

'QUESTION13:04 : Kalinga Jagoda : Could you please provide examples for interdisciplinary for PI from business/management?

'REPLY13:04 : Pierre Duchesne : It is difficult to provide an answer that is specific to your discipline. The presentation should help

'REPLY13:04 : you can refer to the CRDC codes that define the various disciplines of research <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects/standard/crdc/2020v2> Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) 2020 Version

'QUESTION13:06 : Tony : My project will use data already collected from police reports about people who go missing (dementia). Important to mention that data are already collected, we will nt collect primary data as part of the project. In the section Certification Requirements. should I check the Human subjects box or None of the above?

'REPLY13:07 : Samira Imran : please send us an email where we can better assist you [FNFR-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca](mailto:FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca)

'QUESTION13:08 : Kelly : Hi - the 2025 Exploration webpage says a minimum of 90 grants will be funded this cycle but the slides say 100. Has the number gone back up to 100 (as it has been for previous cycles)? Many thanks!

'REPLY13:10 : Pierre Duchesne : The webpage is correct. The program will fund a minimum of 90.

'QUESTION13:08 : Saba Khan : For the full application proposal - is there any template to be followed - or any sections that should be addressed?

'QUESTION13:09 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Yes, please have a look at the Full application guide https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/guide_application-guide_demande-eng

'QUESTION13:09 : If the PI is ECR, co-pl is not, does it eligible for ECR?

'REPLY13:10 : Samira Imran : no, this is not considered ECR led

'REPLY13:29 : Stephanie : But the website says that NPI AND Co-PI (if there is Co-PI) must be ECR to be considered ECR-led: proposal is considered to be led by early career researchers (ECRs) if both the NPI and co-PI (if applicable) are ECR

'REPLY13:31 : Stephanie : Could you please confirm which is correct to be considered ECR-led? Just NPI, or both NPI and Co-PI, if applicable?

Answer: If an application has an NPI who is an ECR, and a co-PI who is not an ECR, then it is not considered ECR-led

'QUESTION13:09 : H Neilson : Can you please confirm that researchers cannot apply for CIHR grants at the same time as a a NFRF Explorations grant (that is, both applications can't be pending at the same time)?

'REPLY13:11 : Samira Imran : proposals that are fit for a CIHR grant shouldn't also be submitted to NFRFE because it wouldn't be considered high risk if it can be funded by another program. Applications for funding the same or very similar research cannot be simultaneously submitted to two different funding opportunities, including to funding opportunities at different agencies.

'REPLY13:15 : Kim : but can you have a CIHR with different research than NFRF?

'REPLY13:17 : Samira Imran : yes

'QUESTION13:10 : Glen Bodner : Do NFRFE applications have to straddle 2 of the 3 Tri-Agencies? Or could a novel interdisciplinary project across 2 areas of NSE work?

Answer: no, they do not need to fit across two agencies, they only need to have two distinct disciplines

'QUESTION13:11 : Flavia van Cleef : where (in the full application) can we write the explanation of the interdisciplinary/fit to program?

'REPLY13:12 : In the research proposal section. Please see third bullet point of point e.

'QUESTION13:11 : Srijani : Could you please provide some stats on the % of projects awarded vs. projects applied in the past years?

'REPLY13:12 : Samira Imran : you can refer to our past competition cycle stats here on our website: [Microsoft Power BI](#)

'REPLY13:13 : Pierre Duchesne : In 2024 613 full applications submitted and 101 were funded. 2023 530 full applications and 133 awarded.

'QUESTION13:11 : Dave Walton : How do you think true transdisciplinary work would be received by reviewers - assuming it's possible to achieve?

'REPLY13:13 : Samira Imran : our reviewers based their reviews on our evaluation matrices and interdisciplinarity is the basis they review upon: https://sshrccrsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng

'QUESTION13:12 : Hossein Ghadjari : Can a collaborator be paid from the fund? How will the funds be distributed between the PI and co-PI? May we have a co-PI based outside Canada?

'REPLY13:14 : Samira Imran : 1. no, collaborators do not have access to grant funds for any reason

'REPLY13:14 : Samira Imran : 2. establishing how funds are transferred between the NPI and Co-PI's institutions are based on the administering institutions transfer agreements

'REPLY13:14 : Samira Imran : 3. Yes, you can have an international co-PI

'QUESTION13:14 : Gabrielle : Will there be a dedicated Indigenous review panel as there has been on other SSHRC competitions?

'REPLY13:15 : Samira Imran : There won't be a dedicated Indigenous review panel, we do our best to have 3 experts in the fields of research of the project on the panel

'QUESTION13:14 : Falk Herwig : What is the funding fraction you expect assuming all 956 NOI submit a proposal?

