

New Frontiers in Research Fund 2020 Exploration Competition

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



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2020 Exploration Competition

How to prepare a Notification of Intent to Apply

July 2020



Government
of Canada

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du Canada

Canada



SSHRC  CRSH





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Outline

- New for the 2020 competition
- Program description
- Eligibility and Roles
- Competition stages and timeline
- Review process
- NOI requirements

Information for RGOs

- Role
- Access on Convergence Portal

New for the 2020 Competition

- Two-stage competition:
 - notice of intent to apply (NOI)
 - full application
- Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration:
 - general guidelines for eligibility of expenses
 - use of funds related to the direct costs of research
 - exceptions noted in the Competition Overview.



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New Frontiers in Research Fund

Exploration Stream

- Goal: to inspire research that is **high risk, high reward, and interdisciplinary**
 - pushes boundaries into exciting new areas
 - outside the box
 - defy current paradigms
 - bring disciplines together in unexpected ways and from bold, innovative perspectives
 - potential to deliver game-changing impacts



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New Frontiers in Research Fund

Exploration Stream

- Supports 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



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.



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.



Feasibility

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

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to program

- Interdisciplinarity requirement:
 - at least 2 different disciplines (group-level classification of the [CRDC](#))

the onus is on the applicant to explain the **novelty of the interdisciplinary approach** to justify the fit to program
- Interdisciplinarity can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:
 - Novelty of the Perspective
 - ✓ integrating two or more disciplines that are 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
 - ✓ a project that pushes the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

- EDI is a core element of the NFRF program; applicants must clearly demonstrate their commitment to EDI

- For each of these three key areas, applicants must explain :

1. team composition and recruitment processes;
 2. training and development opportunities; and
 3. inclusion.
- what actions they will take,
 - the outcomes expected, and
 - the assessment planned

- 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).

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



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
- Duration: up to 2 years
- Minimum of 100 grants
 - a proportion of awards will be reserved for ECRs



Project Team Eligibility

- At least 2 participants
 - nominated principal investigator (NPI) who is an [independent researcher](#) at an eligible institution; **and**
 - co-principal investigator (co-PI), who must also be considered an [independent researcher](#)
 - **or** a co-applicant (co-App), who may be independent researchers. Or may be, but are not limited to, practitioners, policy-makers, educators, decision-makers, health-care administrators, Indigenous elders, Indigenous knowledge keepers, community leaders, or individuals working for a charity.



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Project Team Eligibility

- NPIs, co-PIs and co-Apps:
 - must not be affiliated with a government or for-profit company
 - 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

Project Team Eligibility

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
- Federal government employee and 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 may be a co-PI or co-applicant
- 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.



Project Team Eligibility

- 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 for more details



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Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI)

