded Canada Research Chair/Canada Excellence Research Chair.

Please see the guidelines for the RTI competition available online.

Western Pre-Application Checklist

Submit your Pre-Application to researchoffice@uwo.ca by September 1, 2016 at 5PM.

- Applicant Department and Faculty Identified
- All co-applicant Department/Faculty and Institution(s) Identified
- Proposal Summary and Budget Justification (2 page minimum, 4 page maximum)
- Common CV for applicant and all co-applicants

NSERC RTI Evaluation

Each reviewer assigns a numerical value using a flat forced rating from 1 to 10. Rankings are then determined by average (ties are broken by median, standard deviation, and so on). NSERC RTI applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

**Excellence of the applicant(s)**
- Scientific or engineering calibre of the applicant and major users
- Extent to which the applicant or the group has relevant experience and demonstrated ability to fully use the equipment

**Merit of the proposed research program(s)**
- Overall quality of the research programs of proposed user(s)
- Feasibility of the research program(s)
- Potential for major advances in the discipline

**Need and urgency**
- Impact of a delay in the acquisition of the equipment
- Potential for new equipment to move the research forward or help to launch new research directions
- Impact on progress of research by lack of access to new equipment
- Limitations in accessing existing equipment
- Availability of other facilities/services in the vicinity
- Institutional infrastructure limitations
- Need to upgrade or replace obsolete or failed equipment

**Suitability of the proposed equipment**
- Suitability of equipment for multi-user applications (if applicable)
- Necessity of equipment to do the work
- Probability of utilization or accessibility of outside users
- Capability of applicant(s) to utilize equipment
- Accessibility of equipment (location & availability of technical support)

**Impact on HQP Training**
- Importance of the equipment for training
- Quality and extent of training
- Training received could be a marketable skill for HQP
- Opportunities for hands-on training