'REPLY13:16 : Samira Imran : we will fund a minimum of 90 projects

‘QUESTION13:14 : pascalle.gault: Are existing interdisciplinary teams that previously worked and obtained a grant together are eligible to apply to build a new project that is truly interdisciplinary ?

‘REPLY13:20 : Samira Imran : if the disciplines work together traditionally, you will need to meet the Interdisciplinarity criterion description: Pushes the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, integrating two or more disciplines that are not commonly combined.

‘REPLY13:20 : Samira Imran : https://sshrccrsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:15 : Nadia Jahroudi : What is the success rate please?

‘REPLY13:15 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Please refer to this website: <https://app.powerbi.com/view>

‘QUESTION13:15 : Tony : Could you please repeat the number of NOI submissions?

‘REPLY13:17 : Pierre Duchesne : 956

‘QUESTION13:15 : Ali : Do you suggest we include a separate subsection in the proposal explaining the novelty of interdisciplinarity, or can the novelty of interdisciplinarity be implicit in the proposal description?

‘REPLY13:16 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : You may structure as you see fit, but you must address all elements. Please refer to point e. and the bullet points https://sshrccrsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:16 : Omid Haji-Ghassemi : So would a team composed of a biochemist and a neuroscientist not be considered interdisciplinary? Did I hear that right? I assume it still depends on the nature of the collaboration

‘REPLY13:22 : Samira Imran : if the disciplines work together traditionally, you will need to meet the Interdisciplinarity criterion description: Pushes the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, integrating two or more disciplines that are not commonly combined https://sshrccrsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:16 : Anteneh Ayanso : Please go over the interdisciplinary requirements with more specific expectations

‘REPLY13:20 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : The requirements are available here: https://sshrccrsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng

‘QUESTION13:16 : Anne : To clarify access grant funds does that mean that Co-Apps can be paid a salary from the grant?

‘REPLY13:23 : Samira Imran : project participants are not eligible to draw a salary from grant funds. Co-applicants can access grant funds for their research activities.

‘QUESTION13:16 : Sarah : Can you clarify what you mean that a collaborator cannot be supervised by the team? Am I correct in understanding that that means that I be a collaborator on an application where my postdoc supervisor is the NPI?

‘REPLY13:24 : Samira Imran : correct

‘REPLY13:27 : Sarah : thank you!

‘QUESTION13:16 : Zhao : What’ the difference between co-PI and co-Applicant?

‘REPLY13:18 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Please see the detailed definitions here <https://sshrccrsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx>. The co-PI shares responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities, and their research activities related to the project may be supported by grant funds.

‘QUESTION13:17 : Dr. Mohamed Hefny : In the proposal guidelines, it states that we should explain how the EDI considerations in research design are integrated into the methodological approaches. However, I noticed there are already two dedicated sections for EDI in the portal. Do we need to repeat that explanation in the proposal text itself, or is it sufficient to address it in the designated EDI sections?

‘REPLY13:25 : Samira Imran : you would speak to the EDI aspects in their specific sections in the Convergence Portal. In the research proposal, we have asked for a brief description of EDI-RD in terms of shaping methodological approaches

‘QUESTION13:17 : Constance Finney : Can you add a Co-App now we are past the NOI deadline? Or is it only collaborators?

‘REPLY13:26 : Samira Imran : you can add any participant except the NPI or a Co-PI if one was already added at the NOI stage

‘QUESTION13:18 : Erica Pensini : What is the minimum number of participants to the grant?

‘REPLY13:23 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : To encourage projects that push the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, proposals must be submitted by research teams with at least two individuals. In addition to <https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx> (NPI), the team must include either a co-principal investigator or a co-applicant. Teams may include one co-PI and any number of co-applicants and/or collaborators.

‘QUESTION13:18 : Marion Maar : Can we add individuals to the team bio who are not Co-Is or Collaborators? For example consultants who will be compensated by the grant and contribute crucial knowledge

‘REPLY13:27 : Samira Imran : no, these are not considered participants and would not be named - if they are consultants, they are hired to deliver a service

‘QUESTION13:18 : Gabrielle : Can the NOI proposal summary be edited? Will this be reviewed with the full application?

‘REPLY13:28 : Samira Imran : Only the lists of participants, suggested reviewers and reviewer exclusions can be updated at the full application stage.

‘QUESTION13:19 : Marion Maar : Can we had student to the team bio who have already been recruited?

