UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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RESEARCH SERVICES OFFICE

New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Information Session & Supports:
New Frontiers in Research Fund 2022 Transformation Competition

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"uplifting the whole people"

— HENRY MARSHALL TORY, FOUNDING PRESIDENT, 1908

- **About the NFRF Transformation Program**

- **How to Apply - NFRF process**

- **How to Apply - UofA process and supports**
  - V-P(RI) Internal NOI Review
  - GAP grant development support and activities (all application stages)
  - RSO submission process and administration

- **Question Time**

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The Transformation Stream is designed to support large-scale, Canadian-led **interdisciplinary** research projects that address a major challenge with the potential to realize real and lasting change **(high reward)**.

The challenge may be fundamental, leading to a scientific breakthrough, or applied, with a social, economic, environmental or health impact.

Projects are expected to be world-leading, drawing on **global** research expertise where relevant.

The Transformation Stream Grants will support projects that:

- tackle a **well-defined** problem or challenge;
- propose a **novel world-leading approach** that is different from the current state-of-the-art approaches to the issue;
- are **interdisciplinary**, bringing different perspectives to the defined problem; and
- have the potential to be **transformative**, defined as the potential to **create a significant and real change or impact** -- a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough versus an incremental advance.

NFRF Application Stages:

Three mandatory stages to apply to NFRF using the Convergence Portal:

- [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI) - Deadline: November 2, 2021
  - INTERNAL RSO DEADLINE: Single PDF on [RHP](#): October 26th, 4:30PM

- [Letter of Intent to Apply](#) (LOI) - Deadline: January 11, 2022
  - INTERNAL RSO DEADLINE: Single PDF on [RHP](#): December 20th, 4:30PM

- [Application (by invitation only)](#) - Deadline: September 20, 2022
  - INTERNAL RSO DEADLINE: Single PDF on [RHP](#): September 13th, 4:30PM

Eligibility

- Ensure that you and your team members meet the eligibility requirements from NFRF ([Eligibility](#))
    - Team of at least 5 participants - must include at least 1 confirmed early career researcher (ECR)
    - Core 5 participant DOES NOT CHANGE

    Here are some things to remember:
    - RSO will require Institutional contact information for non UofA co-PIs and co-Apps.
    - RSO may request translation of eligibility confirmations for foreign institutions
    - RSO will also need to provide eligibility of team members for co-PIs and co-Apps on applications led at other institutions. Those requests should be forwarded to your [Research Facilitator](#).

NOI - Content: Application title; language of the applicant; Indigenous research - Indicate whether your project involves Indigenous research, [as defined by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)](#): keywords; fields of research; outline of challenge (maximum of 3,500 characters); overview of approach and potential changes (maximum of 3,500 characters); list of collaborators; suggested reviewers (optional at NOI stage; minimum of 20 at LOI stage) and reviewer exclusions (if applicable).

Note: This content may be updated at the LOI stage.

Institutional submission for review and approval:

- University nominated principal investigator will need to create a new application request [via the Researcher Home Page (RHP) system](#) for each stage - NOI, LOI and full application.

- In addition, UofA co-applicants on applications **led at another institution** must also create a new application request via the [Researcher Home Page (RHP)](#) at LOI and full application stage only. If there are multiple co-PIs and co-Apps from UofA on applications led by other institutions, one PI will need to be picked as UofA lead PI.

- Faculty (Chair and Dean) approval on-line - required prior to RSO internal deadline.

- Acknowledgement, in PeopleSoft, of UofA co-PI(s) and co-App(s) of their participation in the proposed project - required for RSO final approval.

- RSO Internal deadlines:
    - NOI - October 26 by 4:30 pm
    - LOI - December 20 by 4:30 pm

- Submission deadline to agency via the Convergence Portal:
    - NOI - November 2 by 4:30 pm
    - LOI - January 2, 2022 by 10 am

Notice of Intent (NOI):

Concept Discussion: Request a meeting with by September 20. LINK

Purpose**:** Strategic alignment and fit of proposed research with expectations of the NFRF Transformation competition and to provide feedback on strategic cross-council project development.

NFRF EDI Webinar (English): September 17, 11 am. LINK

Purpose: The EDI webinar is being provided to learn more about how to integrate EDI into a research project. These webinars apply to all NFRF competitions, including special calls.

NFRF Webinar: September 23, 8 am (French); 11 am (English).

Purpose: the Transformation webinars to learn more about the Transformation stream and the overall application process. Webinars will be recorded, and the presentations mad available following the session.

Applicant to Self-Assess Readiness:

- To reflect the expertise required to deliver on the ambitious and interdisciplinary nature of the project, the nominated principal investigator (NPI) - who is going to be the application lead at the University of Alberta (UA) - must understand the competition criteria and commitment required.

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✅	**To ensure you are prepared for the competition, use the checklist below.**
	The **proposed project** **cannot be funded** by other granting agencies (e.g. Tri-Council).
	The **proposed project** requires expertise from a **minimum of 2 of the 3 Tri-Agencies'** disciplines.
	The **proposal** is a **project** (not a program) that has clear objectives to tackle a **recognised Canadian** and/or **international problem. The proposed project** should resolve the challenge through **a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough** rather than an incremental advance.
	The **proposed project** is very ambitious, incorporates different disciplinary approaches, bringing a novel perspective to the defined challenge. Proposal needs to demonstrate disciplines are interconnected, interdependent, and influence each other in design, data collection and outcomes.
	UA-NPI is an **internationally acclaimed leader** in their respective research field, and has the **proven experience and expertise to lead a large-scale interdisciplinary project**, which requires integration and coordination beyond usual disciplinary perspectives.
	UA-NPI has put together a **diverse team of world-leading individuals** that draw on global research expertise. Note, teams will need to **show cohesion** and **prove productivity** in the application.