A. Eligibility

1) Is there a limit to the number of applications a given researcher can be part of?
   A given researcher can only be named in one application per round and can not hold concurrent awards.

2) Is a research associate professor eligible?
   Only regular faculty members are eligible.

3) If I applied for New Frontiers Fund can I also apply for Trailblazer?
   Yes. If there is overlap for what they request in both applications, and they receive New Frontiers funding, they won’t get the Trailblazer overlap. If they don’t get New Frontiers funding, they can certainly get Trailblazer unless the project can’t proceed without the New Frontiers Funding.

4) What does FDG stand for?

5) What is an early career researcher?
   For Trailblazer, ECRs are defined as individuals within five years of their first academic appointment, not including career interruptions for maternity or parental leave, sick leave, clinical training or family care.

B. Budget

6) Matching funds
   - New for Round 3, matching funds are not required for graduate students. Matching funds are required for PDFs.
   - Eligible sources for the PDF matching requirement include:
     o Department or Faculty commitments of cash
     o Regular faculty member’s external (or internal funding)

7) Are the Masters and Doctoral stipends intended to be a GRA or an GRS?
   (https://uwaterloo.ca/human-resources/support-managers/payroll/graduate-research-studentship-vs-graduate-research).

   The student support is intended as GRS. However, if a request is made that it be a GRA, I can certainly look into the feasibility of providing the support in this form. Contact us in advance.
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Frequently asked questions

8) **Can I spend funds on non-salary budget items?**
   The funds are meant for HQP, but if applicants want to contact me directly to make a case for something else, I may agree to this if a really compelling case is made. By compelling, I mean that they have no way of securing this by other means and that it is crucial to the success of their collaboration.

C. HQP questions

9) **Can my budget include just one PDF?**
   HQP teams must include a minimum of two HQP. This can be any combination of graduate students; graduate student(s) and postdoc(s); or postdocs.

10) **Is there any advantage or requirement to name specific individuals who could be hired as HQP?**
    Naming a specific graduate student provides a high level of confidence that the eventual HQP team will actually be involved / engaged within the window allowed for the project to start, especially if you are targeting students from specific under-represented groups.

11) **Is it more strategic to submit for two students than four or five?**
    There is no best strategy in terms of # of students to ask for. The key is how compelling a scientific case you make for the team you are proposing, and clear engagement in the research program.