NPI role

- 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

Roles

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

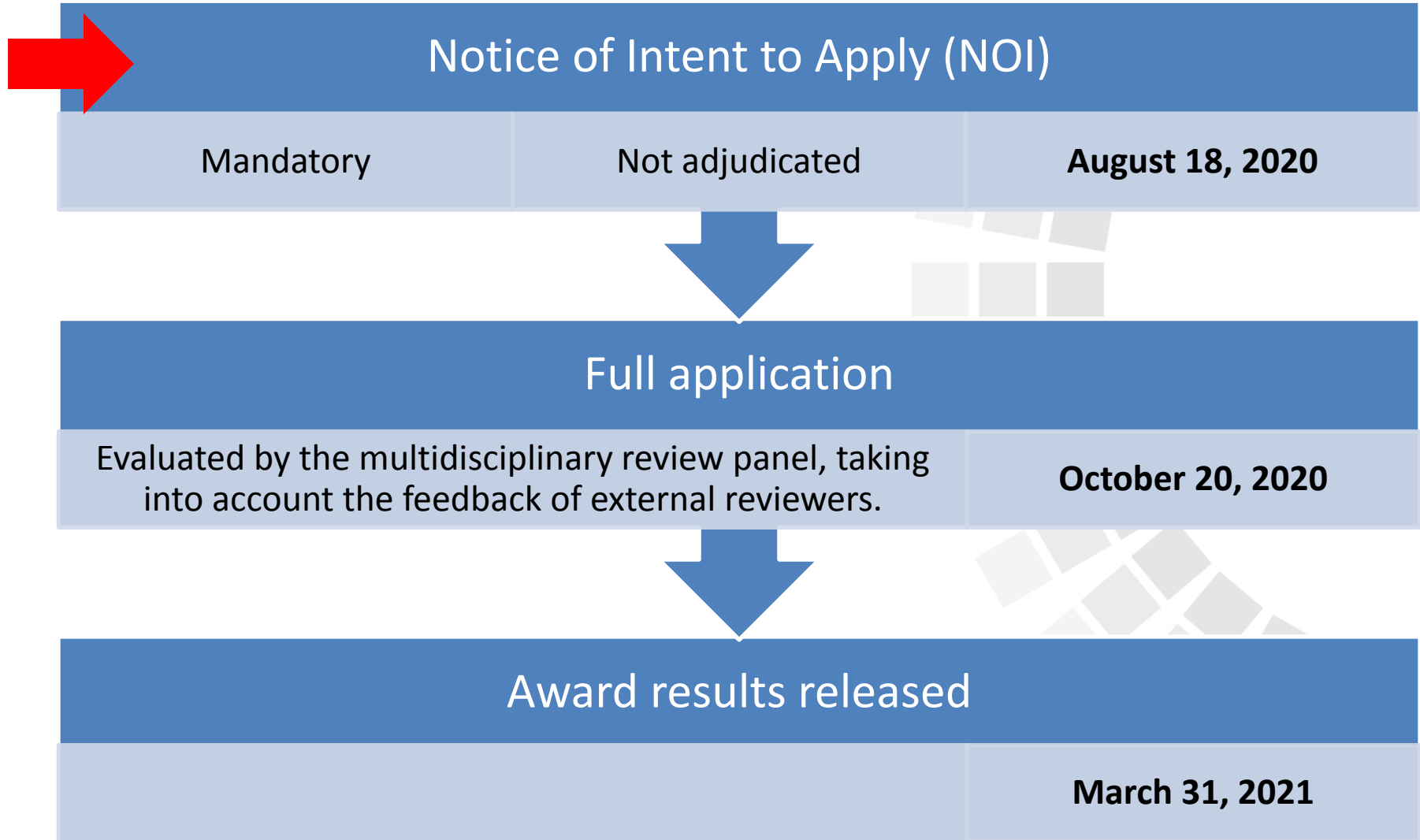
Collaborators

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



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Competition Stages





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Review process - NOI

- Not adjudicated
- Purpose:
 - identifying external reviewers
 - composing the multidisciplinary review panel

Review Process – Full Application

- Purpose:
 - to identify the most meritorious applications to be recommended for funding by the multidisciplinary review panel.
- Merit review process steps:
 - Evaluation by the External reviewers
 - Adjudication by the Multidisciplinary Review panel



External Review

- External reviewers will evaluate the proposed project according to the criteria:
 - high risk,
 - high reward,
 - interdisciplinarity and
 - feasibility

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



External Review

- The external reviewers will be provided with the following sections:
 - NOI Stage: Summary of the Proposal
 - Full Application stage:
 - gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) section
 - research proposal
 - budget justification
 - literature references
- 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.).



Multidisciplinary Review Panel

- Adjudication by the Multidisciplinary Review Panel and scored according to the [merit indicator 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
 - feasibility: 20% of overall score
- This is not a double-blind review process

NOI stage

- The NPI must submit a NOI to be eligible to create and submit a full application

NOI deadline for submission to NFRF

August 18, 2020

Check with your RGO for internal deadlines

NOI Requirements

- Completed profiles of at least two members*
 - Additional members can be added at the full application stage
- Completed NOI content including: 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.



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Summary of the proposal

- Maximum 2,500 characters
- Should:
 - include the objectives and summary of the research approach; and
 - highlight the novelty and expected significance of the work
- **Must not include any identifying information about the team members**
- Once submitted by the RGO, it cannot be modified.



Suggesting External Reviewers

- Be mindful of **conflicts of interest**
- Identify appropriate **expertise**
 - Ability to review with confidence (incl. language)
 - Experts familiar with the various disciplinary approaches in the interdisciplinary project



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Suggesting External Reviewers

- Consider **diversity** in your selection
 - Canadian, international
 - Private, government, public sectors
 - Gender
 - Under-represented groups
 - Established, mid career, early career researchers

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



RGO Role

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



RGO Role

- Before forwarding an application to the agency, you will be asked to confirm:
 - that the participants meet the eligibility requirements
 - that the proposed research project meets the eligibility requirements

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
 - will email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.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



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RGO Role

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

Français



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Convergence Portal



Have questions?

Research Administrator

Creed Millman ▾

My Applications

Please note: Submission deadline dates and times are presented in local time.

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



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Question to All participants

- Would you like a webinar presentation on how to complete and submit the NOI on the Convergence portal?
 - If there is enough interest, we can provide the Convergence walk through webinar as early as next week.
 - Let us know through the Q&A on webex by typing yes or no for the convergence webinar.



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THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Resources

NFRF contact	NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca
Internal Deadlines	Your institution's Research Grants Office / RGO
NFRF website	
Competition overview	
On-line Services Helpdesk	E-mail: websupport@chairs-chaire.gc.ca Telephone: 613-995-4273