‘REPLY13:29 : Samira Imran : the only time specific members should be identified is if it advances the discussion being made in the proposal and with consent

‘QUESTION13:19 : Dora Baczyk : Do you have suggestions on how a PI can handle a situation where an NPI refuses to submit the final report, even after being reminded

‘REPLY13:31 : Samira Imran : please send us an email so we can better assist: NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca

‘QUESTION13:19 : Rachel : On my convergence portal I can no longer see my application title? is this because we cannot modify it from the NOI stage

‘REPLY13:30 : Samira Imran : please send us an email with screenshots so we can better NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca

‘QUESTION13:20 : Saba Khan : How should we address the EDI aspect? Does it have to be mentioned as a separate section in the proposal?

‘REPLY13:26 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : For EDI questions and how to address them, please refer to <https://sshrcc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx>. [Best practices in equity, diversity and inclusion in research practice and design](#)

‘QUESTION13:20 : Nilay Yalcin : Can you verbally repeat some questions/answers? We cannot see the chat questions others posted somehow.

‘REPLY13:31 : Samira Imran : we will also share the chat when distributing the presentation

‘QUESTION13:20 : Kalinga Jagoda : What do you mean my mixed in the interdisciplinary score?

‘REPLY13:21 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Members’ ratings are used to determine an overall score, by criterion. The overall score for interdisciplinarity / fit to program and EDI in research practice may be

a pass (when all members assess it as a pass), mixed (when the majority of members assess it as pass) or fail (when the majority of members assess it as fail).

‘QUESTION13:21 : Matt Milner : What does expertise mean for 3 expert reviewers? Are these Tri-Agency level domains - IE SSHRC discipline for SSHRC-oriented matters? OR more specific disciplinary expertise? IE History will have Historians as the 3 experts?

‘REPLY13:25 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Each application is assigned to five multidisciplinary review panel members for review. Two to three members are assigned based on their expertise matching the primary areas of research of the proposal. The remaining members do not have disciplinary expertise but provide assessments from an interdisciplinary/non-expert perspective. The balance of perspectives allows the application to be assessed by experts in the applicable disciplines, as well as by experts who can speak to the impact of the project beyond these disciplines.

‘QUESTION13:23 : Saba Khan : Should risk mitigation also be important?

‘QUESTION13:25 : Ali : Is high risk ONLY about risk in research; or economic, scientific, etc. risk as well?

‘REPLY13:33 : Samira Imran : 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

‘QUESTION13:26 : Anteneh Ayanso : If the research project is not designated as indigenous research, does this mean it is automatically infeasible or scores less

‘REPLY13:33 : Samira Imran : not at all

‘QUESTION13:26 : JianLi Wang : Please confirm that we need to address the points of high risk , high reward, feasibility, in addition to research background and methodology etc. in the FOUR-PAGE proposal. Thanks.

‘REPLY13:34 : Samira Imran : these are the requirements for the research proposal section: Research proposal (maximum four pages if written in English; maximum 4.8 pages if in French)Applicants may structure their Research proposal as they see fit, but must address all

elements of the https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx

Applying headings is not mandatory, but is suggested. In your attachment describe the proposed research project, providing a rationale for how it meets program expectations address, specifically, why the research should be considered high-risk and high-reward highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed research, explaining why an interdisciplinary approach is needed and/or the added value it brings; provide a concise overview of the research objectives, relating the proposal to current and relevant research, prior art or knowledge briefly describe the research team expertise, methodology and design, work plan and timeline and, if appropriate describe the approaches to Indigenous https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/merit_review-evaluation_du_merite/guidelines_research-lignes_directrices_recherche-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:26 : Dora Baczyk : Are the summaries reviewed by potential reviewers to help determine whether they are a good fit for evaluating the proposal

‘REPLY13:36 : Samira Imran : reviewers are determined by their expertise - as these are multidisciplinary panels, not all reviewers will be subject matter experts

‘QUESTION13:27 : Glen Bodner : We have been told by our RSO that NFRFE disciplines MUST cross at least 2 of the 3 Tri-agencies to be funded, but you have not said that explicitly so can I assume our RSO is mistaken?

‘REPLY13:29 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : This is from our literature: Applications must clearly demonstrate that the proposal integrates approaches from at least two disciplines that do not traditionally collaborate together, or combines them in a novel way. This is in contrast to a multidisciplinary approach, which involves participants from different disciplines working independently on a common research question. <https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx>

‘QUESTION13:27 : Saba Khan : Does the team expertise/roles have to be mentioned within the proposal? I am asking because the extensive biographies would be mentioned separately as well

‘REPLY13:36 : Samira Imran : these are the expectations for the biographical information: Provide a brief overview of the research team’s knowledge, background and expertise, from the perspective of how they will contribute to the project. Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated. If a team member’s self-identification (gender, Indigenous identity, disability, sexual orientation or racial background) is relevant to the research project, that self-identifying information may be included here, but only with their consent.

