



NSERC Discovery Grants Information Session



NSERC Information Session

University or Society Name

Date xx, 2007

Name 1	NSERC	DEPT	Type of participation on GSC (i.e., GSC# and name, role, year)
Name 2	GSC Member	DEPT	
	RGO		



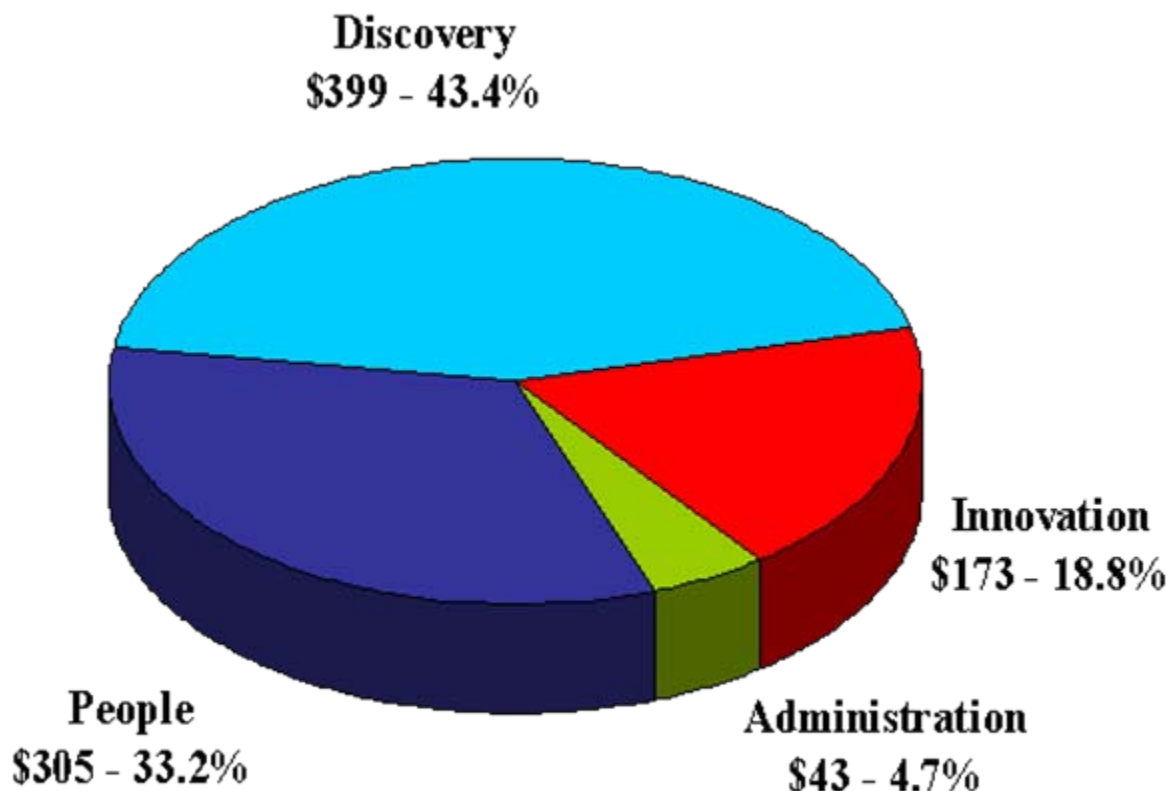
Agenda

- **NSERC Updates**
- Program Updates
- 2007 Competition Results
- Preparing a Grant Application
- Important News From Your Grants Office



NSERC Budget 2007-08

(millions of dollars)

