NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) information session

Andrea Craig, Research Grants Officer (NSERC)
E3 – 262 E.I.T.C. (Senate Chamber)
7 September 2016, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session objectives

• Steps to creating an application
• Details about the program and application requirements
• Tips and best practices for success

Caveat!

NSERC does not provide reviewer comments or feedback on RTI proposals.
What does RTI support?

• Preferentially supportive of NSE research
• Purchase, repair, upgrade, fabrication
• Equipment requests between $7k - $150k

FAQ

• Computers?
• Equipment that supports health research?
What are the parameters?

- **General eligibility**
  - PI and Co-I(s) must each currently hold or be applying for one of the following at the time of application:
    - Discovery
    - Strategic partnerships
    - CRD
    - Canada Research Chair
    - Canada Excellence Research Chair
- UManitoba’s application quota (21)
- No limit to how many one person can apply for as PI or Co-I
RTI Statistics by Competition
UM Success Rates, 2010-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>UM %</th>
<th>National %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Legend:
- UM %
- National %
Successful requests and major program criteria

• Excellence of applicant(s)
• Need and urgency
• Merit of program(s) supported
  – Potential for research advances
  – Impact on program
• Importance to training
Creating the application

• Before you begin:
  – Minimum: NSERC Portal ID, CCV, quotation(s)
  – Maybe: letter confirming contribution, Faculty contribution commitment

• Read/review the detailed guidelines:
Create Application in Portal
Application Requirements

• ‘Textbox sections’: character-limited, no attachments
  – Basic formatting available
  – Cut and paste available

• Attachments: size- or page-limited
Co-Applicants

• Only major (frequent) users

• Each invited co-applicant is responsible for:
  – Populating relevant textboxes
  – Uploading a CCV
  – Validating and submitting to the PI

• Co-applicants from other institutions must advise their Research Services (or equivalent)
Application Specifics

Textbox sections
• Identification (title, EG group)
• Summary
• Budget (“Proposed expenditures”)
  • Relationship to Other Research Support
  • Past contributions to HQP training
  • Most significant contributions
  • Additional information on contributions
• Activity details (ethics)
• Eligibility profile
Application Specifics: Sections you may have completed elsewhere

- Relationship to Other Research Support
  “If you have received or applied for funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), provide details on how the money was or will be spent”

- Past contributions to HQP training
- Most significant contributions

- Additional information on contributions
Application Specifics

Attachments

• Proposal (3 pages)
• Budget justification (2 pages)
• 2 quotations
  – 1, if justified
• Confirmation of Financial Contribution (this is optional and for support sources outside of UManitoba)
Proposal: EXCELLENCE OF RESEARCHER(S)

• Description of research program(s)
• Clear plans
• Training of HQP
  – Extent and quality of training
• Experience with this eq, or similar eq
  – ability to make full use
Proposal:
MERIT OF PROGRAM(S) SUPPORTED

• Describe the program(s) to be supported by the requested eq
  – Identify potential for major advances

• Describe eq and reasons for configuration proposed
  – *favour program description* over too-elaborate eq description
  – Eq requested should clearly support program objectives
Proposal: NEED and URGENCY

Need:

• *Avoid* implying/stating that you cannot undertake your program without the eq
  – NSERC wants to *advance and propel* research
  – Especially risky if applying concurrently to DG

• *Availability* of similar eq
  – Accessibility
  – Do your homework!
Proposal: NEED and URGENCY

Urgency:

• *Impact* of delay
  – On your program, on co-applicant’s program(s)
  – On the training of HQP (yours, co-applicants’)
    • Theses
    • Other missed opportunities

• Replacement of obsolete/failing eq

• Upgrade of existing eq
Proposal: TRAINING IMPACT AND POTENTIAL

- Don’t overlook or underestimate this point
- Your plans to train HQP reflect on other major program criteria (researcher excellence, program merit)
- Fully describe training opportunities with the eq
  - Quality and extent
  - Opportunity for hands-on experience?
Proposal:
TRAINING IMPACT AND POTENTIAL

• Impact on HQP if you are *awarded*
  – Marketable skills
  – Increased breadth of experience
  – Skills to build upon

• Impact on HQP if you are *not awarded*
  – Limited opportunities
  – Good research, but with less impact
Budget Justification

• Not a duplicate of proposal section where you provide reasons for configuration

• Detailed explanation for each budget item
  – Breakdown of items
  – Get technical

• Discuss your quotes
  – Why you favour one over the other
  – Why you have only provided one quote
  – Eq that costs <$25k does not need a quote*
Summary (Textbox section)

• Easiest to write last
• Write it for your neighbor
• Describe:
  – What you’re asking for
  – What will it be used for
  – Why and to whom the activities it supports are important
  – The anticipated outcomes and benefits of these activities to your field/Canada
Finalizing

• Obtain CCV confirmation number and upload your CCV

• Validate everything

• Prior to 12 September: Export to PDF

• As invited applicant: Submit (Submits to RGO/ORS)
Any questions, any time:
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