‘QUESTION13:28 : Dr. Mohamed Hefny : In the proposal guidelines, it states that we should explain how the EDI considerations in research design are integrated into the methodological approaches. However, I noticed there are already two dedicated sections for EDI in the portal. Do we need to repeat that explanation in the proposal text itself, or is it sufficient to address it in the designated EDI sections?

‘REPLY13:33 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : They need to be in both sections based on our literature. sections b. and d., then in section e. Sections b. and d. are filled out in the Convergence Portal. Section e. is the PDF. https://sshrccrsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:30 : Lora Oehlberg : Will the Q&A from this chat be available to download and review after this session?

‘REPLY13:30 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : yes

‘QUESTION13:30 : Ali : The proposal must remain anonymous, correct? Would mentioning the name of the clinic that the research team is affiliated with compromise anonymity?

‘REPLY13:37 : Samira Imran : reviewers can see which institution the NPI is affiliated with - is this what you are referring to?

‘REPLY13:41 : Ali : May I mention the name of the lab where the research will be carried out in the four-page proposal?

Answer: yes

‘QUESTION13:30 : Mark Andrews : Is the evaluation committee competent to evaluate EDI? Have they been trained to do so?

Answer: many reviewers self-identify as EDI champions. We also firmly encourage our reviewers to complete or refresh their Bias training.

‘QUESTION13:30 : Karla : March 31 is the start date of the research project?

‘REPLY13:39 : Samira Imran : this is the anticipated start date, yes

‘QUESTION13:31 : David : The last EDI slide (all four groups must be addressed) suggests Indigenous representation is a must, but I understood it is not essential. Please clarify.

'REPLY13:41 : Samira Imran : it is not a must - IF there is an Indigenous research component then that approach would need to be discussed.

'QUESTION13:32 : pascal.legault : can a co-applicant at NOI stage become a co-PI ?

'REPLY13:41 : Samira Imran : yes, you would need to email us with justification - and only if there is not already a co-PI. only one co-PI per project is allowed.

'QUESTION13:32 : Ronald Baecker : Does EDI in research design have to appear in 2 places? on its own and a summary in the 4-page proposal?

'REPLY13:43 : Samira Imran : we ask that it be mentioned briefly in the research proposal explain how the EDI considerations in research design are integrated into the methodological approaches. EDI-RD and EDI-RP also have their own sections.

'QUESTION13:32 : Kelly : Last cycle (2024) NFRF offered a separate EDI webinar. Are there any plans to do this for 2025 or should we refer to the 2024 slides/recording still? Thank you!

'REPLY13:44 : Samira Imran : please refer to the 2024 presentation

'QUESTION13:33 : Justine Dol : If you have a patient partner listed as collaborator, can they be paid from the grant as a patient partner?

'REPLY13:34 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Collaborators cannot be paid from grant funds, they would need to be a Co-Applicant.

'REPLY13:34 : Constance Finney : can they be a co-applicant if they have no university affiliation?

'REPLY13:42 : Justine Dol : Good question, is the portal set up to support patient partners as co-applicants?

'REPLY13:45 : Samira Imran : please email us for more precise and specific information: NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca

'REPLY13:47 : Matt Milner : PAID? IE Salary? or receive access to funds to spend, ie sub-grant? Can you clarify?

'REPLY13:48 : Justine Dol : Paid as patient partners to support their engagement in the grant - either per hour or set amount, typically

'REPLY13:50 : Samira Imran : NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca

'REPLY13:51 : Samira Imran NFRF follows CIHR's [Considerations when paying patient partners in research](#)

‘QUESTION13:33 : Bubacarr Bah : You portal does not have the following institutions: 1) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2) Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at LSHTM.

‘REPLY13:34 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : You should be able to add a custom institution, please send us an e-mail on how to do that.

‘REPLY13:40 : Bubacarr Bah : OK, thank you.

‘QUESTION13:33 : Constance Finney : does the research team include collaborators? or is it just the co-applicants and NPI?

‘REPLY13:37 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : To encourage projects that push the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, proposals must be submitted by research teams with at least two individuals. In addition to a [nominated principal investigator](#) (NPI), the team must include either a [co-principal investigator](#) (co-PI) or a [co-applicant](#). Teams may include one co-PI and any number of co-applicants and/or [collaborators](#). <https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng.aspx>

‘QUESTION13:34 : Nishaka : To what extent is preliminary data emphasized? Say the project if scientifically sound, high risk, feasible based on the team members expertise, and meets all the other check boxes, will a lack of preliminary data lead to poor reception?

