

Memo

To: Associate Deans Research

Cc: Deans, Faculty Research Offices

From: Amir Asif, Vice-President Research & Innovation

Date: January 28, 2022

Subject: **York University Internal Process for 2022 NSERC Synergy Awards**

Please find below information regarding the 2022 competition for the [NSERC Synergy Awards for Innovation](#), which recognize partnerships of strong, complementary and collaborative teams that have generated new knowledge and accelerated the application of research results to create benefits for Canada and Canadians.

Please note, this year's competition has undergone major changes. Please review the details carefully.

This information should be circulated to your respective Faculty Research Offices and faculty members to ensure their familiarity with the internal nomination and review process.

Note that all institutional nominations will be reviewed by the Major Awards Advisory Committee (MAAC), which will provide feedback and make recommendations to VPRI on the nominations to be put forward by the university.

Summary of Key Dates

- March 1, 2022 – Institutional nominations due to the Office of Research Services
- April 19, 2022 – Funder deadline

NSERC Synergy Awards for Innovation

Launched in 1995, the Synergy Awards for Innovation recognize partnerships in natural sciences and engineering research and development between universities and Canadian industry. In recognition of an evolving research environment, *the Synergy Awards now also reward research partnerships with colleges and research partnerships beyond those with industrial partners.*

The nominated partnership must be in the natural sciences and/or engineering and be between a Canadian university professor, or group of professors, and one or more partnering organizations from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors. The partnership also must have been supported, in whole or in part, by at least one NSERC Research Partnership grant (Engage, Collaborative Research and Development, Strategic Partnerships, Industrial Research Chair, Idea to Innovation, Alliance or Calls for Collaborative Research Projects). Winners of the Synergy Awards must show effective use of human, technical and financial resources, leading to tangible commercial, social or environmental benefits with their industrial partners. Universities must demonstrate a sustained partnership.

Three awards will be offered for University Partnerships, defined as a partnership between an eligible Canadian university and one or more partner organizations. The highlighted research must primarily focus on natural science or engineering.



Each winner (principal nominee) will receive a \$200,000 NSERC research grant, while the industrial partner(s) will each receive a \$50,000 voucher valid towards the cash portion of their required contribution in a new [Alliance Grant](#).

Nominations, which will be due **April 19, 2022**, may be submitted by any individual or group; however, the nominator must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada. Self-nominations (either by a nominee, co-nominees or one of the partnering organizations) will not be accepted. Universities may submit institutional nominations, with the President or Vice-President Research as the nominator.

Winners will be selected by an interdisciplinary peer review selection committee on the basis on the following criteria:

1. Partnership (30%): the significance of the involvement from the partner organization(s) through the partnership.
2. Impact and outcomes (70%):
 - a. The significance of the social, environmental and/or economic impact and outcomes realized in Canada, and internationally if applicable (35%)
 - b. The significance of the impact and benefits to the partners organization(s) (20%)
 - c. The quality of the training environment and enriched learning experiences for research trainees that led to the development of advanced research, technical and/or professional skills (15%)

Additional details can be found at: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Prizes-Prix/Synergy-Synergie/Nomination-Nomination_eng.asp

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

NSERC is acting on evidence that achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding, and to respond to local, national and global challenges. **As such, VPRI encourages Faculties to promote this opportunity among all of its researchers, and equity seeking groups in particular, and to identify partnerships that have exemplified the promotion of women and other under-represented groups in natural sciences and engineering or improved outcomes for marginalized communities.**

Nominees should refer to the [Guide for Applicants: Considering equity, diversity and inclusion in your application for more information](#).

Internal Nomination & Review Process

Process Overview:

Institutional nominations will be supported by the Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives (SIRI) unit and will be subject to review by the Major Awards Advisory Committee (MAAC), as per the following process/timeline:

- Faculties are requested to put forward internal nomination packages by **March 1, 2022**. Interested nominees are encouraged to contact Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives (SIRI) for advice and support ahead of the March 1 deadline.

- MAAC will review nominations and provide feedback to nominees to enhance their submissions.
- The SIRI Specialist will support the preparation of the final submission to NSERC, working with the nominator, the Faculty-based research support personnel and nominees, as appropriate.
- NSERC will adjudicate the competition and notify York University of results.

Nominations with external nominators may also access SIRI support upon request, provided they adhere to the aforementioned internal process/timeline.

Internal Nomination Components (Email submission to SIRI Specialist Abby Vogus, avogus@yorku.ca) by **March 1, 2022** – 1 PDF file compiled in the following order:

- Communication from Dean (or Associate Dean of Research) endorsing nomination, highlighting any benefits of the partnership to the Faculty
- A draft of the [Nomination Template](#)
- Completed [Nomination Form](#) (minus signatures from nominator and partners)

Completed Nomination Components (Email soft copy to avogus@yorku.ca no later than **April 11, 2022**). Please review [NSERC's General Presentation Guidelines](#) in the preparation of nominations. External nominations require an ORS Checklist and the completed package should be submitted to SIRI.

- Completed [Nomination Form](#) (with all signatures)
- Completed [Terms and Conditions Form for Nominees](#) (one for the nominee and one for each co-nominee)
- Completed [Terms and Conditions Form for Nominators](#)
- Nominator letter of support (1 page max)
- Completed [Nomination Template](#)
- Letters of support from partner organizations (2 pages max per letter; not to exceed 20 pages).
- Concise company profile (one page max) for each partner
- Completed and signed ORS Checklist

Timeline

Date	Milestone
March 1, 2022	Internal nominations from Faculties due to SIRI
March 1	Nominees contact executive heads of partner organizations to secure letters of support*
mid-March	MAAC Review
Late March	Feedback to nominees
April 11	Complete nomination file due to SIRI
April 19	NSERC Deadline

*Even though not required by the internal deadline, nominees should reach out to executive heads of partner companies as soon as possible to secure letters of support.

Contact: Abby Vogus, Strategic and Institution Research and Award (SIRI) Specialist, Office of Research Services, avogus@yorku.ca.