Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program

Information session for prospective applicants

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Welcome

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- Program Officers:
  - Guy Faubert (pre-award)
  - Mwamba Chibamba
    & Naomi Boisvert (post-award)
- Program Assistant:
  - Valerie Bloom

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1. Program Overview
Program overview

Program objectives

CREATE supports the training and mentoring of students and postdoctoral fellows from Canada and abroad through the development of innovative training programs that:

• Encourage collaborative and integrative approaches that address significant scientific challenges

• Facilitate the transition of new researchers from trainees to productive employees in the Canadian workforce
Program overview

Program objectives

CREATE encourages

- Enriched training and mentoring experiences
- Improved job readiness
- Professional skills development
- Industrial collaboration
- Student mobility
- Interdisciplinary research
Program overview

Program objectives

Qualities of successful CREATE Initiatives

• Innovative nature

• Rich training and mentoring environment

• Strong delivery of professional skills along with mechanisms to ensure all trainees fully benefit and participate

• Capacity to raise the standard for best practices in training and mentoring

• Diversity of research team and trainees

• Promoting collaboration and international awareness
Program overview

Value of grant

• Year 1: Normally, $150,000 (± $50,000)

• Years 2 – 6: Normally, $300,000 (± $50,000) per year

• Total: up to $1,650,000 over 6 years

• Non renewable

• Start Date: April 1 default or Sep 1 by request
Program overview

Expectations

• Year 3-6 funding is dependent on positive performance evaluations by NSERC.

• 2 progress reports and a final report are required.

• Must demonstrate that proposed objectives, training elements (especially professional skills), HQP targets, EDI actions, etc., are being met.

• i.e., applicants are held accountable and must follow through on what is promised in the proposals.
Program overview

Allowable expenses

• At least 80% to trainee stipends
  • Up to 30% of this may go toward non-NSE trainees
• Remaining 20% may be used for...
  • Trainee travel (conferences, exchanges, internships, etc).
  • Training program administration (e.g. salary of program coordinator)
  • Dissemination of training materials
  • etc.
• Note that travel costs of the applicants, co-applicants, collaborators, program committee members, and project coordinators are not eligible.
Program overview

Trainee stipends

- No minimum or maximum

- May be complemented by other sources
  - Supervisors
  - Collaborators
  - Scholarships

- A stipend from CREATE is not a requirement for trainee participation in the initiative

- Emphasis of the initiative must be on graduate students, but undergraduate and postdoctoral trainees may also be supported
Program overview

Teams leading CREATE Initiatives

- A complementary group of researchers
- From eligible Canadian universities
- For multi-university applications: must have at least one co-applicant involved for trainees at that institution to be eligible to receive CREATE stipends
- Work collaboratively to offer a defined training program to a group of trainees
Program overview

Teams leading CREATE Initiatives

• Lead applicant must be from an NSERC-supported field at an **NSERC-eligible university**

• At least **70%** of the group must be in NSE
  (co-applicants may be from other fields)

• A researcher can be involved in a maximum of two initiatives at any given time and a maximum of one as an applicant
Program overview

Program committee

• Program committee (PC) consists of a variety of stakeholders, e.g.
  • Potential future employers of graduates, collaborators, curriculum developers, trainees
• Program evaluation and guidance
• Refer to the program committee guidelines webpage for more information
Program overview

Covid-19

• Applicants should discuss the Covid-19 impacts and mitigation strategies (Letter of Intent and application).

• Please refer to NSERC’s Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on research: NEW guidelines for NSERC’s community webpage for more information.
Program Overview

Equity, diversity and inclusion

CREATE initiatives are expected to increase the inclusion and advancement of under-represented and disadvantaged groups in the natural sciences and engineering as one way to enhance excellence in research and training.

- Team
- Program Committee
- HQP
- Guide for Applicants: Considering equity, diversity and inclusion in your application
Program overview

Streams

- **Regular stream** may involve any collaborations: academic/government/industry/NGO, Canadian/international

- **International Stream** Germany’s DFG-IRTG for collaboration with German researchers. Funding aligned with DFG-IRTG program duration: up to 9 years instead of 6 years for regular or industrial stream CREATE (same grant value). Contact NSERC for more information.

- **Industrial stream** requires industrial participation

- Applications to the DFG-IRTG and Industrial streams are not evaluated separately from the regular stream applications
Program overview

Industrial Stream

Up to 50% of the CREATE grants will be awarded to industrial stream applications.

