2014 NSERC DISCOVERY GRANTS COMPETITION

Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Today’s Speakers

- Mike Folinas, Research Funding Manager, Office of Research Services
- Jessica Keating, Research Funding Officer, Office of Research Services
- Professor Robert Reisz, UTM Biology
Today’s Agenda

- Important Changes of NSERC Programs in 2014/2015
- Discovery Grant Program
  - CCV
  - Application
  - Evaluation Process
- Statistics
- Internal Application Procedures, Eligibility and Deadlines
- Editorial and Proposal Development – The Essentials
Highlights of Important Changes to Be Implemented in the Fall Competition

- NSERC Online System conversion to the Research Portal
- Form 100 is being replaced by the Canadian Common CV (CCV)
- Programs affected by this change are:
  - NSERC Discovery Grants (Individual and Team)
  - Subatomic Physics (SAP) Grants
  - Collaborative Research and Development (CRD) Grants
- All other programs will continue to use the NSERC On-Line system, but will be phased out to the new Research Portal
Highlights of Important Changes to Be Implemented in the Fall Competition

- The Discovery Grant application must be submitted through the New Research Portal by the deadline date.

**DEADLINE: November 1st, 2013 by 9:00 am local time**

Applicants who have not submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) will not be able to submit an Application for a Grant in fall 2013.
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview
The objective of the Discovery Grants Program is to assist in:

- promoting and maintaining a diversified base of high-quality research capability in the natural sciences and engineering in Canadian universities;
- fostering research excellence; and
- providing a stimulating environment for research training.

Eligibility Requirements must be satisfied in order to apply.
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview - CCV

- NSERC is phasing out Form 100 and replacing this form with the Canadian Common CV (CCV)
- This will enable researchers to use one CV for multiple sponsor applications (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR)
- 20+ granting agencies have adopted the CCV, some of these include:
  - CFI, CIHR, SSHRC, Genome Canada, Canadian Council for the Arts – Killam Fellowship
- The CCV does not include attachments as included in Form 100.
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview - CCV

- The CCV must be fully completed for the November 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2013 deadline.
  - Publications (papers, journals, books, presentations, etc.)
  - Events (conferences, symposiums, etc.)
  - Awards and Accolades
  - Research Funding
  - Teaching/Supervisory/Administration Activities
  - Dates (each entry must include the month and year)

- Once complete, CCV must be saved as an XML file to attach to the Research Portal Application (DO NOT ALTER THE FILE FORMAT, AS THE RESEARCH PORTAL WILL NOT ACCEPT THE FILE)
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview - CCV

Tips

- Start early
- Consult with colleagues that have had experience filling out the CCV (CIHR applicants)
- Use help resources available on NSERC’s website and the CCV website
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview - CCV

0 If you are having technical trouble with the CCV, please contact:

0 On-line Services Helpdesk
  Telephone: 613-995-4273
  Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (EST)
  Email: webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview - Application

- The NSERC Discovery Grant application will also be submitted through the New Research Portal.
- NSERC has made the applications available to those who submit an NOI. The application was released on August 20th.
- The application format has changed to capture sections previously found in Form 100.
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview - Application

Research Program

- Project 1
  - Project 2
  - Project 3
- Project 4
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview – Evaluation Process

Evaluation Process (Overview) – Conference Model
- Two-Step process that separates merit assessment from funding recommendations
- Merit Assessment uses a six-point scale to evaluate:
  - Scientific or Engineering Excellence of the researcher
    - Knowledge Expertise and experience
    - Contributions to research in NSE
    - Importance of Contributions
  - Merit of the proposal
    - Originality and Innovation
    - Significance and expected contributions to research/Technological impact
    - Clarity/scope of objectives and appropriateness of methodology
    - Appropriate and justification of budget
  - Contributions to the training of HQP
    - Quality and impact of contributions of training in past 6 years
    - Proposed Plan for future training – Describe nature of training
    - Review NSERC guidelines on Assessment of Contributions for Research and Training
### Overview

**Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview**

#### 6.13. Discovery Grants Merit Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Insufficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellence of the Researcher</td>
<td>Acknowledged as a leader who has continued to make, over the last six years, influential accomplishments at the highest level of quality, impact and/or importance to a broad community.</td>
<td>The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be far superior in quality, impact and/or importance to a broad community.</td>
<td>The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be of superior quality, impact and/or importance.</td>
<td>The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be solid in their quality, impact and/or importance.</td>
<td>The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be of reasonable quality, impact and/or importance.</td>
<td>Отсутствует акцент на отличительные характеристики.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit of the Proposal</td>
<td>Proposed research program is clearly presented, is extremely original and innovative and is likely to have impact by leading to groundbreaking advances in the area and/or leading to a technology or policy that addresses socioeconomic or environmental needs. Long-term vision and short-term objectives are clearly defined. The methodology is clearly defined and appropriate. The budget clearly demonstrates how the research activities will be supported and are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.</td>
<td>Proposed research program is clearly presented, is original and innovative and is likely to have impact by contributing to groundbreaking advances in the area, and/or leading to a technology or policy that addresses socioeconomic or environmental needs. Long-term goals and short-term objectives are well planned. The methodology is clearly described and appropriate. The budget clearly demonstrates how the research activities are to be supported and are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of HQP</td>
<td>Training record is at the highest level, with HQP contributing to top quality research. Most HQP move on to positions that require highly desired skills, obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and clearly defined. HQP success highly likely.</td>
<td>Training record is superior to other applicants, with HQP contributing to quality research. Most HQP move on to positions that require highly desired skills, obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and clearly defined. HQP success highly likely.</td>
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<td>Training record is superior to other applicants, with HQP contributing to quality research. Most HQP move on to positions that require highly desired skills, obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and clearly defined. HQP success highly likely.</td>
<td>Training record is acceptable but may be modest relative to other applicants. Some HQP move on to programs or positions that require desired skills, obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and described. HQP success is likely.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Cost of Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost of Research</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Majority of justified expenses represent costs higher than the norm for the research area.</td>
<td>Majority of justified expenses are within the norm for the research area.</td>
<td>Majority of justified expenses are lower than the norm for the research area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Possible examples include: Cost of training of HQP, Equipment intensive research and/or high usage fees, particularly expensive or frequent consumables, Travel (for collaborations, field work, access to facilities, conferences, ...)

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*The Discovery Grants Merit Indicators should be used in conjunction with the Peer Review Manual (Chapter 6) which outlines how reviewers arrive at a rating.*
Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview

Evaluation Process (Overview) - continued

- Applications are grouped in “bins” of comparable merit
- Funding Recommendations: projects with similar overall ratings within an Evaluation Group (EG) receive comparable funding to ensure consistency in the evaluation process.

Evaluation Groups: There are currently 12 EG’s in the Conference Model
- Members of the EG are assigned to the groups based on expertise and subject matter

- 1501 - Genes, Cells and Molecules
- 1502 - Biological Systems and Functions
- 1503 - Evolution and Ecology
- 1504 - Chemistry
- 1505 - Physics
- 1506 - Geosciences
- 1507 - Computer Science
- 1508 - Mathematics and Statistics
- 1509 - Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering
- 1510 - Electrical and Computer Engineering
- 1511 - Materials and Chemical Engineering
- 1512 - Mechanical Engineering
### Discovery Grants (Individuals, Team or Subatomic Physics) Overview - Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># App</th>
<th># Funded</th>
<th>U of T Success Rate</th>
<th>$ Requested ($M)</th>
<th>$ Awarded ($M)</th>
<th>U of T Funding Rate</th>
<th>U of T Average Grant ($K)</th>
<th># App Canada</th>
<th># Funded</th>
<th>National Success Rate</th>
<th>$ Requested ($M)</th>
<th>$ Awarded ($M)</th>
<th>Canada Funding Rate</th>
<th>Canada Average Grant ($K)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>5.92</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>3,434</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>195.79</td>
<td>76.30</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
<td>15.38</td>
<td>8.64</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
<td>42.4</td>
<td>3,257</td>
<td>2,091</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
<td>198.88</td>
<td>86.16</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>14.70</td>
<td>6.02</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>3,379</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>206.26</td>
<td>69.47</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>14.95</td>
<td>6.02</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>3,499</td>
<td>2,018</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>210.31</td>
<td>67.99</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>12.77</td>
<td>6.57</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>3,501</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>182.67</td>
<td>78.53</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>17.36</td>
<td>6.01</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>3,499</td>
<td>2,018</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>182.67</td>
<td>78.53</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Success Rate**

