

Applied Research Funding – Our Process

Overview

Here at NBIF, our team understands how time consuming it is to find and apply for funding – that’s because many of us are researchers and entrepreneurs, too. As such, we’ve worked hard to make a system that is as transparent, simple and efficient as possible. Read on to learn more:



Firstly, check our Award Administration guidelines below to see if you are eligible to apply for our funding. If so, click over to each of our support pages to see descriptions of the funds we have and their evaluation criteria. Once you are ready to write an application, head to our [Application Portal](#) to submit your application online.

Please note that most universities, colleges and institutions require that research administration offices are notified when there is an intention to apply for NBIF funding.

Do you need some help deciding if your project fits in our funding, want to bounce around some budget ideas, or need early input on your draft application? We are always happy to work with you at an early stage in your project planning, in advance of a formal application through our [Application Portal](#). Feel free to reach out to us at info@nbif.ca to ask for help or advice.

Finally, it is your choice whether you wish to apply to us in French or English. Your application will receive the same attention and treatment regardless.



Because there is far more demand for our funding than there is money available, all of our grants are made on a competition basis. Each application is judged by an expert panel, using a clear set of evaluation criteria and a numeric scoring system. These evaluation criteria are listed under each fund on this website.

On the expert panels, our reviewers are people with deep technical expertise and personal experience in the applied research space. When possible, we exclude reviewers who work at one of the institutions submitting applications, to avoid potential conflicts of interest. Most of our reviewers will be based in New Brunswick, but occasionally we bring in an outside voice to enrich the conversation and provide perspective.

In order to have sufficient time to read through all the proposals and consider the information presented, we normally allow around 2 months for the review process. Decisions on project funding are then communicated to the institutional research administration offices, in the form of a formal notice of decision letter.



Most of our programs are focused around research that has the potential to have an economic impact on the province of New Brunswick. Impact can be direct (e.g. sale of products or services) or indirect (e.g. cost avoidance or reduction, risk mitigation, improvement in services).

We are very broad in terms of what we consider to be economic impact, but we do rely on applicants to demonstrate this in their proposals. Moreover, we ask applicants to quantify the magnitude of this impact, where possible. If you are not used to thinking about the impact of your work, here are a few examples of research projects with clear economic impacts:

- Research looking at what causes seniors to fall in care homes and whose results propose ways to reduce the frequency of these falls. This leads to reduced demand on hospitals to treat falls and thus reduced cost for the government in providing healthcare services.
- Isolation and investigation of bioactive molecules in a plant species, which may result in patented findings that could be used by a pharmaceutical company to develop a new drug.
- Investigating the effects of climate change on a commercially important crop in the region, and disseminating the results to companies/industry associations to help them adapt and become more robust.

- Development of a software tool to improve performance of an existing application, and licensing/ selling this tool to the application’s users.

If you are struggling to describe impact, feel free to reach out to us to ask for help. Additionally, your research administration office may be able to help you in framing this.



The expected opening and closing dates of our funds for the 2019–2020 fiscal year are shown below. Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change; notifications are shared with research administration offices each time a new funding round open.

PROGRAM	ROUND	APPLICATIONS OPEN	APPLICATIONS CLOSE	DECISION NOTIFICATIONS
SIRF	1	10-Apr-19	10-Jun-19	20-Sep-19
SIRF	2	14-Nov-19	27-Jan-20	31-Mar-20
Equipment	1	25-Jun-19	16-Dec-19	2-Mar-20
Equipment	2	2-Dec-19	10-Feb-20	31-Mar-20
Emerging Projects	1	15-Oct-19	16-Dec-19	2-Mar-20
RPI	1	7-Nov-10	20-Jan-20	31-Mar-20
Lab-to-Market		Continuous Intake		
Start-up Fund		Continuous Intake		
Scholarships		Application timing managed by each university		
RAI		There will not be an RAI open competition in 2019–2020		



We have developed a set of guidelines to provide transparency on how NBIF Research funds are to be used. Those can be found on each of our Applied Research Fund pages.