

Important updates about the NSERC Alliance program

Please see below for information on important updates to the NSERC Alliance program. These include new resources to help with certain sections of the application, new resources related to Option 2 Alliance grants and updates to various pieces of Alliance grant literature. If you are interested in applying for an Alliance grant, please contact david.spurrell@dal.ca.

Alliance webinar presentation now available online

In late 2020, NSERC hosted webinar presentations to learn more about best practices in preparing an Alliance application. The webinar [video](#) and slides ([with notes](#) and [without notes](#)) are now available on the [Alliance resources webpage](#). We would also like to remind you of the other [resources](#) that are available to support you in preparing an Alliance proposal, which are outlined below. In addition to our [Frequently asked questions](#) webpage, [NSERC staff](#) also remain available to answer any questions you may have.

[Alliance grant application checklist](#)

[Equity, diversity and inclusion in the training plan](#)

[Partner organization self-assessment tool](#)

[Instructions to external reviewers and members of *ad hoc* committees](#)

New resources related to option 2 now available

A document summarizing key details about Alliance option 2 has been added to the [Resources](#) webpage to help applicants and partner organizations determine whether the project they are envisioning meets the requirements. In addition, the Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP) Selection Committee Review Instructions are now available online. This will help applicants understand how the committee determines whether Alliance option 2 applications meet the characteristics and whether they will proceed to the next step of the evaluation.

[Option 2 overview pamphlet](#)

[Option 2 public impact value proposition \(PIVP\) selection committee review instructions](#)

Reminder: updates to Alliance literature

The Alliance literature was updated on October 13, 2020. These updates aimed to streamline and clarify various points, as well as to provide access to additional resources based on feedback and questions from the community. Key changes are summarized below, but we strongly encourage you to review the updated literature before submitting an application.

- The **page limits for proposals** have been revised, as shown in the Proposal sections and length table in the [Instructions for completing an application](#). Specifically, for all projects requesting an annual average of more than \$300,000 and up to \$1,000,000 from NSERC, the **maximum total** number of pages is now 25.

Note: In order to accommodate proposals already in preparation, applicants requesting an annual average of more than \$750,000 were permitted to submit proposals of up to 30 pages until December 1, 2020.

- The [Alliance grant application checklist](#) has been updated. In particular, information regarding project management expenses was amended: up to 10% of the total direct research costs of a project can be used towards project management expenses in a project **of any size** involving multiple universities and/or partner organizations.

Note: It is only for **large** projects (average of more than \$300,000 per year requested from NSERC) involving multiple universities and/or partner organizations that you may include up to three additional pages strictly for the purposes of detailing topics such as project management, governance structure and university support. Refer to the [Instructions for completing an application](#).

- The [proposal template](#) has been updated. In particular, the General instructions at the beginning of the template.
- The maximum number of characters for the three parts of the free-form Contributions to research and training explanation section of the Personal Data Form with CCV Attachment (Form 100A) has been increased to align with the current requirements for Discovery Grants applications. As a result, the maximum total number of pages for this section is now five instead of four. The [instructions on how to complete Form 100A](#) have been updated.
- The [Role of partner organizations](#) webpage has been revised to emphasize that each partner organization must play an active role in the project and must make in-kind contributions (with the exception of other funding agencies). The page was also amended to indicate that **Canadian producer groups and industrial associations** must be legally established under applicable federal, provincial or territorial statutes in Canada, replacing the previous requirement that they be incorporated in Canada.
- The [Frequently asked questions](#) webpage was updated to address recurring questions received from the community.

If you have any questions or comments about Alliance grants please contact Alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca. You may also sign up for our mailing list on the [Alliance webpage](#) for regular updates on the program.
