



DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. DOES MY APPLICATION HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 1?

Yes, all applications must be submitted by October 1st at 16:00 Eastern Time. The online system will not accept applications after October 1st. All required documents must be completed and submitted prior to the deadline, straggling documents will not be accepted. In addition, any documents that surpass the assigned page limits or fail to adhere to the formatting guidelines will be excluded from the application.

2. DOES THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR NEED TO HOLD A FACULTY APPOINTMENT TO BE ELIGIBLE?

Yes, the principal investigator must be an independent researcher and hold a faculty appointment at a recognized Canadian academic institution in order to apply. The same eligibility requirements apply to co-principal investigators.

3. DOES A CO-APPLICANT NEED TO HOLD A FACULTY APPOINTMENT FOR A DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANT?

No, the co-applicant does not need to hold a faculty appointment. However, co-applicants must be at the postdoctoral level or higher (research associate, faculty member).

4. HOW MANY PRINCIPAL AND CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS CAN BE ON ONE APPLICATION?

There can be only one principal investigator (PI) per Discovery Research Grant application. There is no limit to the number of co-principal investigators on an application. The PI who is listed as the primary applicant is responsible for overseeing the proposed research project. A co-principal investigator is an individual who shares responsibility for the direction of the proposed research project with the PI.

5. ARE INTERNATIONAL CO-APPLICANT AND COLLABORATORS ALLOWED?

A co-applicant must have an appointment in a Canadian university department but no specific rank is required (e.g. postdoctoral fellow) while collaborators can be recruited from international institutions only if their role fills an unmet need that is not available in Canada. A letter of collaboration is required from collaborators. A postdoctoral fellow can be a co-applicant but must be in the same university department as the PI (or Co PI).

6. DO DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANTS HAVE A MAXIMUM BUDGET/TIME PERIOD THAT CAN BE APPLIED FOR?

Given the limited research funding, proposals must request only funds required. We anticipate proposals requesting between ~\$50,000-\$100,000 per year depending on the need. Budgets may not exceed \$300,000 CAD. The maximum term of the grant is 3 years. Support beyond the term originally approved is dependent upon submission and approval of a new application that is subject to review and in direct competition with other new applications.

7. CAN A DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANT SUPPORT TRAINEES?

The MSSC will permit trainees as an allowable expense on the grant commensurate with the needed capacity to complete the project. Trainees should be identified in the proposal and justified. Requested salaries are not to be used to replace salaries or portions of salaries already assured by institutional or other funds, including those receiving endMS Personnel Awards. Eligible trainees are encouraged to apply for funding through the endMS Personnel Awards.

8. ARE TRAVEL EXPENSES ALLOWED WITHIN MY DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANT BUDGET?

Expenses for domestic or foreign travel to attend conferences and present results of the MSSC-funded research project may be charged to a grant only when included in the application and within the amount specifically approved in the grant (\$2,500 or less per year).

9. ARE BENEFITS SUCH AS VACATION PAY INCLUDED IN DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANTS?

Research Discovery Grant recipients are not considered employees of the MSSC but rather of the institution where the research is conducted. The grant is to be administered in accordance with the prevailing policies of the sponsoring institution, including vacations, sick leaves, holidays, etc.

10. WHAT FORMAT FOR THE CV IS REQUIRED?

The MSSC requires the use of the Canadian Common CV for all Discovery Research Grant applications. The template can be found at <https://ccv-cvc.ca>. Please select "MSSC" as the agency.

11. DO YOU REQUIRE SIGNATURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEADS OF ALL CO-APPLICANTS OR ONLY OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR?

The signatures of the Department Head and Dean of the Faculty or Institution of the Principal Investigator are required. Please consult the [Program Guide](#) for more information on the required signatures for the Discovery Research Grant application.

12. ARE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES SUFFICIENT FOR THE SIGNATURE PAGE OF THE APPLICATION?

Electronic signatures on a scanned copy of the signature page are sufficient for the application. Please refer to the [Program Guide](#) for further details.

13. I SUBMITTED A DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANT (OR OPERATING GRANT) APPLICATION PREVIOUSLY BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN RECEIVING FUNDING. CAN I RESUBMIT MY GRANT APPLICATION THIS YEAR?

Resubmitting an application is permitted under MSSC competition rules and will be assessed according to the Review Criteria for a new application. Resubmission applications must include a "Response to previous review" and should demonstrate substantive modification to the proposal addressing the reviewers' comments. A grant application can only be submitted three times (one submission and two resubmissions).

14. HOW MANY GRANTS CAN I HOLD WITH THE MSSC?

A PI can hold a maximum of two (2) Discovery Research Grants (formerly operating grants) and one (1) Pilot Grant/Catalyst Research Grant from the MSSC at one time.

15. HOW MANY APPLICATIONS CAN I SUBMIT IN THE DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION?

The PI may concurrently submit a maximum of one (1) new Catalyst Research Grant application and one (1) Discovery Research Grant application per competition.

If the FAQ Guide did not answer your question, please direct inquiries and questions to ms.grants@mssociety.ca.