**Frequently Asked Questions**

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## Published June 16, 2017

### What are the objectives of the program?

The Canada 150 Research Chairs Program will invest $117.6 million over eight years to provide one-time funding in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary.

The program is designed to attract approximately 15 to 35 internationally based researchers and scholars, including Canadian expatriates who wish to relocate to Canada. These individuals will help further knowledge in the sciences, technology, health, engineering and the social sciences and humanities, and will build on the country’s reputation as a global centre of science, research and innovation excellence. Refer to Program Details for more information.

### How will the grants be awarded?

The program will use a single-phase “rapid response” process that is both competitive and rigorous for awarding the chairs. All applications submitted to the competition, regardless of award value and/or the candidate’s career stage, will be evaluated using the program’s evaluation criteria. Candidates will have up to 12 months after decisions are made to take up their positions. This will allow flexibility for individuals with families or other obligations.

### How is this program different from the Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) Program?

The Canada 150 Research Chairs program is a one-time funding opportunity in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary. The program will use a “rapid response” process to quickly facilitate the recruitment of esteemed researchers and scholars who wish to relocate to Canada over a period of several months. In addition, the program will accept applications for individuals of all career stages.

Individuals nominated to the program must hold a full time academic appointment at the nominating institution as of the start date of the chair award. An institution may choose to recruit within an existing area of strength in the sciences, technology, health, engineering, and the social sciences and humanities or it may use the research chair to build critical mass in a new area.

### How will equity and diversity be considered within the program?

Achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to seize opportunities and for responding to global challenges. As such, the program is committed to the Government of Canada’s policies on non-discrimination and [employment equity](http://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng/content/employment-equity).

All institutions’ practices for recruiting chairs are expected to be open, transparent and equitable. Equity and diversity will be given strong consideration in the competition, consistent with the Government of Canada's expectations for a diverse set of awardees. Institutions must demonstrate a strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion in their recruitment and outreach strategies, and ensure equitable access to opportunities available within the research teams that the program will establish.

In addition, measures will be taken as part of the review process to limit unconscious bias. Equity and diversity will be considered when identifying external reviewers and potential committee members for the multidisciplinary review panel. External reviewers will be provided with guidelines on limiting unconscious bias, and committee members will receive training on limiting unconscious bias. Measures will also be taken to ensure that individuals with career interruptions (e.g., parental leave) are not disadvantaged during the evaluation process.

### Are the research chairs awards renewable?

The awards are tenable for seven years and are non-renewable. As part of the application process, institutions will need to provide a plan for ensuring the sustainability and retention of the chairholder beyond the period of the award.

### What will happen in the event that a successful candidate does not accept the award?

If a successful candidate does not accept the award, it will be offered to the next institution and candidate on the reversion list.

**Application Process**

### How do I determine if my institution is eligible to apply?

Degree-granting institutions are eligible to apply if they have receivedan average of $1,000,000 or more per year from the three federal granting agencies: the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/), the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/), and the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/).

### What candidates are eligible to be submitted to the program?

Only researchers who are internationally based at the time of the application (both working and residing outside of Canada), including Canadian expatriates, are eligible to the program. Researchers who are already at a Canadian institution are not eligible. Nominated individuals must hold a full-time academic appointment at the Canadian nominating institution as of the start date of the chair award. Refer to Eligibility of Nominees for more information.

### Can a current CERC or Canada Research Chairholder (CRC) be a candidate?

No, current CERCs and CRCs are not eligible to the program.

### Can a potential CERC candidate be submitted to the program?

A potential CERC candidate who is internationally based at the time of the application is eligible.

### Can a candidate nominated for a Canada 150 Research Chair be nominated for a CERC in Phase 2 of the current competition?

Yes, but a candidate cannot hold a Canada 150 Research Chair and a CERC at the same time.

### Can a researcher who is already in Canada be submitted as a candidate?

No. Researchers who are already employed at a Canadian institution are not eligible. Only researchers who are internationally based at the time of the application (both working and residing outside of Canada), including Canadian expatriates, are eligible to the program.

### How many applications can be submitted by institutions?

Eligible institutions may only submit up to a **limited number of applications** to the competition, equal to no more than the maximum dollar value per year as indicated on the [Eligible Institutions and Application Limits](http://www.canada150.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/eligibility-admissibilite-eng.aspxhttp%3A/www.canada150.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/eligibility-admissibilite-eng.aspx) page.

