



Research
Manitoba

***NSERC Alliance-
Research Manitoba
ACT Grant***

PROGRAM GUIDE

1. Preface

Research Manitoba promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of research excellence in health, natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities in Manitoba. Our organization cultivates local talent development by investing in early career researchers and graduate students and fosters strategic partnerships to bolster innovation and commercialization in the province.

2. Purpose

Research Manitoba and NSERC have partnered to offer the NSERC Alliance-Research Manitoba ACT (Accelerate, Commercialize, Transform) program, which will support university R&D collaborations that assist Manitoba small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing technology and products with the highest potential for regional economic development and commercialization in Manitoba. This funding opportunity is available for projects that: 1) align with one or more of the following priority areas: bioscience, information and communications technology (ICT), advanced manufacturing, or infrastructure and transportation industries and technologies; and 2) have at least one Manitoban SME as a partner organization.

This joint funding opportunity allows the Manitoba SME partner organization's cash contributions to be leveraged for funding from both NSERC and Research Manitoba via a streamlined joint application and decision process.

The mutually beneficial projects are expected to result in economic benefits to the companies and to Manitoba, as well as build impactful longer-term collaborations between university researchers and companies.

3. Award Amount and Duration

Award funds are to be used to defray the costs of research.

Research Manitoba will match the contributions from the Manitoba SME at a 1:1 ratio, up to \$25,000 per year for up to two years.

[NSERC Alliance](#) will match cash contributions from all [recognized partners](#) at a 2:1 ratio, from \$20,000 to \$1M per year for up to five years (as per the [Alliance grants funding page](#)).

4. Eligibility Requirements

Funding is targeted towards Bioscience, ICT, Advanced Manufacturing, and Infrastructure and Transportation industries and technologies.

Applications will not be accepted for projects which have already received funding from Research Manitoba's Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grant program. Research Manitoba will not fund applications under both this program and the Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grant program.

To apply:

- The applicant and any co-applicants must meet [NSERC's eligibility criteria](#) when applying and when funding is released.
- The primary investigator (PI) must be a faculty member from an [eligible Manitoba-based university](#).

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with experts in fields other than the natural sciences and engineering, where appropriate, since implementing policy or applying the research results can depend on socioeconomic considerations as well as scientific understanding. Academic researchers outside the natural sciences and engineering may participate in proposals as co-applicants if they meet NSERC's eligibility requirements for the type, duration and nature of the appointment. Research costs for these collaborations may account for up to 30% of the project costs and must be identified in the project budget.

5. Application Deadline

Application Deadline: Until available funding is awarded.

Research Manitoba will close this program once application capacity has been met.

6. Intellectual Property Assessment and Ownership

Research Manitoba does not claim any rights to intellectual property arising from projects funded through this program.

Research Manitoba recommends that the applicant and industry partner follow best practices by signing an intellectual property agreement that defines the intellectual-property rights and obligations of all the partner organizations involved in the project. The agreement must be aligned with [NSERC's Policy on Intellectual Property](#). Applicants and industry partners are responsible for ensuring IP arrangements are in order and agreed to by all in advance of applying.

As per [NSERC's Policy on Intellectual Property](#), students involved in the funded research must maintain their right to defend their thesis without delays or impediments. It is also strongly encouraged that industry partners allow students to include work on this project, specifying the company name, on their CVs. All participants, including any trainees, should consult this policy to ensure that they are aware of their rights and obligations.

7. Application Process

The application process for the NSERC Alliance-RM ACT Grant requires submissions to both Research Manitoba and NSERC. The application procedure is as follows:

1. You must first contact the [Research Manitoba Manager, Programs and Partnerships](#) to ensure that there is still funding available for the program, and that the proposed project is aligned with our

priority areas: bioscience, ICT, advanced manufacturing, and/or infrastructure and transportation industries and technologies.

2. After receiving confirmation that the proposed research is aligned with the priority areas, you can then complete the [NSERC application](#) (**without submitting it**). In your application, you must include a Contributions section listing Research Manitoba as a joint-call funding partner with the [Research Manitoba Manager, Programs and Partnerships](#) as the contact person. Once all elements of the NSERC application are completed, generate a PDF version of your application with the preview function in NSERC's online application system.
3. You must then complete the NSERC Alliance-Research Manitoba ACT application form in the Research Manitoba Grants Management System ([GMS](#)) (see details below).
4. Once Research Manitoba has reviewed and assessed the details submitted in your application, we will complete the partner organization form required for the NSERC application. **Once the partner form has been completed by Research Manitoba, you can submit your NSERC application.**

8. Research Manitoba Application Requirements

The Research Manitoba application requires the following information:

- **Budget Table and Budget Justification (maximum 1 page)**
- **Abstract (maximum 200 words):** Provide a non-technical summary of your proposal written in simple and clear language suitable for a lay audience.
- **Summary of the Proposal (maximum 1500 words):** Provide a summary of the proposed research program. Please identify how the research project is strategically relevant to Manitoba and will further Manitoba as a leader in this field/industry.
- **Research Proposal:** Applicants are required to upload their completed NSERC Alliance application PDF here; no additional proposal attachment is required for this program.
- **Support letter:** A letter of support is required from the industry partner which clearly outlines the following:
 - The need for this research project to be carried out in collaboration with an academic researcher and the potential benefits this research will have on their organization
 - The cost-sharing breakdown, including the value added through in-kind contributions and how these are important to realizing the project's intended outcomes
- **Signature Page:** Signatures are required from the academic researcher's home institution. Once the signature page is completed, please upload the form into your GMS application.

- **Canadian Common CV (CCV):** An updated Research Manitoba Canadian Common CV (no older than six months) is required for all academic applicant and co-applicant(s) for submission. Applications cannot be submitted without at least one CCV attached.

For support completing the [Research Manitoba GMS Application](#) and [CCV](#) see the *PI GMS User Guide*.

9. Reporting, policies and other information

Research Manitoba reserves the right to determine the eligibility of applications, based on the information therein. Research Manitoba also reserves the right to interpret the regulations and policies governing its funding opportunities.

All applicants and grant holders must comply with the regulations set out in the Research Manitoba [Finance and Administration Guide](#).

Research funds are to be spent according to budgets approved during the review and decision process. Occasionally, it may be necessary to reallocate grant funds between approved categories if the needs or circumstances of the research project have changed. Grant holders need Research Manitoba approval for such reallocation only if the change involved is 25% or more of the grant's total.

Grant recipients are to report the outputs and outcomes of their funded research project at the completion of their award. Grant recipients will be informed by Research Manitoba when the reports are to be completed.

10. Contact Information

For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact:

Kerry Harris

Manager, Programs and Partnerships

kerry.harris@researchmb.ca

204.924.7070

For support with GMS, please contact:

Research Manitoba Helpdesk

helpdesk@researchmb.ca

Monday – Friday – 8:30AM – 4:30PM