‘REPLY13:47 : Samira Imran : this is dependent on the proposal and we can't speak to specific content to emphasize.

‘QUESTION13:34 : Anie Philip : Can a collaborator working in an industry (for-profit) be a co-applicant or a collaborator in the application

‘REPLY13:37 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : They can only hold the collaborator role.

‘QUESTION13:34 : Karla : I am a research staff assisting a PI. Do I need to create an account?

‘REPLY13:40 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : No

‘REPLY13:52 : Karla : how do i access to the application then?

Answer: applications are only accessible by the NPI as they are the individual requesting funding.

‘QUESTION13:34 : Melanie Martin, UWinnipeg (she/her) : Will there be external reviewers or when we suggest reviewers, if you choose them, will they join the committee?

‘REPLY13:36 : Pierre Duchesne : Suggested reviewers may be added to the multidisciplinary panel reviewers. There is no external review for Exploration

‘QUESTION13:37 : SP : A 4-page proposal: what about the margins and font restrictions?

‘REPLY13:38 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Please refer to https://sshrhrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/instructions_attachment-instructions_piece_jointe-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:38 : Saba Khan : In the proposal do individual researcher contributions need to be addressed?

Answer: From our literature: Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated.

‘QUESTION13:38 : Dr. Mohamed Hefny : In the proposal guidelines, it states that we should explain how the EDI considerations in research design are integrated into the methodological approaches. However, I noticed there are already two dedicated sections for EDI in the portal. Do we need to repeat that explanation in the proposal text itself, or is it sufficient to address it in the designated EDI sections?

‘REPLY13:49 : Samira Imran : in the research proposal section, its asked to briefly describe these points in how EDI in research design is integrated into the methodological approaches

‘QUESTION13:39 : Saba Khan : Can figures be added in the proposal?

‘REPLY13:40 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Yes, please see point 10. Here https://sshrhrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/instructions_attachment-instructions_piece_jointe-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:39 : Ronald Baecker : Is self-identifying info allowed in the proposal? in the bios?

'REPLY13:49 : Samira Imran : If a team member's self-identification (gender, Indigenous identity, disability, sexual orientation or racial background) is relevant to the research project, that self-identifying information may be included here, but only with their consent.

'QUESTION13:40 : Prasanna : Can the Biographical information page explicitly state the name of the members of the investigators team or must it only describe the expertise?

'REPLY13:53 : Samira Imran : yes, if identifying them is essential for moving forward the discussion in the proposal and with their consent

'REPLY13:53 : Prasanna : Thank you.

'QUESTION13:41 : Cara MacInnis (she/her) : I know that the activities of co-applicants can be supported by grant funds, I am curious how does that work when they are not an independent researcher (e.g., a community leader)

'REPLY13:48 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : The NPI's institution can transfer funds to the co-applicant's institution.

'QUESTION13:41 : Victoria : Does this mean no personally identifying information in the research proposal?

'REPLY13:53 : Samira Imran : If a team member's self-identification (gender, Indigenous identity, disability, sexual orientation or racial background) is relevant to the research project, that self-identifying information may be included here, but only with their consent.

'QUESTION13:41 : mostafa : At the LOI stage, can a PI submit the LOI without listing a co-PI, and then add the co-PI during the full application stage!

'REPLY13:51 : Pierre Duchesne : There is no LOI stage. The NOI's have been submitted and cannot be modified.

'QUESTION13:42 : Sarah : I see page lengths but nothing about margins - are you able to link us to the full formatting requirements?

'REPLY13:46 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/instructions_attachment-instructions_piece_jointe-eng.aspx

‘QUESTION13:43 : Naman : One of the collaborator of our group is from the UK, and would be paid to perform some tests for us. Since he is mentioned as a collaborator, can we pay him using the grant funds or not? If not then should we mention him as a Co-applicant in the full application?

‘REPLY13:44 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Collaborators cannot receive grant funds under any circumstance. Their role will need to be changed (and meet the requirements). If he is being paid for services, he is a consultant, not a grant team participant.

‘REPLY13:44 : Liette Vasseur : can the person be paid as contract service?

‘REPLY13:45 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Liette, that is possible, but their name will not appear on the project as being part of the research team.

‘QUESTION13:43 : Marion Maar : Is it true that no CVs are appended, and that the 2 page biography section is all that describes the team?

‘REPLY13:45 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : That’s correct, NFRF doesn’t use CVs.

‘QUESTION13:45 : JianLi Wang : If self-ID data will not be shared with reviewers, then they will not see the two-page team member bios which includes names, etc. how will the reviewers assess the expertise and interdisciplinary nature of the team and the research?

Answer: If the NPI is including self-identifying information, it must be with the person’s consent to have the information included and shared.

‘QUESTION13:46 : Akshay Khosla : Could you please clarify what level of granularity is expected in the one-page budget? Specifically, are there defined categories within the direct costs of research (e.g., student salaries, course release, technical and professional services, travel, consulting services, knowledge mobilization, etc.)?

'REPLY13:50 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Please refer to points a. and point e.iii in the Full Application Guide https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx

'QUESTION13:50 : Fei : What if the applicant selected for STRA, but the reviewers think otherwise? Would the application be deemed ineligible?

'REPLY13:51 : Tricia Meaud : STRA responses are not part of merit review.

'REPLY13:52 : Fei : Would the NFRF staff review it then?

'REPLY14:05 : Philippe Villeneuve : The answer is not validated at the time of application. However, information about validation during subsequent stages can found here: <https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern/frequently-asked-questions-faq-policy-sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern#:~:text=23.%20How%20and%20when%20will%20grant%20applications%20be%20selected%20for%20validation%3F>

'QUESTION13:52 : Kim : Will Research Administrators at our institutions be able to submit NFRF?
Answered verbally

'QUESTION13:52 : Kenneth Finnson : Can you give details about what is considered indirect costs?

'REPLY13:54 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Indirect costs: the operational costs that underpin an institution's research activities (i.e., heating, lighting, ethics reviews, facilities for animals used in research, management of intellectual property, environmental assessment and safety compliance). The services that give rise to indirect costs are institutionally based and are not specific to individual research grants https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/interagency-interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp

'QUESTION13:53 : Faith-Michael Uzoka : I assume that NOIs are not pre-evaluated prior to the full application as it was done in the past?

Answered verbally

‘QUESTION13:53 : Ana Luisa Trejos : There seems to be a general confusion about whether the reviewers know who the applicants are. Does the proposal need to be anonymous and will the reviewers see the biographical document.

Answer: reviewers will see applicant name and their administering institution

‘QUESTION13:54 : Chamaa, Samira : are there plans to allow administrators to be able to set internal deadlines through the convergence portal? this would be extremely helpful

Answer: research administrators can set internal deadlines and should be in communication with applicants from their institution. These deadlines are not set into the Convergence Portal.

‘QUESTION13:54 : Mostafa Farrokhhabadi : Repeating unanswered question from before, thanks. Do NFRFE applications have to straddle 2 of the 3 Tri-Agencies? Or could a novel interdisciplinary project across 2 areas of NSE work?

Answered above and verbally

‘QUESTION13:54 : Jay (CUE) : Can you please confirm it is the responsibility of the RGO (and not the PI) to advise SSHRC of any changes to Composition of Partnership / Team i.e. addition of new partners, applicants etc...

Answered verbally

‘QUESTION13:55 : Kalinga Jagoda : Could we add co-applicants at this stage (who were not included in the NOI stage).

Answered above and verbally

‘QUESTION13:55 : Mark Andrews : Two of the committee evaluation sections are pass/fail. Does the evaluation committee have a threshold to decide between fail/fail?

‘REPLY13:57 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Members’ ratings are used to determine an overall score, by criterion. The overall score for interdisciplinarity / fit to program and EDI in research practice may be a pass (when all members assess it as a pass), mixed (when the majority of members assess it as pass) or fail (when the majority of members assess it as fail). The overall ratings for the other criteria are calculated as the mean of the members’ ratings. Applications are then placed in “bands” of

equally rated applications. - please see https://sshrh-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/reviewers_manual-guide_de_l_evaluateur-eng.aspx

'QUESTION13:55 : Ted Allison : can we identify ourselves in application or not?

Answer: yes

'QUESTION13:55 : Ali : Can I mention the name of the lab where the research will be carried out in the (anonymized) four-page proposal?

Answer: yes

'QUESTION13:56 : Tony : Can I mention the name or last names of the lab where the research will be carried out in the (anonymized) four-page proposal?

Answer: yes, you can mention the lab. The application is not anonymous, reviewers will see applicant name and institution.

'QUESTION13:57 : Ronald Baecker : Still confused about self-identification. Are the bios not to mention names?

Answer: Self identification is referred to by the NFRF as gender, Indigenous identity, disability, sexual orientation or racial background – this can be shared with person's consent.

This does not refer to names or institutions. For identifying team members and expertise, we state this in our literature: Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated.

‘QUESTION13:57 : Mohamed Elsayed : Si I’d like to say in the proposal something like: We previously developed X[] and now we want to expand it this way... And of course we’re identifying ourselves by having this reference. is that fine?

Answer: Yes, for biographical information, we state in our literature: Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated.

‘QUESTION13:57 : Jeffrey Franc : Should the team be described in the four page document, or is it ok to describe it only in the dedicated team composition document?

