



# Alliance Quantum grants

Call for proposals: Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

Webinar – April 2026

# Federal government support to Canada’s quantum ecosystem

- The [National Quantum Strategy](#) (NQS) aims to **amplify** Canada’s significant strengths in quantum research; **grow** national quantum-ready technologies, companies and talent; and **solidify** Canada’s global leadership in this area.

\$360 million total over seven years

Three [missions](#) + [Roadmaps](#) to achieve them

- Develop, deploy and use quantum computing hardware and software
- Ensure the privacy and cyber-security of Canadians through the development of secure quantum communications and a post-quantum cryptography initiative
- Develop and adopt quantum sensing technologies

Three [pillars](#)

- Research
- Talent
- Commercialization

- In [Budget 2025](#), through the [Defence Industrial Strategy](#), the Government of Canada committed to further investment in strengthening the country’s quantum ecosystem.

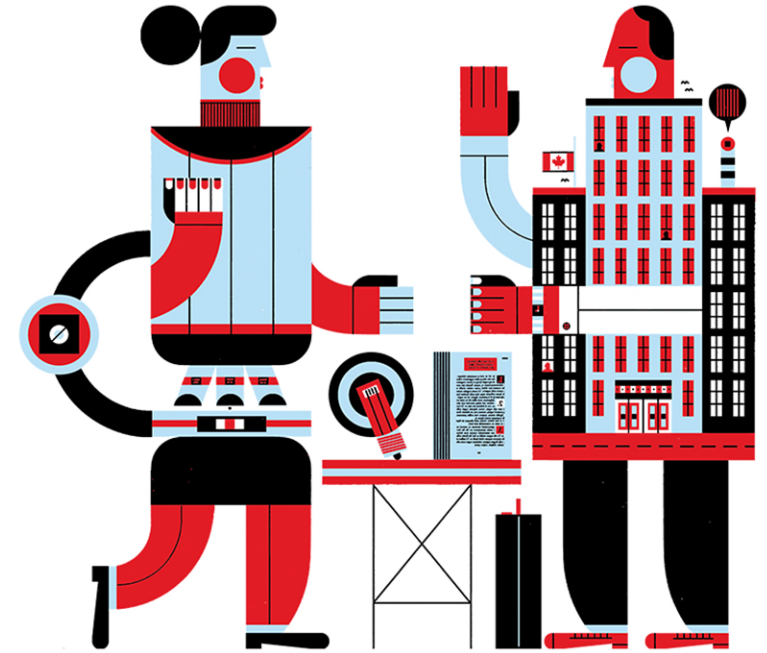
\$334.3 million total over five years

# NSERC's support to the NQS

- NSERC supports the implementation of the NQS and the government's aim to strengthen Canada's quantum ecosystem through various [funding opportunities](#):
  - ↳ Alliance Consortia Quantum grants
  - ↳ Alliance International Quantum grants
  - ↳ Alliance Quantum grants
  - ↳ Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) grants
- NSERC awarded 289 awards totalling more than \$141 million over seven years to advance collaborative research projects and talent development

# Alliance Quantum grants

Call for proposals: Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada



# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Objective

Reinforce, coordinate and scale up Canada’s domestic research capabilities in quantum science and technology through partnerships between university researchers and organizations from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors.

**More information:**

[Alliance Quantum grants – Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada](#)

Key features	
Partner organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors</li> <li>✓ At least one partner organization whose cash contributions would be <b>recognized for cost sharing</b>, had there been any required</li> <li>✓ At least one partner organization with the <b>ability to exploit the project’s research results</b></li> <li>✓ Active participation of <b>all</b> partner organizations and support through <b>in-kind</b> contributions</li> </ul>
Financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ NSERC: \$100,000 to \$650,000 per year to the <b>academic team</b> toward <b>100%</b> of eligible direct costs of research</li> </ul>
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Up to 2 years</li> </ul>
Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ NSERC eligible academic researchers</li> </ul>
Application process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Letter of intent by <b>July 27, 2026</b></li> <li>✓ Full application by <b>October 5, 2026</b></li> </ul>

