
Bridge Funding for NSERC Researchers in LA&PS

Principles and Practices

(April 2014)

Rationale: NSERC researchers normally rely on tri-Council funding for their continued research activity. Physical geographers, in particular, have long-term year-to-year projects which require funding to ensure the data collection process is not compromised. In the years when funding is not available, the researcher a) loses the opportunity to progress with their annual study and b) related to the limited research capacity, will be less successful in subsequent NSERC applications.

Bridge funding is to be considered for all NSERC researchers under this initiative. The intent of this initiative is to make funding available on a limited basis so that NSERC researchers are able to pursue on-going research and to ensure their competitive stance with NSERC. It is important to note as well that those who normally apply to NSERC do not have access to the University-wide SSHRC small grant funding opportunity.

Principles:

1. It is expected that the applicant normally applies to NSERC for their required research funding. Bridge funding is being made available on a limited basis to ensure that vital data collection is not lost because of lack of funds through a research season.
2. Bridge funding should not exceed \$5,000 per researcher in any given year and \$10,000 per researcher as a life-time total. Bridge funding may only be accessed to a maximum of twice in the career of an individual, and only once in any 4 year period.
3. Bridge funding will be made available to a maximum of 2 researchers in any fiscal year, based on need, and only to cover the minimum costs of maintaining basic data collection.
4. These funds are only to support projects already in place. They are not meant to develop a new research initiative or to disseminate research data.
5. Researchers must exhaust all others funding supports for the on-going project for which funding is being requested, including Minor Research Grant and PER, before applying.
6. If eligible, researchers must apply for the Minor Research Grant.
7. Funding is subject to availability.

Practices:

1. As only those who were unsuccessful in an NSERC application and who have an on-going research project that must be sustained are eligible to apply for bridge funding, proof of past funding, current application and on-going project needs are required.
2. Only basic research requirements will be considered and only in relation to sustaining that on-going research (i.e. new equipment, conference travel or new initiatives will not be covered). A budget outlining the expenses over the time funding is required.
3. Researchers must exhaust and/or apply for, if eligible, any available funding source (including, for example, the LA&PS Minor Research Grant, PER, FGS graduate support, etc.) before applying for bridge funding. (Funding for all other projects may also be supplied however it is not expected that these funds would be used for the project relevant to this application.)
4. MRG funding may be topped up with these funds.
5. To apply for bridge funding, researchers must submit by **May 1st** of the year for which funding is being requested:
 - a. A copy of the summary and budget for the last funded NSERC project.
 - b. A copy of the summary and budget of the most recent application that was not successful in competition.
 - c. A budget and rationale outlining the current research expenses, to a maximum of \$5000.
6. Please submit your application form and required attachments to lapsrsc@yorku.ca. Questions in advance of submission can be addressed to Nadya Bloom (nbloom@yorku.ca). The application will be assessed by the Associate Dean Research. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
7. The ADR will review the application in consultation with the Dean.
8. Upon completion of the research funded, researchers must submit a report to the Dean on the activities supported by the bridge funding.