Answer: in our Full App guide, we identify what should be identified in the research proposal and what should be identified in the biographical section: [2025 Exploration: Full application guide](#)

‘QUESTION13:57 : Matt Milner : Can you please provide more details about the 5 reviewers and their expert areas for adjudication? How does their selection relate to the application? Do we write to a wider knowledge, or more specific disciplinary knowledge?

Answered verbally

‘REPLY14:00 : Matt Milner : Thank you!!

‘QUESTION13:57 : Nisha Agarwal (she/her) : Is this a double-blind review process?

Answer: No

‘QUESTION13:57 : Kalinga Jagoda : Could we add co-applicants at this stage?

‘REPLY13:59 : Brenda : Yes, you can and they will need to create a convergence profile.

‘QUESTION13:58 : Chris : Related to some other questions and the question just answered, can you clarify whether the review is meant to be blind; ie should applicant names not be mentioned ?

Answer: No, the merit review is not anonymous.

‘QUESTION13:59 : Ted Allison : I don’t understand what you are saying. Please answer yes/no: does the proposal need to be anonymous, or can we mention our own names as the applicants?

Answer: No, the application is not anonymous. Yes, you can mention your name.

‘QUESTION13:59 : Feodor PS : I may have misunderstood: does the separate budget document need to include indirect costs or not? One of the slides said not to include them, but there was a lot of discussion of indirect costs - where do they go?

Answer: Indirect costs are not included in the budget.

‘QUESTION13:59 : Flavia van Cleef : how’s the criteria for an ECR to get the grant? even when comparing ECR to ECR.. few of us have not have the same opportunities YET, how can we leverage our participation as a first timers applicants? I mean,, where in the proposal can we have more points

Answered verbally

‘QUESTION13:59 : Kawkab : does providing preliminary data compromise high risk justification?

‘REPLY14:01 : Qasim : I also have this question

Answered verbally

‘QUESTION13:59 : Xiang Chen : Sorry, I might miss question about CV. So do we need to submit CV or just two pages description of Team ?

‘REPLY14:00 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Just the two-page bio description. NFRF does not ask for a CV.

‘QUESTION14:00 : JianLi Wang : if the 4-page proposal requires EDI compliant and EDI integration in design and practice, would that be repetitive with the two separate modules related to EDI in the portal?

‘REPLY14:01 : Wojtek Fedorko : +1

Answer: We ask for a brief description of EDI-RD considerations in the methodological approaches to be included in the research proposal. This is in addition to the EDI-RD and EDI-RP sections.

‘QUESTION14:01 : Ronald Baecker : Please clarify where we can use our names. In the bios?

Answer: From our literature, in reference to the biographical information section: Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated.

‘QUESTION14:01 : Hossein Ghadjari : Can a collaborator be paid from the fund? How will the funds be distributed between the PI and co-PI? May we have a co-PI based outside Canada?

Answer: no, a collaborator does not have access to any grant funds for research activities or otherwise. Transfer of funds between institutions is dependent on the administering institutions transfer agreements. Yes, you can have an international Co-PI.

‘QUESTION14:03 : Kalinga Jagoda : What do you mean by mixed in the interdisciplinary?

‘REPLY14:04 : Brenda : Do you mean a score of mixed for interdisciplinary? I would suggest sending an email about this.

‘REPLY14:04 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Result Members’ ratings are used to determine an overall score, by criterion. The overall score for interdisciplinarity / fit to program and EDI in research practice may be a pass (when all members assess it as a pass), mixed (when the majority of members assess it as pass) or fail (when the majority of members assess it as fail). The overall ratings for the other criteria are calculated as the mean of the members’ ratings. Applications are then placed in “bands” of equally rated applications.

‘REPLY14:08 : Annie : So mixed is a pass?

Answer: A ‘mixed’ score indicated that the majority of reviewers have scored it a pass, but some reviewers did not.

‘QUESTION14:04 : Nadia Jahroudi : can letters of collaboration be included?

Answer: No, we do not receive any additional documents outside of what we have asked for.

‘QUESTION14:05 : Ronald Baecker : Where, if anywhere, do we put our names?

Answer: Names are included in the participants list. You can also include them in the biographical information section if it makes sense to do so. From our literature: Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated.

‘QUESTION14:05 : Rachel L : Could you clarify what a mixed rating would mean in a previous year’s review for interdisciplinary category?

‘REPLY14:07 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : Members’ ratings are used to determine an overall score, by criterion. The overall score for interdisciplinarity / fit to program and EDI in research practice may be a pass (when all members assess it as a pass), mixed (when the majority of members assess it as pass) or fail (when the majority of members assess it as fail). The overall ratings for the other criteria are calculated as the mean of the members’ ratings. Applications are then placed in “bands” of equally rated applications.

