NSERC Partnership Grants

Alejandra de Almeida
NSERC Ontario Regional Office
Federal Tri-Council Funding Agencies

Natural Sciences & Engineering

Social Sciences & Humanities

Health
**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)

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

**CELEBRATE**
- Networks of Centres of Excellence (Grants: NCE, BL-NCE)
- Synergy Awards for Innovation
- Building College Capacity (Grants: IE, ARTI)

**INNOVATION**
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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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