NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) information session

Andrea Craig, Research Grants Officer (NSERC)
ORS Boardroom, 540 Machray Hall
12 September 2017, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Session overview/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.
Program Changes 2017

• Researchers may submit one RTI application per competition, either as an applicant or a co-applicant, but not both (not including SAP)

• Simpler forms for PI and Co-I

• Proposal page limit increase (from 3 to 4)

• Applicants should strive for diversity and increased gender equity when developing their group of co-applicants, collaborators and trainees
Eligibility

• Limit of one RTI application per competition,

• PI (and any Co-Is) must each currently hold or be applying for:
  o Discovery Grant
  o Discovery Development Grant*
  o Strategic Partnerships Grants
  o Collaborative Research and Development Grants
  o Canada Research Chairs, or Canada Excellence Research Chairs
What does RTI support?

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

FAQ

- Computers? Yes but…
- Equipment that supports health research? Yes but…
RTI Statistics by Competition, 2010-2016
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
- Suitability
- Importance to training
Creating the application

• Before you begin:
  - **Minimum**: NSERC Portal ID, CCV
  - **Good Idea to Have**: quote(s), communication with co-applicants
  - **Maybe**: letter confirming contribution, Faculty contribution commitment

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

1. Go to the Research Portal and sign in with your credentials.
2. Click on "Create Application" under the "Profile - Institution Administration" section.
3. Select the funding opportunity and click "Create" to submit your application.
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
• Reminder: diversity & gender equity
• Each invited co-applicant is responsible for:
  o Consenting to T&C
  o Completing eligibility profile
  o Estimating hours to be devoted to equipment per month
  o Uploading a CCV
  o 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”)
• Activity details (ethics)
• Eligibility profile
Application Specifics

Attachments

• Proposal (4 pages)
• Budget justification (2 pages)
  o Include “Relationship to Other Research Support” – including those of co-applicants - as relates to the purchase of the requested equipment
• 2 quotations
  o 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 (tech. details in Justification)
  – 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: SUITABILITY

• For multi-user applications: eq is suitable for facility and desired applications
• Eq is essential to do the work; no other more cost-effective ways to obtain results
• Degree of utilization (by applicants, others)
• Capability of applicants to utilize eq fully
• Accessibility (location, tech support)
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

• Quality and extent of training

• Opportunity for hands-on training
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 (co-applicants too)
Finalizing – UManitoba steps

For ORS Internal Deadline 11 October 2017:

- Complete a FAAF for your NSERC RTI application, obtain all signatures
  - Co-apps at UM must sign but their dept/fac doesn’t need to
- Submit (Submits to RGO/ORS)
- Email FAAF to Andrea Craig: (andrea.craig@umanitoba.ca)
- Application will be Returned to you so you can edit it; feedback given ASAP
- Submit again no later than noon, 25 October 2017
RTI Program Resources

- General Program Information:

- Specific Instructions:

- 2017-2018 Peer Review Manual:

- Frequently Asked Questions:
Any questions, any time:
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