

Please forward to interested faculty and researchers within your unit and post.

NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program – Changes for 2025 and Internal Deadlines

Generally, for the LOI process:

- NSERC has confirmed that there are no LOI quotas for eligible institutions.
- While an unlimited number of LOIs can be submitted by an institution, each institution has a maximum number of LOIs that can advance to the application stage.
- NSERC has confirmed that Memorial University will have an allotment of **one (1)** application that may proceed to the application stage of the NSERC CREATE Program opportunity.
- Only when an institution submits a number of LOIs greater than this allotment will their LOIs be evaluated to determine which will advance to the application stage.

For the LOI process at Memorial:

While there will be no internal selection process for LOI submission, NSERC requires every LOI to include (in their VPR letter) the total number of LOIs the university will be submitting this competition year. As such, there will be a registration process through Research Initiatives and Services (RIS) PRIOR TO THE NSERC DEADLINE to facilitate the processing of these VPR letters.

Other important information – Genomics Initiatives:

In addition, NSERC will fund four CREATE initiatives in Genomics in the 2026 competition year. If you are planning to submit under this initiative, LOIs should include “Genomics” in the title. LOIs submitted to the Genomics call are not included in Memorial’s allotment of LOIs advancing to the application stage; each university can submit up to **two (2)** LOIs for the Genomics call.

Other important information – General:

1. Security provisions: Applicants must identify whether the application aims to advance a Sensitive Technology Research Area (STRA). Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) attestations forms for applicant and co-applicants will be required at full application stage if working in a STRA.
2. COVID-19: Applicants do not discuss COVID-19 impacts and mitigation strategies
3. Industrial Stream: Has been eliminated. Industrial participation in CREATE initiatives is encouraged.
4. Mobility Experiences: Mandatory for all master and doctoral trainees, with a minimum duration of one month for M.Sc. and two months for Ph.D.
5. Indigenous Research: Proposals that include Indigenous research activities must describe the measures that will be taken to respond to community and/or partner needs and priorities.

MEMORIAL’S INTERNAL DEADLINES FOR NSERC CREATE

If you are intending to submit an LOI, please initiate a discussion with your Associate Dean (Research) and Grants Facilitator(s) as soon as possible. As this program is intended to support training programs

which are self-sustaining beyond the period of the grant it is critical that Faculties are in support of the program being proposed.

RIS will be offering additional support to applicants preparing CREATE LOIs. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Jennifer Stevens (v5js@mun.ca) and/or Dr. Amanda Crompton (ajcrompt@mun.ca) in advance of the internal deadline for preliminary discussions regarding their LOI.

REGISTRATION AND LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) INTERNAL PROCESS

Phase 1 – Registration (required) Deadline: Thursday, April 17, 2025

For the purpose of determining the number of LOIs being led by Memorial applicants, interested applicants are required to notify RIS of their intent to submit a LOI. This is due to NSERC's requirement that the VPR letter for every LOI must include the total number of LOIs being submitted by Memorial. Upon registration, RIS staff will assist applicants with the preparation of their draft VPR letter.

Please forward the title and a **draft** version of your LOI ("outline of training program" and "excellence of proposed team" sections only) to Research Initiatives and Services **by email via** ris@mun.ca, copying Dr. Jennifer Stevens (v5js@mun.ca) and Dr. Amanda Crompton (ajcrompt@mun.ca) - **Subject Line: NSERC CREATE – Registration**

Applicants shall be permitted to make edits to their LOI during the period between this registration and their Researcher Portal submission.

Failure to notify RIS of your intent to submit a LOI may result in an inability to secure a VPR letter that meets NSERC's requirements.

As per previous competitions, individuals may be involved as an Applicant or Co-applicant on a maximum of 2 CREATE projects (e.g. one awarded project plus the current application, or two proposed applications), and an individual can only be the Applicant on one application at any given time. Where an individual is involved in two (2) CREATE projects, the projects must be distinct from each other.

Phase 2 – LOI for Institutional (RIS) Review (required) Deadline: Thursday, April 24, 2025

As the VPR letter for every LOI must include the total number of LOIs being submitted by Memorial, LOIs must be submitted to RIS with sufficient time to coordinate the required VPR letters. Documents required for LOI review:

- Complete LOI documents as noted in the NSERC CREATE LOI Instructions (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/CREATE-FONCER_enq.asp) (with the exception of the VPR letter which will be provided following institutional review).

****Please note: NSERC CREATE website is currently in the process of being updated to reflect this current competition. Please check back to the site for updates.**

LOIs must be submitted to RIS through the Researcher Portal. Please ensure you allow sufficient time for Faculty Approval to be given via the Researcher Portal in order to meet the internal deadline.

Once approved by RIS, the applicant will receive the signed VPR letter and will submit their finalized LOI via the NSERC portal to meet the **NSERC deadline of May 1, 2025.**

NSERC CREATE Program Information

Program information for 2026 competition is currently being updated to the NSERC website.

****Please check back to the site for updates (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/CREATE-FONCER_enq.asp).** We encourage potential applicants to read this as well as the following instructions:

[LOI – Form 187 Instructions](#)

[CREATE Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Contact Information:

NSERC: CREATE@nserc-crsng.gc.ca