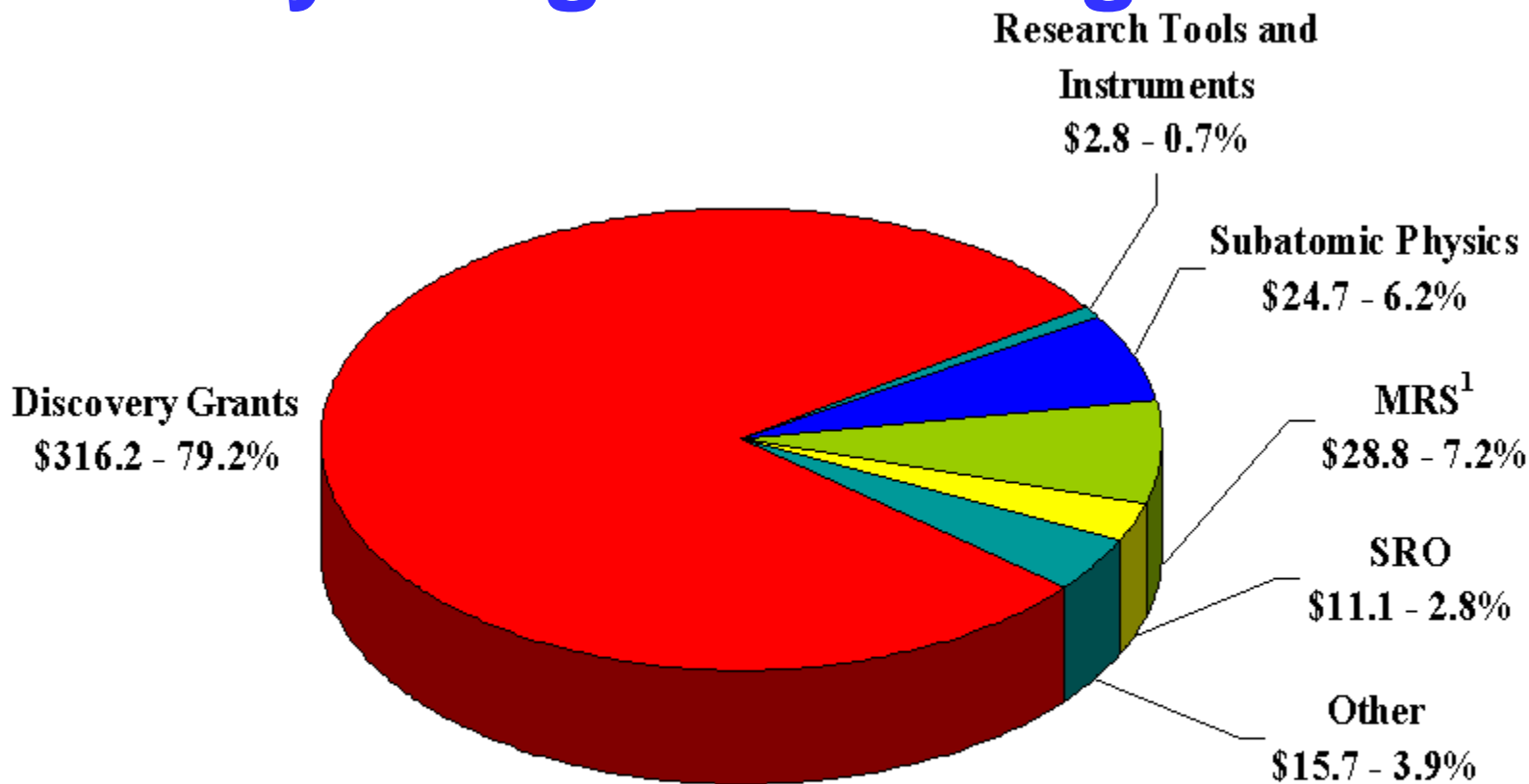


Total: \$920

1. Excludes \$37M increase from the 2007 Federal Budget.



Discovery Programs Budget 2007-08



(millions of dollars)

Total: \$399

1. Includes Canadian Light Source funding from NRC (\$3M) and Budget 2004 (\$6M). Excludes \$37M increase from the 2007 Federal Budget.



