NSERC Partnership Grants

Alejandra de Almeida
NSERC Ontario Regional Office
INNOVATION

**ENGAGE**
- Connect with colleges & universities (Grant: Connect)
- Engage with colleges & universities (Grant: Engage)
- Student Training in Industry (Grants: Experience, IPS & ICREATE)

**COLLABORATE**
- Collaborative R&D with colleges & universities (Grants: CRD, ARD, CU-I2I)
- Industrial Research Chairs at colleges and universities (Grants: IRC, IRCC, CDE)
- Strategic Partnerships (Grants: Strategic Networks & Projects)
  - Strategic Initiatives (Grants: CHRP, APC)

**COMMERCIALIZIZE**
- Idea to Innovation for colleges & universities (Grant: I2I)
- Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (Grant: CECR)
- College Technology Access Centres (Grant: TAC)

**CELEBRATE**
- Building College Capacity (Grants: IE, ARTI)
- Networks of Centres of Excellence (Grants: NCE, BL-NCE)
- Synergy Awards for Innovation
NSERC’s Ontario Regional Office

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Connect grants

Financial support for the Canadian research community to undertake activities that will help make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators
Connect

**Travel Level 1**
- Travel grant for academic researchers to meet with companies anywhere in Canada
- Support for travel and meeting costs
- Up to $5,000 for 3 months
- No application deadline; fast-turnaround

**Partnerships Level 2**
- Connector activities to promote partnerships or industrial training
- Special networking events and activities in NSE
- Research Planning Workshops
- Academic and industrial participants
- Up to $25K, typically around $5K
- No application deadline

**NSERC 2020 Level 2**
- Activities that support NSERC 2020 goals:
  - Launch the next generation
  - Building a diversified and competitive research base
  - Strengthening the dynamic between discovery and innovation
  - Going global (all activities must still occur in Canada)
  - Fostering a science culture is not eligible (PromoScience)
- Up to $25K, typically around $5K
- No application deadline

✔ The goal of activities across all levels is to generate future applications to NSERC
Engage grant

Collaborative research project between a company and a university/college
Engage

• **New relationship** between the company and a university researcher or college

• **6-month** R&D project aimed at solving a company-specific problem

• **$25,000** grant paid to the post-secondary institution (no cash required from the company)

• Applications accepted anytime

• IP belongs to the company

• 6 weeks turnaround time with a 85% success rate
Engage - Company Eligibility

• Operate from a Canadian base

• Able to fully exploit the results of the applied research - It will lead to significant economic benefit to the company and Canada

• Sufficient maturity or capability must be demonstrated
  - Start-up: 2 FTE and 2 years in operation to participate

Companies are limited to two new Engage Grants awarded in each fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
Engage – Company Specific Problem

Incentive for the project should come from the Company rather than the Researcher

• ‘Company-specific problem’ can be:
  • An existing product or process that needs development
  • A product or process that your company needs, but lacks the expertise to develop

• The work involved must be innovative…
  • Routine experimental measurement and data analysis tasks do not qualify... No ‘contract R&D’
  • ‘Research’ implies risk and uncertainty about outcomes
Engage – Researcher eligibility

• Must have been granted an individual or small team (principal investigator and up to two co-applicants) peer-reviewed grant from NSERC within the past six years.
• Applicants who have received a rating of “Strong” or higher for the criterion “Excellence of the Researcher” in their most recent Discovery Grant competition within the past six years are considered to have met the requirement for peer-reviewed research support.
• Researchers with a principal appointment in a health-oriented university faculty are eligible for an Engage Grant only if they have been awarded an NSERC

Applicants are limited to one Engage Grant awarded every 12 months.
Engage - Impact

Solving Company Specific Problems

- 94% of companies describe the project as a success
- 86% of companies state their problem was fully or partially solved through the Engage project

Continuing Research Collaborations

- 1 in 4 Engage Grants have led to longer term projects
- 1 in 6 companies hired the student from the six month Engage project

Positive Impacts at the Company:

- Enhanced R&D activity (66%), new business directions (62%), improved competitive position (49%), and attraction of new investment (26%)
- 98% of companies would recommend Engage to other companies
NSERC Engage – OCE VIP1

• Funding for industry-academia research projects for up to 1 year.
• $25,000 from NSERC, $20,000 from OCE, $5,000 cash from the company (plus in-kind contribution).
• Same eligibility rules as for Engage and VIP1.
• Application done directly to OCE.
NSERC Engage-Mitacs Accelerate

• Funding for industry-academia research projects for up to 6 months. Project must include at least one graduate student.
• $25,000 from NSERC, $7,500 from Mitacs, $7,500 cash from the company (plus in-kind contribution).
• Same eligibility rules as for Engage and Accelerate.
• Application done directly to NSERC.
Engage Plus

• Build on a previous Engage project
• Same academic researcher and industrial partner
• Direct 1:1 funding ratio up to $25,000 project value ($12,500 cash contribution from the company).
• Project Timeframe: up to 6 months
• Deadline: none, apply anytime
• Decision: ~ 6 weeks (95% success rate)
• Intellectual Property: company owned
CRD grants

Collaborative research project between a company and a university
Collaborative R&D (CRD) grants

• Project duration: 1 to 5 years
• No minimum / maximum $1M per year
• Can have prior relationship with company
• Industrial cash contribution (2:1 leverage)
• NSERC levers cash and in-kind contributions
• Active involvement of company required
• Apply at any time
• 85% success rate
Want to Learn More?

