

Brain Canada Translational Programs – Request for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why is the EOI timeline so short?

The request for EOIs that we've shared is simply a declaration of intention, to give Brain Canada a sense of the depth and breadth of projects that could be funded if our SSF application, which is due in September, is successful and we're able to launch our new translational programs.

Do you require industry/partner support at this stage? In other words, is matched funding required?

Industry or partner support is not required at the EOI stage, however we encourage those submitting an EOI to please mention any confirmed or potential partners. If Brain Canada's SSF application is successful, the federal funding will require a 1:1 match as it has since 2011, through the Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF). Brain Canada will seek partner support for translational programs, in which case the applicant will not need to identify their own match for project funding. If a program requires applicants to provide matching funds via a third party this will be made clear in the call for applications.

Does a combined Stream 1 and 2 approach work?

Yes, a combined Stream 1 and 2 approach to the project is acceptable.

Your guidelines say that fundamental research is not eligible for funding. Would pre-clinical to clinical research or training be excluded?

This depends on the activities. For example, training could be an outcome, however this is not a grant designed to support trainees. Nor is it designed to establish a new animal model. However, toxicology research into a preclinical model with a molecule that needs to be tested would be eligible. Brain Canada will continue to have team grant calls for fundamental research going forward. The request for EOIs, however, is specific to translational research.

Are collaborators on a project limited to Canadian researchers/partners or can they be international?

International partnerships are welcome and should be mentioned in the EOI. In terms of funding disbursement, we're currently verifying with SSF as to whether international partners would be eligible to receive funds.

The work that we are performing is early in its development. Is this what Brain Canada wants?

Projects early in their development are definitely acceptable, provided they are co-created with partners, which is the intent of our translational programs.

Are overhead or indirect costs considered eligible expenses?

No, overhead and indirect costs are not eligible.

Can you provide more specifics as far as how the EOI content should be presented?

Because this is an expression of interest, as opposed to a peer-reviewed funding competition, we haven't been overly prescriptive in terms of guidance for the content. Please present the content as it makes sense to you.

Given the page limit, can additional people be added for the full proposal?

Yes, additional investigators could be added at the full application stage.

Are we to include references at this point?

Yes, a short list of references should be included. We suggest a maximum of five references total.

What is the timeline for impact that Brain Canada is aiming for?

Brain Canada's translational programs are focused on projects that will shorten the timeline to impact. In other words, Brain Canada is looking to support projects that are not at the beginning stages, but rather that build on basic science to move research along the continuum towards social and translational impact. There should be outcomes during the execution of the project itself (short-term outcomes), as well as those occurring near the end or post-project (medium-term outcomes) leading ultimately to desired long-term impacts. Applicants should be able to report on outcomes within two to five years of the end of the project.

In the event that Brain Canada is not funded through the SSF competition, what will happen to the EOIs?

In the event that Brain Canada is not successful in the SSF competition, the translational programs will likely not be feasible.

Is there a suggested format for the "Biosketch for Lead Researchers and Co-Creation Partners" section? Would you prefer to have a brief summary of the role and experience of each of our core team members, or a more detailed format resembling the CIHR Biosketch?

There is no suggested format for the biosketch section. Please feel free to provide your biosketches in whatever format you have available, within the specified page limit.

It is difficult to plan for projects given the long lead time before funding will be available. Meaning, it is difficult to know what progress, if any, will have taken place on the project in nearly 2 years.

We completely understand that project scope and plans may change between now and the full application stage. The EOI submissions are intended to declare intention, to give Brain Canada a sense of depth and breadth of projects that could be funded if our SSF application is successful and we're able to launch our new translational programs.

Could you provide more information regarding the criteria?

The criteria for reviewing full applications to our translational programs have not yet been developed. Submissions to this request for expressions of interest will help to inform those criteria, as well as the scope of our translational programs.

What about support for fundamental research?

The translational programs are intended to build upon and complement Brain Canada's investments in fundamental research. With SSF support, Brain Canada would continue to support fundamental research, while also developing new programs that mobilize research for social innovation and patient centred impacts.