



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

OFFICE OF THE VICE-DEAN RESEARCH
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College of Medicine NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) Endorsement Program

Purpose

The College of Medicine (CoM) is committed to supporting researchers in securing infrastructure funding that enhances research capacity and competitiveness.

To encourage participation in the NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) competition, the College will provide matching support for endorsed applications, subject to funding availability and successful completion of the OVDR internal review process.

The purpose of the NSERC RTI Endorsement Program is to:

- Identify high-quality RTI applications that align with College and University research priorities;
- Ensure proposed equipment will have meaningful research impact on multiple researchers;
- Support applicants in strengthening submissions through internal peer review;
- Allocate limited College matching funds strategically and transparently.

1. Guiding Principles

- **Strategic Alignment** - Applications should align with College of Medicine and University of Saskatchewan research priorities and demonstrate potential to strengthen research capacity.
- **Research Impact** - Requested equipment should significantly enhance the quality, productivity, and competitiveness of research programs.
- **Shared Benefit** - Preference will be given to equipment that supports multiple researchers, trainees, programs, departments, or research groups whenever feasible.
- **Transparent Review** - Applications will be reviewed using clear criteria and a consistent evaluation process.
- **Developmental Support** - Applicants will receive reviewer feedback intended to strengthen their NSERC RTI application.
- **Strategic Investment** - College matching funds are limited and will be allocated to proposals demonstrating the greatest potential research impact and likelihood of success.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Hold a primary academic appointment within the College of Medicine;
- Meet NSERC RTI eligibility requirements;
- Be preparing a submission for the upcoming NSERC RTI competition;
- Demonstrate a clear need for the requested equipment;
- Identify all other sources of matching funding secured or being pursued.

Applicants may only submit one request for College matching funds per RTI competition cycle and preference will be given to those who have not been previously awarded matching funding through this process.

Note - Receipt of College matching funds does not guarantee success in the NSERC RTI competition. Additionally, matching funding will only be awarded if the NSERC RTI is successful.

3. Internal Review Process

1. Stage 1: Intention to Apply

- Applicants must submit an Intention to Apply (ITA) form to: ovdr.funding@usask.ca
 - This is the form required by OVPR found at the following link - <https://vpresearch.usask.ca/documents/tri-agency/nserc/rti-ir-application-bundle.pdf>
- Application emails use the subject line: "NSERC – [Applicant Last Name]"
- The ITA will allow the College to identify anticipated demand for matching funds and coordinate review activities.
- **Deadline** - July 24, 2026

2. Stage 2: Internal Peer Review

- Applicants seeking College endorsement and matching funds must submit draft application materials for internal review.
- **Deadline** - September 14, 2026
- Application should be submitted to: ovdr.funding@usask.ca
- Application emails use the subject line: "NSERC – [Applicant Last Name]"
- Applications will be reviewed by the Equipment Committee

3. Stage 3: Feedback to Applicants

- Applicants will receive Equipment Committee comments intended to strengthen the final submission.
- Applicants will be notified if they are eligible for matching funding.
- **Deadline:** October 5, 2026

4. Application Requirements for Internal Review

Applicants must submit:

1. Draft NSERC RTI proposal;
2. Preliminary budget and justification; including identification of secured or anticipated matching funds;
3. Description of the equipment and its intended use;
4. Description of anticipated users and beneficiaries;
5. Brief statement describing alignment with College of Medicine strategic priorities.

5. Review Criteria

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- **Need for the Equipment** - The extent to which the requested equipment is essential to achieving the proposed research objectives.
- **Research Impact** - The anticipated contribution of the equipment to research productivity, innovation, trainee development, and future funding opportunities.
- **Utilization and Accessibility** - The extent to which the equipment will support multiple users, projects, or research groups.
- **Budget and Value** - Appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of costs.
- **Strategic Alignment** - Alignment with College of Medicine and University research priorities.

6. Review Committee

The NSERC RTI applications will be reviewed by the OVDR Equipment Committee. Final approval and funding will rest with the Vice Dean Research – Biomedical.