### Why are there two different award values?

The two award values acknowledge the varying costs of research objectives and the exceptional caliber of the candidates. The program also wishes to consider candidates from the largest available pool of top-tier researchers and scholars, which is consistent with the Government of Canada's expectations for a diverse set of awardees.

### When will the registration and application forms be available?

The forms will be available on the program’s online portal in the near future.

### How do I access the online portal?

The Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat will email instructions to all eligible institutions. Institutions will need to identify a key contact who will be given access to the portal.

### What are the application deadlines?

Please see [Forms and Application Instructions](http://www.canada150.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/cpan-pccs-eng.aspx#forms-formulaires).

### When will the results of the competition be available?

Results are expected to be announced prior to December 31, 2017.

## Published July 4, 2017

### Is the maximum dollar value per institution an annual amount or a 7-year total?

The maximum dollar value listed on the program website represents the **annual** maximum dollar value per institution.

### Why is there a $350K per year award, rather than $500K, since the institutional maximums are rounded to a nearest million?

The program was designed to recruit talent quickly and flexibly and takes into account existing programs such as the CRC and CERC.  Award values reflect the desire to recruit a range of talent with varying costs of research from across disciplines.

### How will application forms be made available?

The forms will be made available through the C-150 Research Chairs program portal. Designated contacts at each eligible institution will be provided their account login information. It is expected that the registration forms will be made available in early July and that application forms will be made available as soon as they can be finalized (by the end of July).

### Under the program objectives, what is meant by retention of top-tier internationally-based scholars and researchers?

Retention refers to the chairholders remaining in Canada beyond the period of the award.

### What is the expectation of institutional commitment beyond the period of the award?

On a case by case basis, it is expected that institutions will offer additional financial support (i.e., over and above the award amount) to increase the level of institutional support being provided. Beyond the award period, it is hoped that institutions will maintain the faculty position in the specific area of research and develop plans to ensure the sustainability, including retention in Canada, of the chairholder.

### Is the name of the nominee required for the registration form that is due August 18?

Yes, the identity of the candidates is required at the time of registration. This information is necessary to manage potential conflicts of interest in the recruitment of reviewers.

### In order to fulfill the expectations of a transparent, fair and equitable recruitment process, can we build on processes already underway, even if these did not mention "Canada 150 Research Chairs" when they were initially advertised?

Yes.

### If an institution’s combination of chairs adds up to, for example, $50,000 over its maximum annual dollar value limit, can it still be submitted if the institution commits to contributing the amount that exceeds its maximum annual dollar value limit?

No, a university’s combined nominations/applications cannot exceed the institution’s maximum annual dollar grant value, by any amount.

### Will the ultimate distribution of chairs across eligible universities be competitive, or is each university’s maximum dollar value per year secure, as long as its proposed candidates are approved in the peer review process? In other words, are universities competing with each other?

The ultimate distribution of chairs across universities will be the result of a competitive process. When taken collectively, the maximum dollar value per year for applications, allocated to each eligible university, represents an oversubscription relative to available funding. Based on the funding available, it is anticipated that between 15 to 35 chairs may be awarded in total. All applications will be evaluated using the program’s selection criteria and ranked accordingly.

### Why is there a threshold of $1M per year in funding from the granting agencies in order for an institution to be eligible to apply?

The program will support between 15 to 35 chairs.  In order to recruit these chairs rapidly and take advantage of the unique opportunity in the current global context for Canadian universities to attract top-tier talent, a limited number of institutions will be eligible to submit applications, on the basis of the institutions’ research intensity. The $1M in annual funding from the granting agencies is calculated on the basis of a three-year average. Fifty-three (53) institutions are eligible to participate in the competition.

**Eligible Costs**

### Is the chairholder salary an eligible grant expense?

Yes

### Are Canada 150 Research Chair awards eligible to count toward the credit calculations for the Research Support Fund (RSF) or allocations of Canada Research Chairs?

No, the indirect cost component of Canada 150 Research Chairs will be included within the grant (at a maximum of 25% of the direct costs of research). The maximum dollar value per year for an institution includes the indirect cost component of the chair(s). The Canada 150 Research Chairs funding is thus excluded from the calculation of RSF grants, and the calculation of CRC allocations.