## Alliance Quantum grants

# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

## Project requirements

- Your project is expected to generate new knowledge and accelerate the use of research results to create benefits for Canada.
- Your proposal's thrust **must** aim to **advance one or more** of the [NQS missions](#) through the development of **specific areas** of quantum technologies.
- Your proposal should **align with** the NQS [mission roadmaps](#) and the agreed-upon actions to tackle the challenges, gaps and opportunities they identified for each mission.
- It is **not** a requirement that your project aims to develop a technology for defence application purposes.
  - ➔ You are encouraged to **assess the potential** of the technology for such an application and briefly discuss it, when applicable, in your proposal.

**Quantum technology areas whose development must be supported in relation with the [NQS missions](#):**

Algorithms/encryption, incl. post-quantum cryptography | Communications | Computing | Materials | Sensing

**More information:**

[Alliance Quantum grants – Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada](#)

**IMPORTANT: Proposals that do not address one or more of the NQS missions will not be considered.**

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### Who can apply

- If you are a **Canadian university researcher** who is [eligible](#) to receive NSERC funds, you can apply on your own or as a team with co-applicants who are also [eligible](#) academic researchers.
  - ➔ Adjunct professors whose primary place of employment is in Canada while **outside the university sector** (e.g., government, industry or not-for-profit) may apply as co-applicants. College faculty can participate as co-applicants.
- You may apply for **more than one grant** as the principal applicant or as a co-applicant to support **separate projects**. The grants must cover distinct expenses.
- NSERC encourages the participation of [early career researchers](#) as applicants or co-applicants.

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# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

## Partner organizations

- You may involve whichever partner organizations you need to achieve the project's research goals and successfully mobilize the research results to achieve the desired impact.
- **Cash contributions** from partner organizations are **not** required, but you must have **at least one** partner organization whose cash contributions would be [recognized for cost sharing](#), had there been any required.
- **All** partner organizations must actively play a role in the project and support it through **in-kind contributions**.
- **At least one** partner organization must have the ability to **exploit the project's research results**.
- Other funding organizations (e.g., other provincial or federal funding agencies) may participate as financial partners and provide support to the project in addition to NSERC.
  - ➔ Include all the project's direct costs funded by such sources in your proposal budget table and explain them.

## Alliance Quantum grants

# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

## Funding

- NSERC will provide **\$100,000\*** to **\$650,000\*** **per year** toward eligible direct research costs incurred by the **academic team** for **up to two years**.
- NSERC funds and cash contributions from partner organizations (if any; not required) are paid to the host university.
- The funds cannot be used to buy equipment, products or services from any partner organization, nor to cover any part of the travel and travel-related subsistence expenditures for partner organization personnel.
- For more information on eligible research costs, consult the [Eligible expenses](#) section of this call for proposals' web page or the [Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration](#).

*\* These amounts represent the **minimum** and the **maximum** you can request per year, respectively; they are **not** yearly averages over the duration of your project.*

## Alliance Quantum grants

# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

## Funding

- You can include the costs of **equipment**.
  - ➔ Must be **essential** to the project and **incremental** to equipment already available.
- If your total expected equipment costs (**including operation and maintenance** for **new** and already **available** equipment) exceed **\$400,000** over your project's duration, you must secure an alternate source of funding to complement NSERC's support.
- The joint application and review procedure NSERC and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) have established for associated Alliance and the CFI's John R. Evans Leaders Fund does **not** apply to this call for proposals.
- Alliance Quantum grants are **not infrastructure grants**. They are primarily intended to support collaborative research and training activities, with the aim of generating new knowledge and applying it for the benefit of Canada.

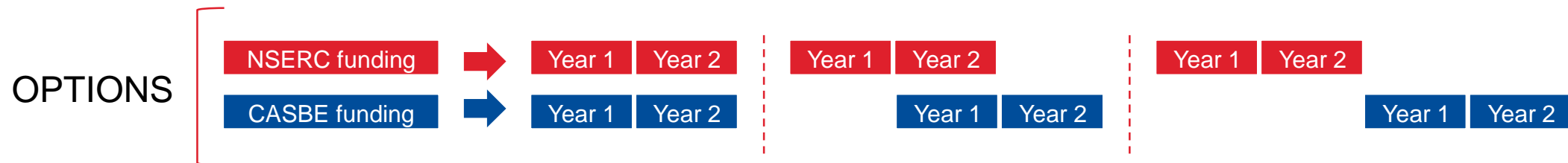
# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada



### Additional financial support by Alberta Innovates

- Through its [Campus Alberta Small Business Engagement \(CASBE\) program](#), Alberta Innovates may leverage NSERC Alliance Quantum grants awarded through this call for proposals to provide **additional** support toward projects led by **researchers from Alberta universities** and involving an **SME incorporated or registered in Alberta**.
- Alberta Innovates' CASBE program may leverage NSERC's award by up to **\$150,000 per year** for up to **two years**.
- CASBE support may be provided **during the duration** of NSERC's award or in the **immediate subsequent** one or two years.
- For additional information and how to apply for CASBE support in the context of this call, refer to [CASBE program guide](#), contact [Alberta Innovates](#) or consult the [How to apply](#) section of this call for proposals' web page.



# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### How to apply

#### STEP 1: LETTER OF INTENT

- You **must first** submit a letter of intent (LOI) using [NSERC's online system](#) **by July 27, 2026, before 8:00 pm (ET)**.
- Your LOI must include the [Alliance Quantum grants LOI template](#).
  - ➔ Outline the proposed research and the anticipated outcomes and explain how the project will aim to advance one or more of the NQS missions through the development of any of the indicated areas of quantum technologies, or a combination thereof.
  - ➔ List the partner organizations that intend to participate in the project.
  - ➔ List the co-applicants who intend to participate in the project.
- Your LOI must also include a completed [personal data form with CCV attachment](#) (NSERC Form 100A) for the applicant and all co-applicants (if any).

**IMPORTANT: No addition of partner organizations will be allowed at the full application stage.  
Full applications with additional partner organizations will not be accepted.**

## Alliance Quantum grants

# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

## How to apply

### STEP 1: LETTER OF INTENT

- To submit your LOI:
  - ➔ Log in to [NSERC's online system](#) and choose *Create a new Form 101*.
  - ➔ Select *Research Partnerships Programs*, then *Alliance Grants*.
  - ➔ For the Proposal type field, select *Letter of intent*.
  - ➔ For the Type of call field, select *Quantum - Technology development and adoption* from the drop-down menu.
  - ➔ Complete the required sections, provide the NSERC Form 100A for the applicant and all co-applicants, and attach the completed LOI template.

**IMPORTANT: You must submit your LOI to NSERC through your Research Grants Office.  
Check your institution's INTERNAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE.**

# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### How to apply

#### STEP 1: LETTER OF INTENT

- NSERC will communicate with you to **acknowledge receipt** of your LOI.
- If your LOI is not complete or does not satisfy NSERC's requirements, it will not be accepted, in which case you cannot submit a full application.
  - ➔ NSERC will **inform you** in the case where your LOI is **not accepted**.
- **Unless you are informed that your LOI is not accepted** by NSERC, you must then complete and submit your application by the full application deadline date.
  - ➔ NSERC will **not communicate** with you to invite you to submit your full application.

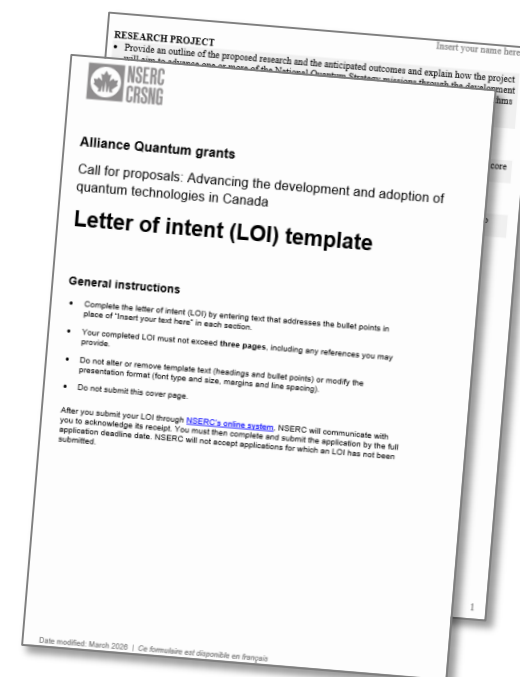
**IMPORTANT: NSERC will not accept applications for which an LOI has not been first submitted.**

# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Alliance Quantum grants LOI template

- You must use the [Alliance Quantum grants LOI template](#) dedicated to this call for proposals.
- Do **not** alter the template text (headings, bullet points) and presentation format (font type and size, margins or line spacing).
- Complete the LOI template within the allowed **maximum of three pages**.
  - ➔ The maximum number of pages includes the NSERC template text.
- Do **not** include the cover (instructions) page in your submission.



# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### How to apply

#### STEP 2: FULL APPLICATION

- If your LOI is accepted by NSERC, it will be **converted** to a full Form 101 application.
  - ➔ Available to you **in your portfolio** in NSERC's online system **by August 19, 2026**
- You must submit your full application using NSERC's online system **by October 5, 2026, before 8:00 pm (ET)**.
- To submit your full application:
  - ➔ Log in to [NSERC's online system](#).
  - ➔ Select the appropriate Form 101 **from your portfolio** (Form: 101; Program: *Alliance Grants*; Application Title: *Application title you created at the LOI stage*).
  - ➔ *Continued on next slide ...*

## Alliance Quantum grants

# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

## How to apply

### STEP 2: FULL APPLICATION

- To submit your full application *(continued from previous slide)*:
  - ➔ Following the [instructions](#) for completing an Alliance Quantum grant application **specific to this call for proposals**, you must complete the [Alliance Quantum grants proposal template](#) and the other sections of your application.
  - ➔ If your application involves one or more partner organizations from the private sector, including when they participate alongside other partner organizations from the public or not-for-profit sectors, complete the [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships' Risk Assessment form](#).
  - ➔ *Continued on next slide ...*

# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### How to apply

#### STEP 2: FULL APPLICATION

- To submit your full application *(continued from previous slide)*:
  - ➔ In accordance with the [Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) (STRAC Policy), since your application aims to advance one of the listed sensitive technology research areas, **you** (as the applicant), your **co-applicant(s)**, and your **collaborator(s)** must **each** complete the [STRAC Attestation form](#).
  - ➔ Submit your completed application and supporting documents, including the [personal data form with CCV attachment](#) for the applicant and all co-applicants, through [NSERC's online system](#).
    - ✓ The contact person for each of your partner organizations will already have provided the required organizational information by following the [partner organization instructions](#).

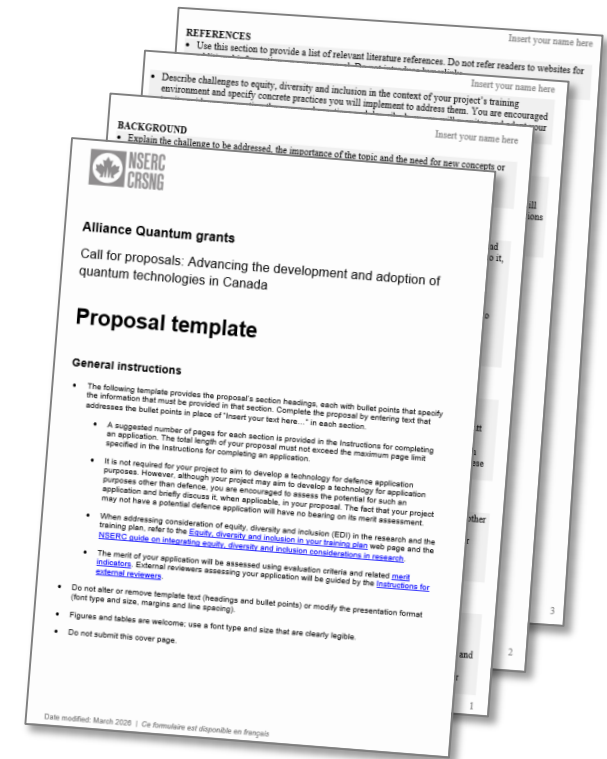
**IMPORTANT: You must submit your application to NSERC through your Research Grants Office. Check your institution's INTERNAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE.**

# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Alliance Quantum grants proposal template

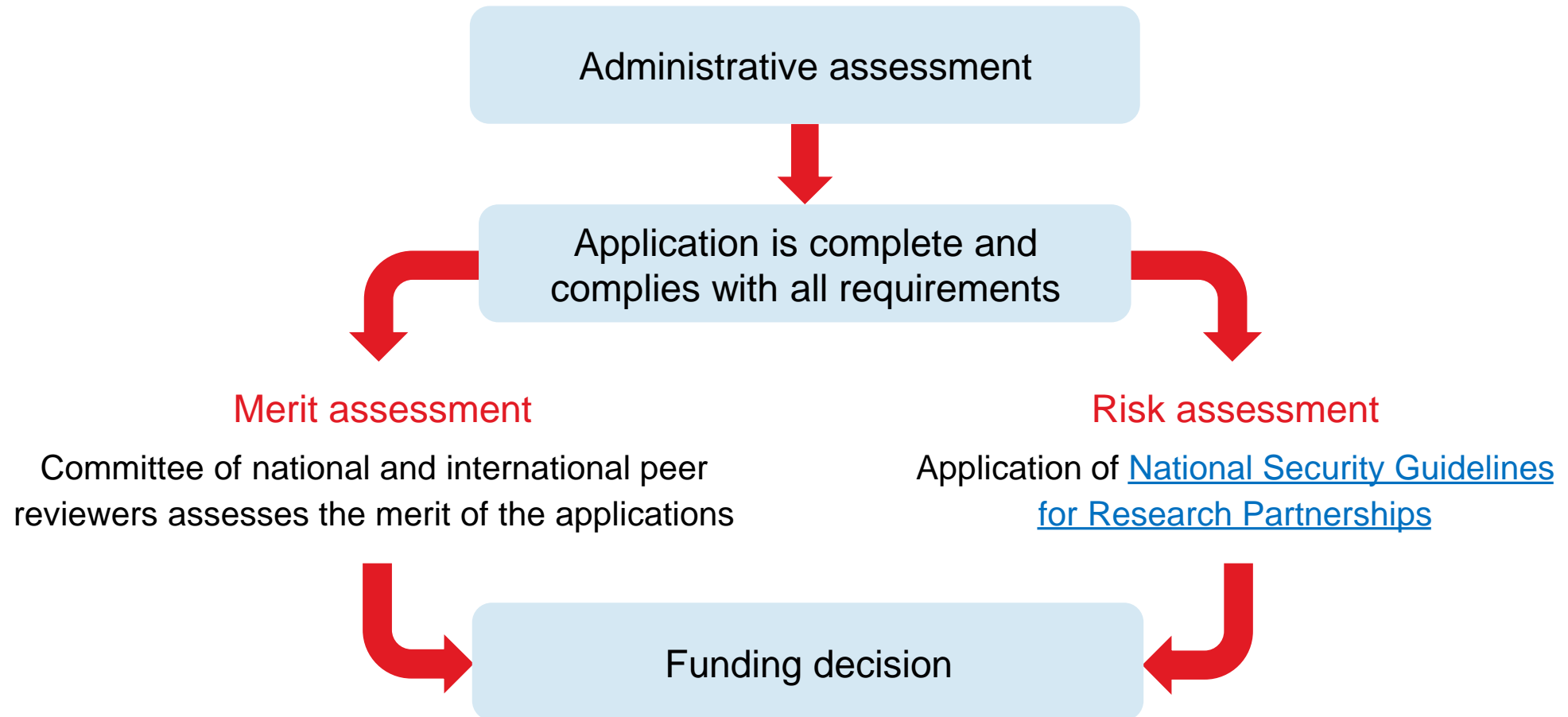
- You must use the [Alliance Quantum grants proposal template](#) dedicated to this call for proposals.
- Do **not** alter the template text (headings, bullet points) and presentation format (font type and size, margins or line spacing).
- Complete the proposal template **within the allowed maximum number of pages**.
  - ➔ The maximum number of pages **depends on the average annual request**. Refer to the [instructions specific to this call for proposals](#) to determine what applies to your proposal.
  - ➔ The maximum number of pages includes the NSERC template text.
- Do **not** include the cover page.



