# NFRF - Transformation Frequently Asked Questions - 2021

**­Q. Can co-applicants be NRC investigators?**­­­

A. Individuals affiliated with government can be collaborators but cannot be NPI, co-PI or co-applicants.

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**Q.** ­**Can a single individual be a nominated PI on more than one proposal?­­­**

A. No, an individual may be a nominated PI on only one proposal.

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**Q. ­At which stage will ECR (Early Career Researcher) eligibility be confirmed?­­­**

A. ­Early career researchers (ECRs) must be included as confirmed members in all teams. RGOs must confirm that the participants meet the eligibility requirements at *each* stage.

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**Q.** ­**Can any funds be allocated for necessary replacement of infrastructure or new purchases**

A. They can be, but that is not the intention of the funds.

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**Q. ­At which stage will NFRF confirm "interdisciplinarity eligibility" WRT the project meeting the mandate of more than one Tri-Agency? And who will determine this eligibility?**

A. The multidisciplinary review panel will confirm eligibility at the LOI stage.

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**Q. Is there a maximum team size?**

A. No, there is no maximum size of team, but there needs to be a minimum of five (5) people on the team.

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**Q. Does the PI need to allocate a minimum amount of time to the project?**

A. ­There is no set minimum. However, the members of the multidisciplinary review panel will need to be convinced that sufficient time is dedicated to achieving the results of what is expected to be an ambitious research project.

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**Q. Is there a way to change profile information when a role of a member of the team was entered incorrectly?**

A. For the applications and co-applicants to edit the roles, have them follow these instructions:

1. Click on their Name in the top right and click on Affiliations

2. They add a new Affiliation or edit their primary affiliation

3. After they have saved, they navigate to the application form

4. They go to the Participants page and edit the form

5. They unselect the Primary Affiliation and select the new/updated one

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**Q.  How should research administrators “test” applications be run?**

A. For test applications, administrators should use zzz as they did for NFRF-E.

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**Q. How should faculty members identify themselves in their profile information.**

A. They must identify themselves as independent researchers. The reason for this is that after the competition we will be asked to report on the team composition that applied and if this is not captured accurately this will not represent accurately who is applying for the transformation competition.

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**Q. Is *each* individual year capped at 3.2 million (+ overheads)?**

A. ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Yes, each individual year is capped at 3.2 million. Each year can be different amounts depending on the need, but each year cannot be more than 3.2 million.

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**Q. Is there an automatic one-year extension on spending for transformation grants?**

A. No, there is not.

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**Q. Will researchers who were invited to the full application in the previous competition have the opportunity to respond to the reviewers’ comments?**

A. ­Yes, but only those invited to the full application after a successful LOI, may address the comments (if available) in their full application. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Q. What constitutes 'fundamental' in the contexts of the Humanities & Social Sciences?**

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

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**Q. Are open science and meta science acceptable?**

A. Yes, they are.

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**Q. Can members of the team be from a country other than Canada?**

A. Yes, however, the NPI must be affiliated with an eligible Canadian institution. International co-PIs and co-applicants are eligible.

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**Q. Does the NPI have to complete their profile in the portal before other participants can complete theirs?**

A. No, the profile does not have to be complete, ­the Nominated Principal Investigator just needs to invite the other participants through the portal. Participants will receive an email with a link to accept the invitation to participate.­

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**Q. Do Early Career Researchers (ECRs) need to be included at all stages?**

A. Yes, they need to be included at all stages.

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**Q. ­Is there an extension to ECR status, given the COVID-19 pandemic?**

A. Research interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., closures) are recognized as, and may be counted as, an eligible delay (credited at twice the amount of time) beginning March 1, 2020.

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**Q. Can funds be transferred to institutions outside of Canada?**

A. Yes, they can.

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**Q. ­Are there any limits on people involved in a current Transformation participating in a new application?**

A. Yes, participants on more than one successful application can only be collaborators, they cannot be NPIs, co-PIs, or co-applicants.

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**Q. Can the NPI change during the process?**

A. It depends on the circumstances, and the decision if it can be is up to management.

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**Q. Can funds from this grant be used to purchase private programming that is copyrighted or only available through purchase/access agreements as part of an intervention programme? ­**

A. Yes, funds can be used to purchase software as long as the financial guideline of the tri-agencies (TAGFA) and your institution are followed.­

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**Q. Are for-profit collaborators eligible to be paid with the funds? For example, can funds be used to pay them for their consulting services?**

A. No, collaborators cannot access any funds. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Q. If I have a current NFRF small grant, am I eligible for to apply the transformation grant?­­­**

A. Yes, if you have another grant from the exploration stream or any other stream that isn't transformation, you are eligible to apply to the transformation grant.

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**Q. Can co-PIs be added between the NOI and LOI stages?­­­**

A. Yes, they can, however, they cannot be removed (other team members cannot be removed either).

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**Q. What is the start date for the grants?**

A. The grants will begin in March 2023.

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**Q. Can a non-profit organization be a co-applicant?**

A. No, co-applicants may only be individual people.

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**Q. ­Should a team member who has a spinoff company be listed as a collaborator, rather than a co-applicant?­­­**

A. ­If that person has an affiliation other than this company and that spinoff company will not benefit from the grant, they could have a role other than collaborator if they meet the eligibility criteria.­ If the spinoff company will benefit, then they must serve as a collaborator.

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**Q. ­Can an individual from a non-profit serve as a co-applicant?**

A. Yes, they may serve as a co-applicant.

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**Q. ­Why does the project require the involvement of at least two agencies (e.g., NSERC and CIHR) to make it interdisciplinary?­­­**

A. If the project fits under only one (1) of the Agencies' mandate, they are not considered interdisciplinary.­ In order to be considered interdisciplinary, the project requires the involvement of two or more agencies.

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**Q. ­Can a NPI be affiliated with a start-up company?­­­**

A. ­No, the NPI’s primary affiliation must be with a Canadian institution currently holding full institutional eligibility with one of the agencies.­

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**Q. What’s the difference between a co-PI and a co-applicant?**

A. ­Co-PIs share responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities. Co-applicants contribute to the execution of the research project. Both may access grant funds.

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**Q. Is it okay to identify the names of the team members in the proposal text?**

A. Yes, it is okay.

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**Q. ­Do the research grants office and NPI need to be at same institution?**

A. Yes, they do.

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**Q. What is the midterm review criteria?**

A. ­There are no specific criteria for the midterm review. The review will ensure that the project is on track. I.e., if it is meeting the objectives/milestones as outlined in the proposal.

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**Q. ­Can investigator's role change between NOI and LOI stage?**

A. Yes, but in order to do so you must request that the change be made.

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**Q. ­Can research admin staff submit test NOIs/LOIs so that we can see what applicants see in Convergence?**

A. ­Yes, this is possible. You must submit a test NOI, and it will be forwarded to the LOI stage.

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**Q. Can the “challenge” and other text sections of the NOI can be revised and edited at the LOI stage?**

A. Yes, the “challenge” and other sections of text may be revised and edited at the LOI stage.

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**Q. ­Can co-applicants and collaborators be added between the NOI and LOI stage?**

A. Yes, they can be.

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**Q: ­Can funds be given to Canadian or International collaborators?­­­**

A: ­No, collaborators are not eligible to receive NFRF funds.­

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**­Q. Will the NOI be made available to the Multidisciplinary review panel and to external reviewers?**

A. Yes it will be as the LOI includes everything from the NOI.

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**Q: ­Can applicants see the LOI application, for example the EDI section?**

A. Yes, it can be viewed in the convergence portal.

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**Q. Is there a minimum number of team members who need to be international?**

A. There is no minimum requirement but please note that projects are expected to be world-leading, drawing on global research expertise, when relevant.

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**Q. ­Does the project have to be cross-council?­­­**

A: ­No, Transformation projects must propose an interdisciplinary approach that integrates different disciplinary approaches to bring a novel perspective to address the research challenge.

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**Q. Can funds be transferred to co-PIs outside of Canada?**

A. Yes, they can.

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**Q. Will there be a portion of funds allocated to projects run by ECRs?**

A. No there will not be, however, it is expected that projects have an ECR as a core part of the team.

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**Q. During the LOI stage, aside from a budget table, is there more required information for the budget?**

A. No, during this stage the only required information regarding the budget is the budget table.

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**Q. What is the purpose of the NOI stage?**

A. NOIs will be used for administrative purposes to help the NFRF program team identify external reviewers and review panel composition.

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**Q. If someone is originally listed as a co-applicant can their position be changed to a co-PI at a later date?**

A. Yes, their position can be change but to do so you must email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca.

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**Q. Does the funding need to flow to the lead institution and then released to the co-applicants as sub-grants?**

A. Yes, all funding will go to the institution affiliated with the NPI and from there the funding can be given as sub-grants.

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**Q. Can an NPI or co-PI on one application be a co-applicant on another?**

A. Yes, they can.

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**Q. Can NPIs receive other funds and grants from other agencies?**

A. Yes, there are no restrictions for funding from other agencies.

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**Q: ­Can an NPI or Co-PI on a Transformation stream proposal also be NPI or Co-PI on an International stream proposal?**­­­

A. Yes, there are no restrictions on stream participation.

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**Q: ­Are indirect costs – i.e., institutional overheads – meant to be part of the budget at the LOI stage?**

A. Yes, they are.

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**Q. Is there any emphasis on highly qualified personnel (HQP)?**

A. No, there is not any criteria, however, it is expected that HQP will be trained/exposed to the project.

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**Q. Can any researcher from a project that is not invited to the full application be added to an application that is invited to the full application?**

A. Yes, they can be.

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**Q. Do co-PIs need to be independent researchers?**

A. ­No, they can be practitioners, policymakers, educators, decision-makers, health care administrators, Indigenous elders, Indigenous knowledge keepers, patients, community leaders, individuals working for a charity, and a range of other individuals.

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**Q. ­If an NPI has an application in to another funding agency for a high risk/ high reward proposal but does not yet know the outcome can they submit an NOI to this competition for the same project?**

A. They could, however, ­it is unlikely that something prepared for another funding opportunity will be suitable for the Transformation stream.

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**Q. ­At what stage are bio-sketches of research team members supposed to be submitted?**

A. They need to be submitted during the application stage.

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**Q. ­Will RGOs submitting test NOIs be required to add 4 unique team members?**

A. Yes, they will have to go through the same process as someone who is submitting a regular NOI.

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**Q. Can the title of the project be changed after the NOI stage?**

A. Yes, it can be, however, it cannot be changed after the LOI stage.

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**Q. Can fields of research and keywords be changed at the LOI stage?**

A. A: ­Yes, they can be modified, however, they shouldn't be changed completely because this information is used to recruit for the multidisciplinary review panel.

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**Q: ­Can research associates and project managers be included as collaborators or co-applicants?**

A. ­Research associates, students, postdoctoral fellows, and such positions are eligible to participate as a collaborator if they are not supervised by the NPI, co-principal investigator, co-applicant and/or another collaborator.

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**Q. Is there a maximum amount of prize money that can be transferred outside of Canada?**

A. There is no limit; however, one consideration in the High Reward is the benefit to Canada.

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**Q. Canadian government departments are ineligible for the award, does this mean other governments outside of Canada are also ineligible?**

A. Any government agency, Canadian or foreign, is ineligible.

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**Q. Since the LOI multidisciplinary panel will also be multisectoral, are teams encouraged to suggest reviewers beyond academia?­­­**

A. Yes, teams are encouraged to select the most appropriate people for the panel, and that may be someone from a sector beyond academia.

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**Q. Can any team member or collaborator have a conflict of interest with external reviewers.**

A. No, there cannot be any conflict of interest between any team member or collaborator and external reviewer.

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**Q. Do independent researchers have to be employed by an eligible institution, or can they be self-employed or a visiting researcher?**

A. They must be employed.

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**Q. If a participant is removed can they be re-invited at a later point?**

A. Yes, they can be re-invited.

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**For more information please contact** **NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca** **or visit the** [**NFRF Transformation Competition webpage**](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2022/competition-concours-eng.aspx)**.**