

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

2023 Innovation Fund: A guide to getting started

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This guide provides important information to help research administrators, researchers and other stakeholders begin to prepare submissions for the upcoming 2023 Innovation Fund competition.

It complements but does not replace the call for proposals for the competition, which will provide more detail. Watch for the draft call for proposals in October 2021.

About the 2023 competition

The 2023 Innovation Fund competition will provide support for research infrastructure, across the full spectrum of research, from the most fundamental, to applied, through to technology development.

Competition budget

We will invest up to \$400 million in research infrastructure funding and will fund up to 40 percent of a project's eligible infrastructure costs. We will also provide up to \$120 million for associated operating costs through the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF).

Eligibility of expenses

To be eligible for funding, research infrastructure expenditures and in-kind contributions must have taken place on, or after, November 1, 2020.

For projects that bring together three or more CFI-eligible collaborating institutions (excluding affiliated hospitals) that will house part of the infrastructure or pool resources, you can request up to an additional five percent of the CFI award. This amount is to cover administrative costs associated with the management and governance of those projects.

Institutional envelopes

As with previous Innovation Fund competitions, institutional envelopes will fix the upper limit of the total value of funding that an eligible institution can request. The envelope size is based on the average share of research funding the institution received from the three federal research funding agencies over the period 2017–18 through 2019–20 (which is the most recent available data).

Eligible institutions without a specified institutional envelope will receive an envelope of \$2 million.

Research hospitals and research institutes must apply within the institutional envelope of the eligible university with which they are affiliated.

At the notice of intent deadline, your institution can exceed its institutional envelope by up to 10 percent. However, at the proposal deadline, the total value of CFI funding requested by your institution must be within its envelope.

If your institution submits a single proposal to the competition, it is no longer restricted by its institutional envelope.

For this competition, we will only accept proposals whose total project costs are greater than \$1 million.

Refer to [Appendix 1](#) of this document for the list of institutional envelopes. The same table will appear in the call for proposals. The sum of all institutional envelopes is 2.75 times the competition budget, which allows us to aim for an approximate funding rate of 35 percent.

Timeline

The timeline of the 2023 Innovation Fund competition is:

CFI launches draft call for proposals	October 2021
CFI launches call for proposals	November 2021
Deadline to submit notices of intent	February 2022
Deadline to submit proposals	June 2022
Review process	June 2022 through February 2023
Decisions by CFI Board of Directors	March 2023

Competition objectives and assessment criteria

Objectives

The focus of the competition objectives remain similar to those of the [2020 Innovation Fund competition](#), with the addition of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations.

Assessment criteria

Though the precise wording for the criteria may be different than for the 2020 Innovation Fund competition, they remain largely unchanged with the exception of:

- Removal of the research capacity criterion, with some aspects redistributed to other criteria
- We will assess equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) [considerations that reflect the CFI's values](#)

Merit-review process

The 2023 Innovation Fund competition will use the same three-stage merit-review process that has been the cornerstone of the Innovation Fund since its inception. As in past competitions, the review process will be comprised of:

Stage 1:

An Expert Committee responsible for evaluating proposals against the assessment criteria

Stage 2:

A Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee responsible for evaluating proposals against the competition objectives

Stage 3:

A Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee responsible for recommending to the CFI Board of Directors the projects that best support the CFI mandate and meet the competition objectives.

As with the 2020 Innovation Fund competition, projects that do not meet a threshold of excellence following the Expert Committee review will be removed from the competition.

Appendix 1

Institution	Envelope
University of Toronto	\$179,000,000
The University of British Columbia	\$99,900,000
McGill University	\$94,900,000
University of Alberta	\$60,800,000
Université de Montréal	\$58,200,000
University of Calgary	\$49,200,000
University of Ottawa	\$48,100,000
Université Laval	\$46,700,000
McMaster University	\$45,800,000
The University of Western Ontario	\$38,900,000
University of Waterloo	\$36,400,000
University of Manitoba	\$25,400,000
Dalhousie University	\$24,300,000
Queen's University	\$23,800,000
Simon Fraser University	\$22,400,000
Université de Sherbrooke	\$22,000,000
University of Guelph	\$16,700,000
University of Saskatchewan	\$16,700,000
University of Victoria	\$15,700,000
York University	\$15,600,000
Concordia University	\$14,200,000
Université du Québec à Montréal	\$14,100,000
Carleton University	\$12,700,000

Institution	Envelope
Polytechnique Montréal	\$12,600,000
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	\$11,000,000
Memorial University	\$10,100,000
Institut national de la recherche scientifique	\$9,200,000
Ryerson University	\$9,000,000
University of Windsor	\$6,100,000
École de technologie supérieure	\$5,900,000
University of New Brunswick	\$5,300,000
Wilfrid Laurier University	\$4,300,000
University of Regina	\$4,000,000
Brock University	\$3,500,000
Laurentian University	\$3,400,000
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	\$3,300,000
University of Lethbridge	\$3,000,000
Ontario Tech University	\$2,900,000
Lakehead University	\$2,900,000
Trent University	\$2,500,000
The University of Winnipeg	\$2,300,000
Université du Québec à Rimouski	\$2,100,000
HEC Montréal	\$2,100,000
All other CFI-eligible institutions	\$2,000,000