

University of Lethbridge

2016 NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) Grants Program

OVERVIEW	
Value	\$7,001 - \$150,000
Duration	1 year
Internal EOI Deadline	August 15
Application Deadline	October 25
Notice of Decision	Late March or early April 2017
Start date	April 1, 2017
ORIS Contact	Gillian Laird (403-329-2101 or gillian.laird@uleth.ca)

Description:

The RTI Grants Program provides the primary avenue for university researchers in the natural sciences and engineering to obtain up to \$150,000 in support for research tools and instruments with a net cost between \$7,001 and \$250,000. Applications for equipment costing up to \$250,000 will be accepted provided the applicant has secured funding to cover the amount in excess of \$150,000 (confirmation is required at the time of submission).

Proposals can include items that form a comprehensive system intended to support a single or multiple research programs. The bundling of unrelated equipment is not acceptable.

Eligibility:

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.

Timeline:

- **June:** Launch of current competition.
- **August 15:** Internal Expression of Interest deadline.
- **September 2:** Project Leaders informed of Expression of Interest selection decisions.
- **October 4:** Internal deadline for a solid draft to be uploaded to the Research Proposal Form on the Bridge for approvals.
- **October 25:** Application deadline at NSERC.
- **April:** Competition results announced.
- **April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018:** Term of the award.

How to Apply:

Universities are provided with a quota for the number of RTI applications that they can submit to NSERC. This quota is based on the number of NSERC-funded researchers at the university.

The RTI quota for University of Lethbridge this year is 4

Given the quota restriction, the university must decide which applications to submit to NSERC through an internal selection process.

Internal Selection Process:

University of Lethbridge researchers interested in applying to the 2016 NSERC RTI competition must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) as part of the internal selection process.

The EOI should:

- Be a maximum of **3 pages**
- Describe:
 - the applicant and co-applicant(s), if applicable;
 - the research program(s) to be supported;
 - the equipment requested including a budget;
 - the need and urgency to purchase the proposed equipment to undertake the research program(s) effectively;
 - the availability of similar equipment in the same department, elsewhere in the university, or at nearby institutions;
 - the strategic importance of the request and how it will best serve your department's research needs and those of other departments who might benefit from such equipment
- Be emailed in PDF format to Gillian Laird (gillian.laird@uleth.ca) no later than August 15th.

EOIs will be reviewed and ranked by a committee consisting of:

- Dean of Arts & Science
- Associate Dean of Arts & Science (Research)
- Vice-President (Research)
- Associate Vice-President (Research)
- Faculty representative - appointed

The criteria of the internal selection of RTI applications will be similar as for the national NSERC RTI competition:

1. excellence of the applicant(s);
2. merit of the proposed research program(s);
3. need and urgency for the equipment—including availability of, and access to, similar equipment;

4. suitability of the proposed equipment for the proposed research program(s);
5. importance of the equipment for the training of highly qualified personnel; and
6. alignment of the equipment with strategic priorities.

RTI Guidelines for full applications submitted to NSERC:

NSERC RTI homepage: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RTI-OIR/RTI-OIR_eng.asp

NSERC RTI Instructions: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/RTIInstruct-SOInstruct_eng.asp

Please note that this year, an application for the RTI program requires a Canadian Common CV (CCV). http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/ccv-cvc_eng.asp

Contact:

Gillian Laird (gillian.laird@uleth.ca; x2101), Office of Research and Innovation Services.