‘QUESTION14:07 : Flavia van Cleef : Repeting question: how’s the criteria for an ECR to get the grant? even when comparing ECR to ECR.. few of us have not have the same opportunities YET, how can we leverage our participation as a first timers applicants? I mean.. where in the proposal can we have more points.

‘REPLY14:09 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : A proportion of awards equal to the proportion of applications submitted that are led by <https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2025/competition-concours-eng>.

Answered verbally

‘REPLY14:10 : Flavia van Cleef : Great, thanks!

‘QUESTION14:08 : Kalinga Jagoda : What are last year’s average ratings for successful grant applications?

Answered verbally

‘REPLY14:14 : Nicole Noel : I would like to know this as well. I think the question is not looking for success rate but rather the minimum scores required to be awarded. e.g. all excellent or exceptional

Answer: the scores ranged from Very Good to Exceptional

‘QUESTION14:10 : nxiang : if both a PI and a co-PI need to be an ECR for a project to be categorized as an ECR project?

‘REPLY14:11 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : A proposal is considered to be led by early career researchers (ECRs) if both the NPI and co-PI (if applicable) are ECRs

‘QUESTION14:10 : Prasanna : So to clarify, the Bio page CAN have the name of the team members, but in the Research project 4 pages or the EDI document, self identifying the team members is allowed if it advances the discussion of the matter, but after consent from the member?

Answer: Self-identifying information refers to gender, Indigenous identity, disability, sexual orientation or racial background etc.

You can include team member names if it serves the purpose described in our literature: Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated.

‘QUESTION14:12 : Fei : You mentioned reviewers can see the name and institution of the NPIs. But my understanding is that reviewers can also see the names and affiliations of co-PI and co-applicants, which is part of the application. Can you confirm that is correct?

Answer: Correct

‘QUESTION14:13 : Ana Luisa Trejos : I believe that our confusion was from the inclusion of self-identifying information. We meant the name, institution, prior research work. I think you are talking about sociodemographic descriptors.

Answer: Self-identifying information refers to gender, Indigenous identity, disability, sexual orientation or racial background etc.

You can include team member names if it serves the purpose described in our literature: Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member (NPI, co-PI, co-applicants, collaborators and other team members, as applicable) and explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated.

‘QUESTION14:13 : Samira Ebrahimi Kahou : Unverified 12:03 PM Does interdisciplinary requirement ‘mandates’ the project to cross tri-agencies? This is not clear in the instructions, as it only mentions crossing two ‘groups’ with weak precedent of collaboration (it does not exclude the possibility of projects crossing two groups within a single agency).

‘REPLY14:17 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa :

Projects do not need to cross agencies.

To meet the minimum requirement to be considered interdisciplinary , a proposed research project must combine elements from at least two different disciplines (as defined by a group-level classification based on <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects/standard/crdc/2020v1/index>. Projects that integrate two disciplines with a long and established tradition of working together (e.g., biology and chemistry or psychology and education) may satisfy the above requirement but not meet the expectations of the program. The onus is on the applicant to explain the novelty of the interdisciplinary approach to justify the fit to program. Interdisciplinarity is evaluated by the multidisciplinary review panel.

‘QUESTION14:14 : Megan Brickley : Can collaborators invoice the PI for technical costs relating to tasks undertaken as part of the project?

Answer: Collaborators do not have access to grant funds.

‘QUESTION14:14 : Nicole : Do we need to provide proof of consent?

Answer: If you are including self-identifying information, it is the NPIs responsibility to have consent. We do not ask for proof.

‘QUESTION14:15 : Alexander Thistlewood (he/him) : Apologies if this has been spoken to already -- is RDM at all a part of this

Answer: We do not specifically request a data management plan as a separate document.

‘QUESTION14:16 : Annie : Sorry, so collaborators cannot even be funded to travel on-site for annual team meetings? So hotel and transportation?

‘REPLY14:17 : NFRF-FNFR Sinisa : No, collaborators have no access to grant funds.

‘QUESTION14:17 : Kalinga Jagoda : Is it same for co-applicants? no access to travel funds?

Answer: it is not the same, co-applicants do have access to grant funds for research activities.

‘QUESTION14:18 : Jacqueline Dockray : So co-PI’s and applicants in other countries CAN receive funding?

Answer: Yes

‘QUESTION14:19 : Naman : A follow-up for consultants. We add consultants in the application in order to pay for a particular test?

Answer: Consultants are not added to the application; they are not participants. They can be included in budgeting considerations as they would be providing a service.