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OCE Accelerates Innovation

• Supports collaborative R&D between industry and academia
• Invests in early-stage commercialization of emerging technologies
• Fosters youth entrepreneurship
• Leads and develops networks around high-potential, business-led opportunities
• Support applied industry-academic R&D and commercialization projects
• Support youth entrepreneurship

• Advance innovation agenda
• Drive economic development outcomes

• Enable access to advanced research capabilities
• Enable access to highly skilled talent
OCE offers a comprehensive suite of provincially funded programs to commercialize innovation that helps create jobs, drive prosperity and equip the next generation of entrepreneurs to continue building a globally competitive, innovation-driven economy for Ontario.
• VIP1: OCE $20K cash to leverage $5K from industry partner
  ➢ Combine with application for $25K NSERC Engage
• VIP2: OCE $150K cash to leverage $75K from industry partner
  ➢ Combine with application for $150K NSERC CRD
• OCE BDs can help make the connection!
TalentEdge Internship Program
University masters and doctoral students and recent masters grads work on collaborative industry-driven projects
• 4 months: $5K co + $10K OCE

TalentEdge Fellowship Program
Postdoctoral Fellows (PDFs)
• 1 year: $25K co + $35K OCE

Both programs have campus-based and company-based options
Success = commercial benefit + innovation + intern/fellow expertise fit + career dev’t
AUTOMATED VEHICLE INNOVATION NETWORK (AVIN)

• Created by the Ontario government in partnership with OCE to build on the economic potential of automated vehicles and further ability of the province’s transportation system to adapt to the technology

• $80-million program

• An extension of OCE’s earlier programming in connected and automated vehicles

• AV R&D Partnership Fund Stream 1 provides up to $100K funding

• AV R&D Partnership Fund Stream 2 provides up to $1M funding
Five-year partnership with Israel Innovation Authority:

- Supports consortia comprised of SMEs, large firms and academic institutions to jointly develop innovative technologies
- Addresses challenges identified by multi-national enterprises (MNEs) in key sectors
- The target area for 2018 is Smart Mobility
NEW IN 2018

Next Generation Network Program

ENCQOR Evolution of Networked Services through a Corridor in Quebec & Ontario for Research and Innovation

5G STRONGER NETWORKS, SMARTER COMMUNITIES.

ERICSSON ciena THALES IBM CGI
IBM INNOVATION INCUBATOR PROJECT

The program has four streams:

- **Customer Demonstration**
  Demonstrating the value of a smart computing product or service with a strategic customer by matching market leaders and market disruptors.

- **TalentEdge Analytics Internships**
  Building specialized expertise and skill sets through Data Analytics internships.

- **SOSCIP-TalentEdge Post-doctoral Fellowship Program**
  Giving post-doctoral fellows access to advanced computing tools and infrastructure through the SOSCIP-TalentEdge Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

- **IBM Innovation Incubator Project**
  Through innovation hubs, providing SMEs with support services to help them scale up; identify and pursue new markets; access cognitive and cloud computing through IBM technology platforms including IBM BlueMix, and IBM Watson.
• Intake is currently closed for the pilot year of this program
• We anticipate renewal for 2018-19
• Now is the time to make introductions, understand industry needs, cultivate relationships
Hosted by Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE), Discovery is Canada’s leading innovation-to-commercialization conference.

Discovery brings together key players from industry, academia, government, international delegations, the investment community, entrepreneurs and students to pursue collaboration, employment and sales opportunities.

Discovery is Canada’s largest showcase of leading-edge technologies, best practices and research - 3,600+ attendees / 500+ exhibitors.
THANK YOU!
Connecting universities with industry and community partners

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April 27, 2018
Why Mitacs?

- National research network
- 17 years in operation
- 16,000+ research projects
- 65+ academic partners
Mitacs by the Numbers

- $145M Private Sector Investment
- 4250+ Industry Partners
- 33000+ Students Career-Ready
- 60+ University Partners
- 20000+ Innovative Research Projects
- 3600+ International Student Research Internships
- 1450+ Professional Skills Workshops
Building research collaborations

- From $15,000 to $2M+ in funding
- 4 months – 5 years in length
- Leverage R&D funds
- Supports grad students and PDFs
- Access to expertise, equipment
- Non-competitive: apply any time
- Peer reviewed; quick turnaround
Scalability: build large-scale projects

- Can build bigger projects from simple 4-6 month units
- Matching starts at 1:1; stronger Mitacs leveraging available with bigger projects
- Projects can be multi-disciplinary (and multi-partner)
Funding Model

Standard

$15,000 research grant
($7,500 Partner
$7,500 Mitacs)

$10,000 minimum intern stipend

$5,000 other project-related expenses
Accelerate Fellowships

- Research collaborations between companies and grad students, faculty at Canadian universities
- Longer-term collaboration
- Matching 1:1.22
- All disciplines, no application deadlines
- Professional development
Accelerate International

- Research collaborations between international companies and grad students, faculty at Canadian universities
- 16 – 24 weeks, 75% abroad, 25% - home university
- All disciplines, no application deadlines
Examples of Projects at Waterloo

- Customer Intelligence Predictive Models
- Property Insurance Pricing Investigative Research
- A Generalized Model Predictive Path Planning for Autonomous Vehicles
- Monitoring Health of Underground Mining Equipment
Our Funding Partners
Next steps

Contact me to discuss research goals:

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Register to receive updates:
www.mitacs.ca/signup
## Accelerate Fellowships

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project length</td>
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<td>36 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total research award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum intern stipend</td>
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<td>$72,000</td>
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<td>Partner contribution</td>
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