

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Overview and Challenges



Overview

NSERC aims to make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency supports students in their advanced studies, promotes and supports discovery research, and fosters innovation by encouraging Canadian organizations to participate and invest in postsecondary research projects. NSERC researchers are on the vanguard of science, building on Canada's long tradition of scientific excellence.

Challenges

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▾ Challenge 1

Remote Learning and Accessibility

The shift towards remote learning in post-secondary education (e.g. in response to the COVID-19 pandemic) will impact the accessibility of opportunities for students to participate in research and gain hands-on research skills.

How could organizations that support research, like NSERC, mitigate any negative impacts and/or help students make the most of new opportunities?

▾ Challenge 2

Knowledge Mobilisation and Community

Science and research have played a large role in Canada's evidence-based response to the pandemic.

What kinds of strategies could organizations that support research, like NSERC, use to foster and grow a strong culture of science in Canada (e.g., to promote scientific literacy, and to interest more people in Canada to participate in and/or pursue careers in research)?

▾ Challenge 3

Communication and Skills Development

Post-secondary institutions and granting organizations are always looking for new ways to communicate to employers the value of skills developed through research training in order to improve career pathways and outcomes for graduates.

How could post-secondary institutions and organizations that support research, like NSERC, better communicate to potential employers the value of transferable skills that students develop through research training, in order to facilitate the integration of higher-education graduates across sectors (public, private, non-profit) of the Canadian economy?

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