- Increased emphasis on preparing trainees for non-academic careers; enhanced academic-industrial collaboration
- Requires participation of at least one industrial collaborator on the program committee
- Requires industrial internships for trainees of 3-4 months for M.Sc. and 7-8 months for Ph.D.
- The industrial internship is not mandatory for postdoctoral fellows; however, it is encouraged. The recommended duration is a minimum of 20% of their fellowship (e.g., 4 months).
Program overview

Industrial collaborators

• Canadian-based businesses, able to exploit the research results for the economic benefit of Canada.

• International companies eligible if activities related to the proposed research take place in Canada (e.g. R&D, manufacturing); if their participation will result in a benefit to Canada.

• Due to conflict of interest considerations, trainee internships at companies owned wholly or in part by the applicant or by a co-applicant are prohibited.
2. Application Procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent (LOI)
Phase 2: Application (if invited)
Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Selection process & criteria

1. Internal selection at university (quota based)
2. CREATE Selection Committee
   - Merit of proposed training program (60%)
   - Excellence of the team of researchers (40%)
Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Form 187: Letter of Intent to Apply for a CREATE grant

- List co-applicants (min 1, max 10)
- Collaborators
- External Reviewers suggestions (8)
  - Including 2 from Canada and at least one from abroad
  - LOIs are NOT sent for external review
Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

- Personal Data Form (Form 100) – applicant only
- Letter from VP Research of the lead university
Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Outline of Training Program (max 2 pages)

- Objectives, novelty, how trainees would be better prepared for careers, involvement of stakeholders, description of potential future employers, assessment of job prospects for trainees, and Covid-19

- One additional page for:
  - Previous CREATE grantees and co-grantees must clearly describe how this application differs from those previously funded.
  - Researchers who are applying in a research area already supported by other active CREATE grants must clearly describe how this application differs from those already funded.
Application procedures

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Excellence of Proposed Team (max 3 pages)

- Complementarities
- Expertise
- Roles, responsibilities
- Training and mentoring experience

EDI should be considered
Application procedures

Phase 2: Full application (only if invited)

Selection process & criteria

- Merit of proposed training program (50%)
- Excellence of the research team (25%)
- Program management and sustainability (25%)
Application procedures

Phase 2: full application

- Personal data form (Form 100) for the applicant
- Personal data form (Form 100) or CCV for all co-applicants (max 10)
- One letter from the lead applicant’s university
  - Support, financial commitments
- Up to 3 letters from collaborators, if applicable
  - Nature of support
Application procedures

Phase 2: Full application

Form 102 – Application for a CREATE grant

- Application profile
- Plain language summary of proposal
- Co-applicants and collaborators
- Proposed expenditures
Application procedures

Phase 2: Full application

Research training program proposal

• Free-form, 14 pages + 1 page for references
• Objectives
• Elements of the training program
• Estimated number of trainees
• Job prospects
• Program Committee
• List of deliverables
• Covid-19
Application procedures

Phase 2: Full application

- Budget justification (free form, 2 pages)
- Support from other sources (free form, 2 pages)
- Maximum 1 Letter of support from lead university:
  - List of all contributions from the university
  - Describe the details of support
  - Involvement in the training program
  - Plans to ensure sustainability
Application procedures

Additional requirements for industrial stream applications

• Skills identified as needed for a career in industry
• Description of improved job-readiness for industry sector
• Details about trainee internships
• Confirmation that all graduate trainees will complete an industrial internship of the minimum duration
Application procedures

Additional application requirements for industrial stream

Letter of Intent (phase 1)

- ONE e-mail/letter from industry partner confirming:
  - Willingness to participate on the program committee
  - Intent to host internships
  - A support letter can come from an industry consortium, but it is preferable that one or two companies confirm their support. A formal commitment from individual companies will be required at the application phase.
Application procedures

Additional application requirements for industrial stream

Application (phase 2)

• Max 3 letter(s) from industry partner(s) confirming
  • Commitment to participate on the program committee, with confirmed name of the industrial member
  • Commitment to host trainee internships of at least 3-4 months for M.Sc. And 7-8 months for Ph.D. Agreements must be in place and should be guaranteed (may be dependent on success of application).
3. Competition statistics and other information
## Competition Statistics

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Other information

Important Dates

- March/April 2021: Letter of Intent deadline (Univ.)
- May 1, 2021: Letter of Intent deadline (NSERC)
- June 30, 2021: Invitation to submit an application
- September 22, 2021: Application deadline (NSERC)
- March 2022: Notification of results
CREATE Program description:
Other information

More Information

- Program description
- FAQ
- Your university’s research grant office
- The NSERC CREATE Team
  - E-mail: CREATE@nserc-crsng.gc.ca