

## NSERC Discovery Grants Process for Decisions on Mandate Eligibility

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During every Discovery Grants competition, NSERC reviews all applications to determine whether they fit within its mandate.

Each application submitted to the Discovery Grants Program is reviewed at the Notification of Intent (NOI) stage for mandate eligibility. These reviews, based on the description of the proposed research, are conducted by staff and can include input from Evaluation Group members. Following this review, if an application is flagged for concerns related to mandate eligibility, a letter is sent to applicants reminding them to consider the guidelines in [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#) and the NSERC [Addendum to the Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications Related to Health](#). Final decisions on mandate eligibility are made based on the full application. Having held an NSERC Discovery Grant or other NSERC funding in the past does not guarantee eligibility for future applications.

Following the review of mandate eligibility, there are three possible outcomes:

- Identical applications submitted to more than one of the three federal granting agencies are rejected.
- Applications within NSERC's mandate and those where mandate eligibility is unclear, are kept in the competition and are peer reviewed.
- Applications that fall outside of NSERC's mandate are rejected from the competition and are not peer reviewed.

It should be noted that mandate eligibility decisions can be made throughout the peer review process and could be made as late as February.

If you have any questions or require further information on mandate eligibility, please contact NSERC at [resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca).