The 2019 Exploration Competition of the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) is now open. All competition documents are available on the NFRF website and the Convergence Portal is open.

The objective of this competition is to generate opportunities for researchers at all career stages to conduct high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research not available through funding opportunities currently offered by the three agencies. It seeks to inspire highly innovative projects that defy current research paradigms, propose a unique scientific direction, bring disciplines together beyond the traditional disciplinary approaches, and/or use different perspectives to solve existing problems.

VALUE:

Up to $125,000 per year over 1 or 2 years (includes $25,000/year indirect costs).

ELIGIBILITY:

To encourage projects that push the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, proposals must be submitted by research teams composed of at least two individuals. This minimum applies to all stages of the competition—notice of intent to apply (NOI), letter of intent to apply (LOI) and full application. In addition to the nominated principal investigator (NPI), the team must include either a co-principal investigator or a co-applicant. Teams may include up to one co-principal investigator and any number of co-applicants and/or collaborators. The NPI and team members can be from any discipline(s).
NOTE - Individuals can participate in only one application as either an NPI, Co-PI or Co-applicant. If you are a grantee or a co-grantee on a currently funded Exploration grant you are not eligible (exception: you can be included as a collaborator).

SUBJECT:

Projects must include elements from at least two different disciplines (as defined by a group-level classification based on the Canadian Research and Development Classification).

Projects must meaningfully engage members of underrepresented groups within the research team, and are expected to integrate sex and gender in their research designs, when appropriate. For full details on project requirements, please see the funding opportunity description.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES:

Given the potentially high volume of submissions and that the Sponsor’s deadline immediately follows a long weekend, the internal deadline has been set for August 1, 2019.

August 1, 2019 – Internal Deadline

- Notice of Intent (NOI)
  - NPI’s must submit the NOI on the Convergence Portal no later than noon August 1, 2019. We strongly encourage applicants to submit by this date to ensure that Research Services has sufficient time to approve and submit to the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) by the deadline.
- My Research Application (MRA) must be received by Research Services no later than noon August 1, 2019. Please include a copy of the Summary of Proposal on your MRA.

August 7, 2019 – Sponsor Deadline

For further information, please see:

New Frontiers in Research Fund - Exploration funding opportunity description
Sponsor Contact: nfrf-fnfr@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

UofT Contacts: When contacting Research Services please choose the contact appropriate to your primary discipline:

CIHR: Deanna Pong, Research Funding Manager, Health & Life Sciences, deanna.pong@utoronto.ca

NSERC: Jessica Keating, Research Funding Manager, Natural Sciences & Engineering, jessica.keating@utoronto.ca

SSHRC: Sarah Scott, Research Funding Manager, Social Sciences & Humanities sja.scott@utoronto.ca