NSERC

Alliance grants

PIVP Selection Committee Review Instructions

The goal of your review is to determine whether the proposed project demonstrates potential for public impact that justifies the need for a higher level (up to 100% of project costs) of investment of public funds. You are required to review only the three-page Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP) section (but you may refer to other sections of the application if needed) to assess the PIVP against three characteristics: Societal Impact; Making Connections; and Broad Outcomes.

Each Alliance Option 2 application has passed a completeness / administrative check prior to being assigned to three or five members of the PIVP Selection Committee, depending on the availability of the members and the expertise that is needed. (Refer to the Terms of Reference for the PIVP Selection Committee).

The project must meet all three characteristics to justify the request for a higher NSERC contribution permitted in option 2. Refer to the points below when making your evaluation.

Please be prepared to justify your evaluation of each of the three characteristics and ultimately explain if the proposal provides a convincing summary of why the higher level of investment is needed.

NSERC expects reviewers to consistently guard against the possibility of unconscious bias influencing the decision-making process, whether these biases are based on schools of thought, the perceived value of fundamental versus applied research, areas of research or research approaches (including emerging ones), size or reputation of an institution, age, gender, and/or other personal factors associated with the applicant and/or co-applicants. NSERC cautions reviewers against any judgment of an application based on such factors. To assist reviewers in recognizing both conscious and unconscious bias, all reviewers are asked to complete the 20-minute Bias in Peer Review online learning module.

NSERC

Evaluation guidelines

Societal impact		
Review answers to these PIVP questions	**To determine if an application meets the following Option 2 requirements for *societal impact***	**Does not meet**

Describe the issue the project aims to address and explain the societal impact the project results will have. Describe the new technical knowledge that will be generated.
 	
Describe the current barriers impeding a solution and the proposed novel strategy for addressing the issue. Explain why and how the research team and partner organizations are positioned to address the challenge.
	• focuses on relevant and important regional, national or global issues or opportunities that could affect or benefit Canada
	 AND • removes or lowers the barriers to achieve what would otherwise not be possible in terms of:
	
	    ○ Improvements to a category of product or service that has potential to transform a sector; or
	    ○ providing the evidence needed to support new policies or regulations or to improve them; or
	    ○ solving an issue affecting an entire sector; or
	    ○ creating a new area of the economy
	 AND • outlines the new knowledge to be generated by the project
		• primarily focuses on the specific priorities of the partner(s) involved
		 OR • primarily focuses on the long-term goals of the partner(s), such as increasing profitability, market share, efficiency, visibility, reputation, etc.
		 OR • marginal or incremental improvements to knowledge, a product, service process, policies, regulations or standards

NOTE - The nature of the challenge may be one with longer term benefits but needing current attention. Though the project's ultimate outcomes may not be fully possible through the scope and timelines of the project, the project should not offer only incremental results and the proposal should demonstrates how NSERC's contribution allows crucial advances towards goals.		

NSERC

Making connections		
Review answers to these PIVP questions	**To determine if an application meets the following Option 2 requirements for *making connections***	**Does not meet**
Describe how the project is designed to take into account the needs of end-users and implementers. Outline the project's plan to involve groups in your partner organizations' network to achieve optimal results and impact. Describe the current barriers impeding a solution and the proposed novel strategy for addressing the issue. <u>Explain why and how the research team and partner organizations are positioned to</u> <u>address the challenge.</u>	• brings together the most relevant academic institution(s), partner organization(s) and other organizations in the collaboration AND • outlines a specific plan among actors in each partner's network and integrates solutions with decision-makers through a demonstrated commitment from partner(s) to sharing project results beyond the partner organization(s) to reach end-users and implementers	• partner and researcher fail to demonstrate connections with key end users and implementers OR • project shows insufficient opportunities to connect beyond one partner organization OR • inadequate evidence of consultation with relevant groups and limited input and commitment from them OR • low degree of participation from partner organizations and unclear intent to share results beyond the project's partner organizations
NOTE – Alliance Grants encourage a variety of partner types including not-for-profit, public and private-sector organizations. Partners of any type must play key roles in advancing the project.		

NSERC

Broad outcomes		
Review answers to these PIVP questions	**To determine if an application meets the following Option 2 requirements for *broad outcomes***	**Does not meet**
Explain how the project outcomes will reach beyond the partner organizations to impact society. Describe the ways in which interested individuals or groups will be able to learn about and use the products, services or policies that stem from this research.	• project shares outcomes in various ways including broadly accessible technical publications or open guidelines AND • explanation of how all interested individuals will both learn about and use the products, services or policies that stem from this research	• project outcomes flow to partner organizations only OR • knowledge mobilization beyond partners is solely through journal articles OR • no plan to transfer the knowledge to the relevant groups OR • Provides an IP management plan that would limit access to the outcomes
NOTE – Outcomes in this instance are short-term results/outputs and any activities undertaken as a result of new insights from the project. These outcomes in turn must contribute to the societal impact promised in the application.		