Proposed Allocation of \$37M Increase

(millions of dollars)

Program	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Discovery Grants – Accelerator Supplements	1.160	3.160	5.160	6.000	6.000
Strategic Partnerships	7.600	17.200	25.200	25.575	25.575
Special Strategic Competition	6.000	6.000	--	--	--
International Scholarships and Fellowships	1.525	3.050	3.575	3.575	3.575
Other Targeted Initiatives	<u>8.000</u>	<u>8.820</u>	<u>7.000</u>	<u>2.000</u>	<u>0.000</u>
Grants and Scholarships	24.285	38.230	40.935	37.150	35.150
Administration	<u>1.850</u>	<u>1.850</u>	<u>1.850</u>	<u>1.850</u>	<u>1.850</u>
Total	26.135	40.080	42.785	39.000	37.000



Discovery Grants International Review

- Value for Money and Accountability Review carried out in 2006
- Concerns raised:
 - Is a 75% success rate consistent with international standards of quality?
 - Are best researchers supported at an internationally competitive level?
- NSERC is convening an International Review Committee



Grant Selection Committee (GSC)

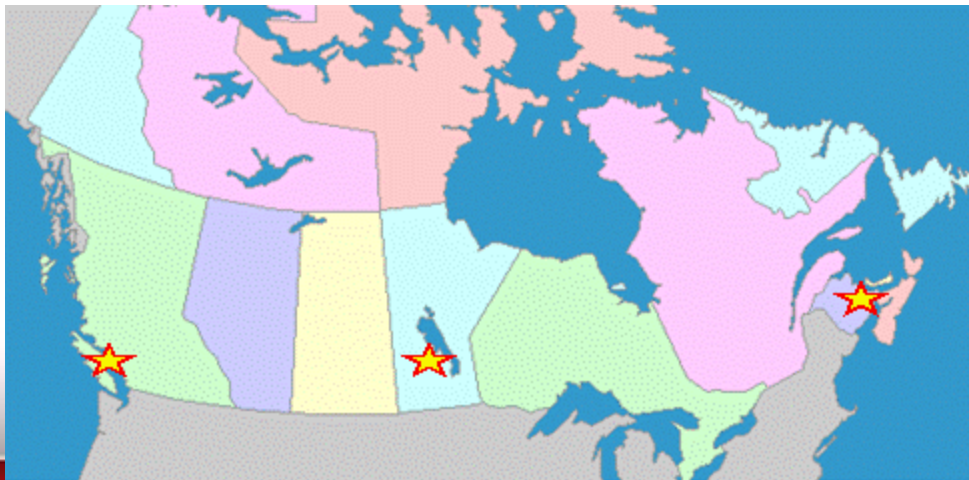
Structure Review

- Current discipline-based GSC structure may have difficulties handling inter-disciplinary and new areas of research
- To handle increasing workload, GSCs are subdividing and thus becoming more specialized, exacerbating the problem
- Is there a better way? NSERC is reviewing the current system
- Further details, see web site or contact Andrew.Woodsworth@nserc.ca



Regional Offices

- Ensure a visible presence in the regions and bring NSERC closer to students, researchers, and industry
- Raise awareness of NSERC's activities and promote participation in the programs
- Create linkages between academic and private sectors
- Promote science and math education



The new Ontario and Quebec NSERC regional office location to be determined in 2007-08.



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Program Updates

- Discovery Accelerator Supplements
- University Faculty Awards Program (UFA)



Discovery Accelerator Supplements

- Objectives: to provide substantial and timely resources to outstanding researchers with established research program, at a key point in their career
- \$120,000, normally over three years
- Nominations made by GSCs in February then reviewed by interdisciplinary committees
- 100 supplements in 2008-09 with half in target areas (ICT, energy & natural resources, environmental science & technologies)



University Faculty Awards (UFA)

- 2008 will be the final UFA competition
- Separate programs aimed at women and Aboriginals in the natural sciences and engineering NSE will be developed



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2007 Discovery Grants Results: All Disciplines

Disciplines	First-time Applicants			Returning Applicants		
	No App.	Success (%)	Avg. Grant (\$)	No App.	Success (%)	Avg. Grant (\$)
Life Sciences	315	50.8	27,270	814	66.6	34,625
Physical Sciences	189	58.7	26,664	579	79.8	39,505
Math, Stats	84	69.4	14,356	218	76.1	18,570
Computer Science	57	72.3	18,764	297	81.8	25,311
Engineering	222	60.4	21,077	740	73.9	26,095
Subatomic Physics	12	91.7	42,591	21	85.7	48,361
Interdisciplinary	21	71.4	20,267	29	65.5	27,618
Total for all GSCs	900	58.9	23,615	2692	74.0	30,993



2007 Research Tools and Instruments (RTI-1)

Disciplines	All RTI			RTI for FTAs	
	No. App.	Success Rate (%)	Funding (\$k)	No App.	Success Rate (%)
Life Sciences	456	56.4	11,709	87	47.1
Physical Sciences	487	48.3	17,359	81	56.8
Math, Stats	10	92.9	389	1	100.0
Computer Science	54	50.4	1,552	9	50.0
Engineering	512	44.7	17,827	71	40.8
Interdisciplinary	13	53.8	373	3	33.3
Total for all GSCs	1532	49.9	49,210	252	48.4



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Discovery Grants

- Promotes and maintains a diversified base of research capability in the NSE in Canadian institutions
- Supports ongoing programs of research, rather than projects
- Inherent flexibility in the research program
- Success rate: approximately 70%
- Average grant: \$31k



Eligibility of Subject Matter

- Supports research programs in the NSE
- Interdisciplinary research is encouraged but should be predominantly in NSE
- Significance, impact, advancement of knowledge or its practical application in NSE
- Guidelines on health research can be found on NSERC's Web site



Notification of Intent to Apply for a Discovery Grant (Form 180)

- For Discovery Grants (DG), and University Faculty Award applications
- Facilitates selection of external referees
- Deadline: August 1
 - Can have adverse consequences if not submitted
- List contributions (2001-07)