(# applications / # awards)

- U of T Success Rate
- National Success Rate
Internal Application Procedures, Eligibility and Internal Deadlines
Revised Application Procedures

FOR DISCOVERY GRANTS (Individual, Team and Subatomic Physics)

STEP 1

Ensure you are eligible to hold a research grant from NSERC and at the University of Toronto. Consult your Department Chair/Dean/Unit Head if you have any concerns.

If you have any co-applicants on your applications, Research Services will only check the eligibility of your UofT co-PIs.
Revised Application Procedures

Eligibility:

- To be eligible, you must:
  - Hold, or have a firm offer of, an academic appointment at a Canadian Institution (minimum three-year position or tenure track) as of September 1, 2014;
  - Be in a position that required independent research and allows supervision of HQP
  - If your primary position is outside of Canada, you are not eligible unless you work full-time in an eligible Canadian institution
  - Please note Adjunct Professors can only be co-applicants on NSERC grants;
Revised Application Procedures

Step 2:

- Discovery Grant Application Deadline
  - To apply for a Discovery Grant, you must have submitted a Notification of Intent to Apply.
  
  - Deadline for submission of the application is **November 1, 2013 by 9:00am local time**

  - Note: The NOI is mandatory for the submission of an NSERC Discovery application.
Revised Application Procedures

Step 3:

° Submit the following to Research Services on or before the specified internal deadline(s):

° Complete My Research Application (MRA) with all required attachments and approvals from your unit head or one-up, Vice Deans-Research, Vice Principal (UTM/UTSC) and/or Dean and/or Hospital Research Head, where applicable.

° Any additional documentation required to support your eligibility (i.e., letter of appointment).

*The MRA approval process should be started well in advance of the internal deadline as it can take multiple business days to complete the approval process*

**Please note if you hold a “Status Only” or “Emeritus” appointment, you will need to request an MRA account to be established**
Revised Application Procedures

Step 4:
- Ensure you have completed and finalized your application on NSERC’s New Research Portal.
- Once finalized and completed, link your CCV to your application and verify.
- Submit to Research Services by clicking on the “Submit” button.
- Once received by Research Services, your application will be approved and submitted to NSERC.
## NSERC & Internal Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>NSERC DEADLINE</th>
<th>INTERNAL DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subatomic Physics (over $500k per year)</td>
<td>5:00 p.m., October 1, 2013</td>
<td>5:00 pm., September 24, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship Time</td>
<td>5:00 p.m., September 1, 2013</td>
<td>5:00 p.m., August 28, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Grant (Individual, Group &amp; SAP); Northern Research Supplements; Subatomic Physics (under $500k per year)</td>
<td>9:00 a.m., November 1, 2013</td>
<td>9:00 a.m., October 25, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that your Faculty/Department may have an earlier internal deadline for approval*
Tips

- Start your application early
- Read the instructions
- Start your CCV early as the publications section may take some time to complete
- Write a summary in plain language and engage the reader
- Write your application for the intended audience
  - Investigate who is on your committee
Your Contacts at RSO

Jessica Keating, Research Funding Officer
📞 416-946-7517; ✉️ jessica.keating@utoronto.ca

Mike Folinas, Research Funding Manager
📞 416-978-7118; ✉️ m.folinas@utoronto.ca

Martina Simmonds, Research Funding Administrator
📞 416-978-2163; ✉️ martina.simmonds@utoronto.ca

Website: www.research.utoronto.ca
Address: 3rd Floor, McMurrich Bldg,
12 Queen's Park Crescent W.
Toronto, ON M1S 1S8
Other Resources

- My Research Application (MRA) - http://www.research.utoronto.ca/about/project-raise/
- CCV - https://ccv-cvc.ca/
- UofT Research Funding Opportunity - http://www.research.utoronto.ca/research-funding-opportunities/discovery-grants-individual-team-sub-atomic-physics-sap/