2018 NSERC Research Tools & Instruments Program

Background:
The NSERC Research Tools & Instruments (RTI) program provides up to $150K for research equipment. Between 2014 and 2017, universities had a set allocation on the number of applications that could be submitted to NSERC. FoMD competed in the open UA pool prior to the 2016 competition. As a result of FoMD’s increasing success in obtaining NSERC Discovery grants, FoMD was given a faculty allocation for the 2016 and 2017 competitions and ran an internal selection process to determine those who could apply for the FoMD allocated spots.

Changes to the RTI Program:
The university quotas have been abolished for the 2018 competition, which is now open to all eligible Canadian university researchers. However, it is important to note that researchers will only be able to participate in one application per competition (as applicant or co-applicant, but not both). Changes are also coming to the application form. Updated instructions and Peer Review Manual will be available in early August. The application will be available in the Research Portal at the same time.

Important Dates:
- Early August: new application form on Research Net and updated instructions/peer review manual on NSERC Website
- RSO Deadline: Tuesday, October 16
- NSERC Deadline: October 25 at 8 p.m. ET
- Notification of award: March 2018

Application Support:
NSERC: Contact: General questions/inquiries @ coord@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
1. Webinar: “Research Tools and Instruments – Submission of an application” August 31** or September 12 1-3 p.m. ET (LINK to connect)
   ** Recommended as a precursor to the UA Roundtable

UALberta NSERC Grant Assist Program: Contact: Dr. Iwona Pawlina @ ipawlina@ualberta.ca
1. Peer review: Please email Iwona (cc: Colleen Sunderland) by September 1 if you would like your application to be reviewed. Iwona will connect you with a reviewer on campus and draft applications will be reviewed at the beginning of October.

2. Samples of successful RTI applications

3. Roundtable with NSERC RTI Evaluators September 5, 2017 1-3 p.m., 2-31 SAB

FoMD Office of Research: Contact: Colleen Sunderland @ colleen.sunderland@ualberta.ca
1. Editorial review: Please email Colleen by September 25 if you would like an editorial review of your application. Applications in NSERC GAP peer review can be forwarded after for editorial review. Please indicate this in your email to Iwona for the September 1 deadline.

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1 From the NSERC RTI website: “In addition to NSERC’s Eligibility Criteria for faculty, applicants and co-applicants must each currently hold or be applying for one of the following NSERC research grants at the time of application: Discovery Grant, Strategic Partnerships Grants, Collaborative Research and Development Grants, Canada Research Chairs, and/or Canada Excellence Research Chairs.”