Life Cycle of a DG Application

August 1 to mid-September

Form 180 - Assignment of GSC and Referees

November 1

Submission of Grant Application

November 25

Chairs' Meeting – Confirmation of GSC

November

Mail-out to External Referees

Mid-December

Mail-out to GSC Members

February

Grants Competition

March – April

Announcement of Results



How your application is evaluated by the Grant Selection Committee

I.M. Amember

Department of
University of
GSC XX –

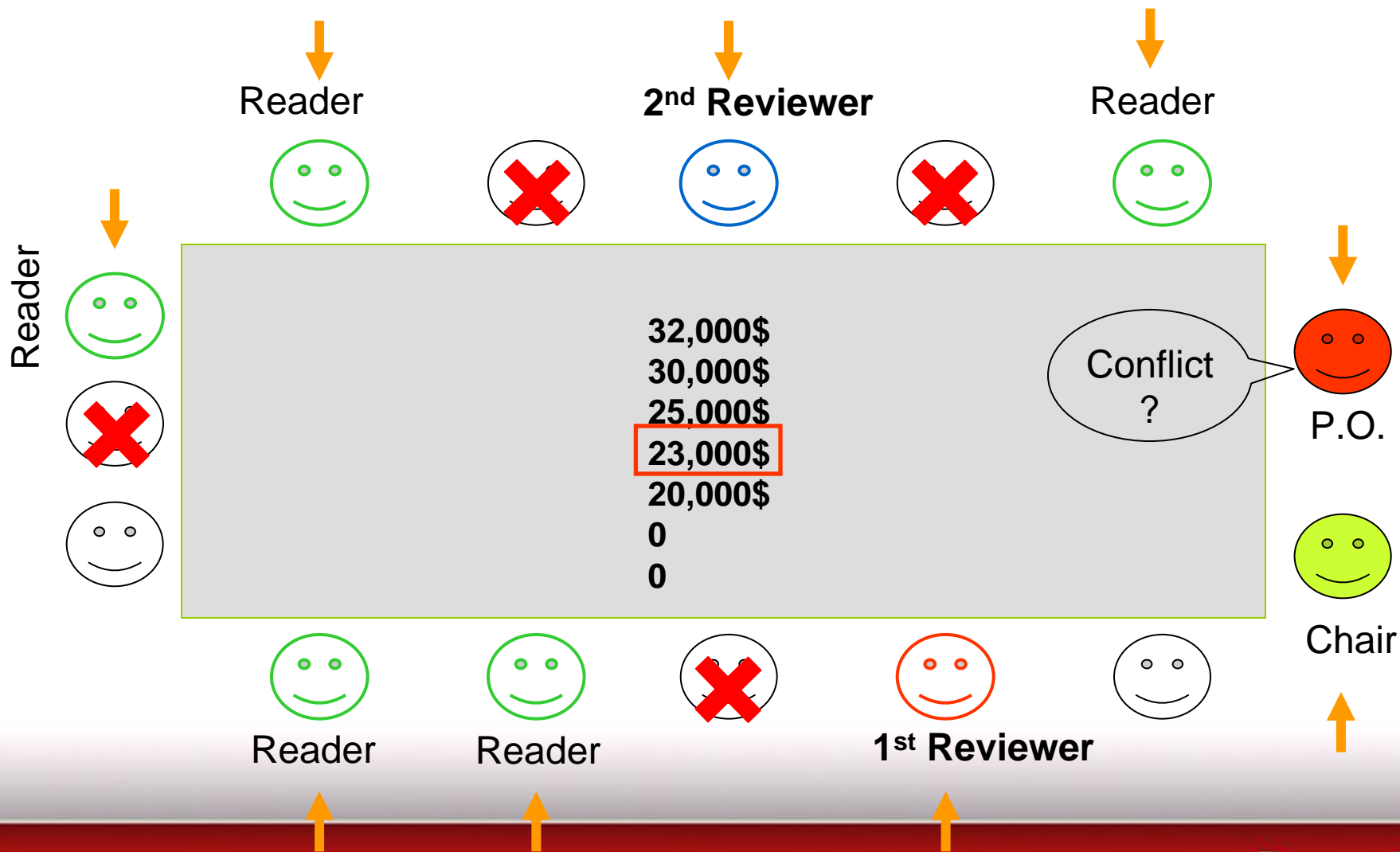


Outline

- The Grant Selection Committee
 - How is your application evaluated
- Discovery Grants
- Research Tools and Instruments Grants



During Competition





Levels of Review

Generally, at least eight people will read your proposal:

- One primary reviewer
 - One secondary reviewer
 - Five readers
 - One external reviewer (at least)
- Total number depends on your GSC**



The Discovery Grant Evaluation Criteria

- Excellence of the researcher(s)
- Merit of the proposal
- Training of highly qualified personnel (HQP)
- Need for funds



Excellence of Researcher

- Knowledge, expertise and experience
- Contribution to research
- Importance of contributions
- Complementarity of expertise and synergy for group applications



Merit of the Proposal

- Originality and innovation
- Significance and expected contribution to research
- Clarity and scope of objectives
- Clarity and appropriateness of methodology
- Feasibility of program



Training of HQP

- Quality and extent of past and potential contributions
- Appropriateness of proposed work for training
- Training in collaborative or interdisciplinary environment



Reporting HQP

Name	Type of HQP Training	Years Supervised or Co-supervised	Title of Project or Thesis	Present Position
Consent obtained				
Imadoc, Marie	Masters (completed)	Supervised 2003-2005	Isotope geochemistry in petroleum engineering	V-P (research), Earth Analytics Inc., Calgary, AB
Consent not obtained				
(name withheld)	Masters (completed)	Supervised 2003-2005	Isotope geochemistry	Research executive in petroleum industry – Western Canada



Need for Funds

- Appropriateness and justification of budget
- Other sources of funding
 - Availability
 - Relationship to current proposal



Additional Considerations

Within the framework of the selection criteria, the GSCs consider factors such as:

- The potential and research plans of new applicants
- Applicant's role in collaborations and joint publications
- Guidelines for the preparation and review of applications in:
 - Interdisciplinary research;
 - Engineering and applied science; and,
 - Health sciences
- Adjunct, Emeritus and Part-time Professor status



FORM 101 YOUR GRANT PROPOSAL

Merit of the proposal

Training of HQP

Potential HQP

Need for funds

Budget justification
Relationship to other sources of funds



F100 YOUR RESEARCH PROFILE

Excellence of the Researcher

Past HQP record

List of other sources of funds



Institutional Identifier

Family name of applicant, Given name, Initial(s) of all given names, Personal identification no. (PIN)

Institution that will administer the grant, Language of application, Time (in hours per month) to be devoted to the proposed research / activity

Type of grant applied for, Target Area

Title of proposal

Provide a maximum of 10 key words that describe this proposal. Use commas to separate them.

