

NSERC Discovery Grant Enhancement Program 2020

Purpose:

To encourage and support researchers at Lakehead University to begin preparation of their NSERC Discovery Grant applications well in advance of the internal deadline, with the goal of increasing overall success rates.

While the program is designed to support early career researchers in obtaining NSERC Discovery funding, application to the program is open to all faculty.

Proposed Dates:

Workshops will run once a week for 4 consecutive weeks (specific dates and times to be determined in collaboration with participants).

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Enhancement Program will be delivered via Zoom.

Application Due: April 24th, 2020

Program Start: Week of May 11th - May 15th, 2020

Program End: Week of June 1st – June 5st, 2020

Draft of Discovery Grant due on or before July 6th, 2020

Program Structure:

Four, 2-hour workshops will be led and facilitated by Dr. Lexi Haslehurst, NSERC Research Facilitator, with active participation from faculty members experienced in NSERC grant-writing and adjudication. Each week, tasks will be assigned to encourage the early development of an NSERC Discovery Grant. Feedback on written portions will be provided by the Facilitator and returned to the applicant in a timely manner. Within 30 days of the final workshop, a draft proposal will be submitted to the Facilitator, who will provide the participant with feedback intended to assist in further development of a Discovery Grant for submission in the autumn term.

Participants in the program will be eligible for a research grant of up to \$1500, distributed in two installments, to aid in the development of their Discovery Grant applications. Researchers may use this grant for costs associated with research, including but not limited to hiring research assistants and grant writers/editors, collecting preliminary data, and meeting with research partners. Participants may only receive this grant once but may audit future Discovery Grant Enhancement programs if desired.

The \$1500 grant will be distributed in two allotments: 1) \$750 following completion of the four modules; and 2) \$750 after they have applied to the NSERC Discovery Grant program in the autumn.

The number of participants will not exceed 10 per year.

To be considered for participation, researchers will need to submit an application through ROME0 (click on Apply New - Tri-Agency Grant Enhancement Programs). Applications will include a brief project summary, a summary of the applicant's experience with tri-agency grants, and a budget for the \$1,500 research grant.

At the commencement and conclusion of the workshops, participants' feedback will be sought to assist in the development and evaluation of the program.

Program Overview:

Workshop 1: Preparing for Success

Participants will be provided a general overview of the application procedure, structure of the application, and significant deadlines. We will discuss NOI submission and the importance of choosing the appropriate review committee.

Participants will be introduced to the adjudication criteria and scoring system of the grant. Guest speakers with experience writing/reviewing NSERC Discovery Grants will be invited to share their experiences, and offer participants insight into what makes a successful application.

For the next session, you will be asked to draft an NOI summary and select your review committee.

Workshop 2: Budgets and Significant Contributions to Research

Participants will be guided through drafting a budget. This will include outlining eligible and ineligible costs for NSERC, and briefly outlining how to draft a budget justification.

Participants will learn how to best leverage their CVs to address the following components of a Discovery Grant:

- Presenting their application in the context of its relationship to other research support
- Identifying and discussing their most significant research contributions
 - Delineating between significant contributions and 'additional information on contributions' – making the strongest choices for each section

Examples from previous faculty applications will be provided to demonstrate how best to draft the Significant Contributions portion of the application. Strengths and weaknesses will be discussed by the group.

For the next session, you will be asked to prepare a budget (with justification) and an outline of your top 5 most significant research contributions from the past 6 years (point form is acceptable).

Workshop 3: Presenting your HQP Training Plan

Participants will gain an understanding of how to draft an effective HQP Training Plan. This will include a discussion on the ways in which a training philosophy is different from a training plan, and what should be included in each. This discussion will be enriched through the participation of faculty with experience writing and reviewing successful NSERC Discovery Grants.

Examples from previous applications will be provided to demonstrate how best to draft the HQP Training Plan and Philosophy portion of the application. Strengths and weaknesses will be discussed by the group.

Anne Klymenko, Director of Research Services, will join to discuss approaches to incorporating Equity, Diversity and Inclusion considerations into your HQP training plan.

For the following week, participants will be expected to draft an HQP training philosophy and training plan, provide point-form notes on past experiences with HQP training (from the past 6 years).

Workshop 4: Structuring a Research Proposal

Participants will be introduced to the NSERC guidelines on how to structure their research proposal. The following headings will be discussed, including the content expectations for each:

Recent Progress, Objectives, Literature Review, Methodology, and Impact

Emphasis will be placed on how to use the proposal structure to best meet the adjudication criteria.

As a completion to the program, each participant will submit a draft of their Discovery Grant proposal to the research facilitator for feedback within 30 days of the final workshop. The intention is to have participants thinking about their Discovery Grants well in advance of the posted deadlines, leaving room for revision and additional feedback from various sources.