# Alliance Quantum grants

Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

## Assessment mechanism



# Alliance Quantum grants

## Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Merit evaluation criteria

NSERC uses established [merit indicators](#) to rate each evaluation sub-criterion/criterion.

#### 1. Partnership

- 1.1 Partner organizations' roles in the project and value of their involvement and any other in-kind contributions
- 1.2 Relevance of the partnership and capacity of the partner organizations to translate, mobilize and/or apply the research results

#### 2. Research plan and team

- 2.1 Clarity of the research objectives and expected results, appropriateness of the research plan, and suitability of the budget
- 2.2 Appropriateness of the expertise of the team (academic and partner organization participants) for carrying out the planned research activities, as well as for managing the project and providing training

#### 3. Training

- 3.1 Opportunities for enriched learning experiences for research trainees (undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) to develop relevant research skills, as well as professional skills (e.g., leadership, communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship)
- 3.2 Consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion in the training plan\*

#### 4. Impact and benefits to Canada

- 4.1 Innovativeness of the proposed research and its potential to lead to advancements or new knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering disciplines
- 4.2 Significance of the outcomes and the economic, environmental and/or other societal benefits for Canada and Canadians

\* The merit of proposals against sub-criterion 3.2 is assessed by NSERC file managers.

## Alliance Quantum grants

# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Funding decision

- NSERC's funding decision will take into consideration the **merit evaluation** and the **assessment of potential risks** for Canada's national security, when applicable.
- NSERC will use the merit indicator ratings assigned to applications to select proposals for funding on a **competitive basis**.
- Funding decisions should be made **by March 2027**.
- If your project is approved for funding:
  - ➔ You will receive an award letter providing information about your grant, and you must adhere to the [terms and conditions](#) set out in the award letter. NSERC will normally transfer grant funds to your university within **30 days** of the project start date.
  - ➔ When applicable, **Alberta Innovates** will proceed with its own internal process to make its funding decision and release its funds. It will be informed in its funding decision by the results of the merit assessment undertaken by the NSERC committee of peer reviewers.

## Alliance Quantum grants

# Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Reminders and considerations to keep in mind

- Your application **must** include a training component **principally** intended for **undergraduate, graduate and/or postdoctoral trainees**.
- You must briefly describe the **responsibilities of each trainee** and indicate the percentage of time they will spend on your project.
- Reviewers will evaluate your project's opportunities for enriched learning experiences to develop **research and professional** skills.
- Ensure each partner organization's contact person provides information about their organization following the [partner organization instructions](#), including the partner organization profile.
  - Description of the organization, including the nature of its operations in Canada and how it intends to grow in Canada.
  - Demonstration that the organization has existing or planned capacity to achieve the expected results of the project.
- Provide a **detailed justification** of your proposed expenditures.

## Alliance Quantum grants

Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Deadlines

**Letter of intent:** You must submit your letter of intent using NSERC's online system by **July 27, 2026, before 8:00 pm (ET)**.

**Full application:** You must submit your full application using NSERC's online system by **October 5, 2026, before 8:00 pm (ET)**.

### More information

[Alliance Quantum grants – Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada](#)

## Alliance Quantum grants

Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

### Connect with NSERC

- For any questions on the call for proposals  
[alliance\\_quantumquantique@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:alliance_quantumquantique@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

### Connect with Alberta Innovates

- For any questions on the financial support provided by Alberta Innovates through its [CASBE program](#)  
[Adam.Brown@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:Adam.Brown@albertainnovates.ca)