Research subject code(s), Primary, Secondary

CERTIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS

If this proposal involves any of the following, check the box(es) and submit the protocol to the university or college's certification committee.

Research involving: Humans, Human pluripotent stem cells, Animals, Biohazards

Does any phase of the research described in this proposal a) take place outside an office or laboratory, or b) involve an undertaking in Part 1 of Appendix B?

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM NSERC

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5

SIGNATURES (REQUIRED)

It is agreed that the information provided in this application is true and correct.

Applicant's department, institution, tel. and fax nos., and e-mail

Dean of faculty

President of institution (or representative)

Family name, Institution no. (PIN)

I hold a faculty position at an eligible Canadian college (complete Appendices B1 and C)

I do not or will not hold an academic appointment at a Canadian postsecondary institution

APPOINTMENT AT

Title of position, Department, Campus

academic appointment, Part-time appointment, Full-time appointment

- For all non-tenured or non tenure-track academic appointment and Emeritus Professors, complete Appendices B & C
- For life-time Emeritus Professor and part-time positions, complete Appendix C

TRAINING OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL

Indicate the number of students, fellows and other research personnel that you:

Name of discipline	Institution	Country	Date yyyy/mm			
				Supervised	Co-supervised	Total

TRAINING OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL

Indicate the number of students, fellows and other research personnel that you:

	Currently		Over the past six years (excluding the current year)		Total
	Supervised	Co-supervised	Supervised	Co-supervised	
Undergraduate					
Master's					
Doctoral					
Postdoctoral					
Others					
Total					



FORM 101

Grant Proposal: Tips

- Write summary in plain language
- Provide a progress report on related research
- Position the research within the field
- Articulate short- and long-term objectives
- Provide a detailed methodology



FORM 101

Grant Proposal: Tips

- Describe plans for training
- Prepare realistic budget
- Discuss any relationship to other research support
- Address recent GSC comments



FORM 100

Personal Data Form: Tips

- List all sources of support
- Describe five most significant research contributions
- List other research contributions (2001-07)
- Describe contributions to training (2001-07)
- Give other evidence of impact of work
- Explain any delays in research activity



A Complete Discovery Grant Application Includes:

1. An Application for a Grant (Form 101) with supporting documentation
2. A Personal Data Form (Form 100) for applicant and all co-applicants, with appropriate appendices
3. Samples of research contributions (reprints, pre-prints, thesis chapters, manuscripts, etc.)
4. Environmental Assessment, if required



Research Tools and Instruments

- Deadline date – October 25
- Ongoing moratorium on Categories 2 and 3
- \$150,000 or less available from NSERC
- Must hold or have submitted an NSERC research grant (not necessarily a Discovery Grant)
- A Grant Selection Committee's RTI competition budget is based on the total amount applied for



RTI FORM 100

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FORM 101

Research Tools and Instruments Category 1

- What research is being done with equipment?
- Justify each item
- Explain need and urgency of overall request
- Suitability of proposed equipment for research program
- Indicate impact on training
- Give alternate configurations and prices



Final Advice

- Use the 2007 Web version of the forms and Guide.
- Read all instructions carefully and follow presentation standards.
- Ensure completeness of application.
- Remember that more than one audience reads your application.
- Ask colleagues for comments on your application.
- Read other successful proposals.
- Read the *Peer Review Manual*.



Contacts

Deadlines, Acknowledgement of Applications, Results	Your Research Grant Officer
Your Account, Grants in Aid of Research Statement of Account (Form 300)	Your Business Officer
NSERC Web site	www.nserc.gc.ca
Discovery Grants (including eligibility)	resgrant@nserc.ca 613- 995-5829
Use of Grant Funds	casdfinance@nserc.ca
On-line help	webapp@nserc.ca
NSERC staff	firstname.familyname@nserc.ca



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