

Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT)

This fact sheet is part of a set of eight on *Research Granting Agencies* produced by the Association pour la recherche au collégial. It introduces the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies, an agency that supports public research in the area of natural sciences and engineering in Québec, and situates it within the overall configuration of agencies that, in Québec and in Canada, support public research in the areas of health, natural sciences and engineering, social sciences, humanities, fine arts and literature, as well as the acquisition or maintenance of the infrastructures needed for conducting such research.

ARC?

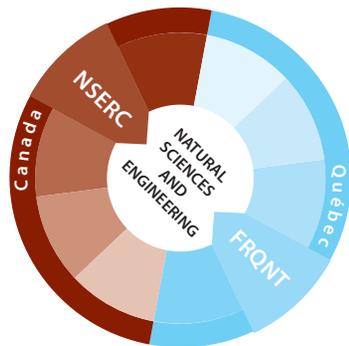
As a professional association, ARC fosters the development of research throughout the college system, in particular through the dissemination of position papers on research issues, the hosting of research-related activities and conferences, the establishment of research support measures, the awarding prizes and, more recently, through meta-research projects.

Any questions?

Contact us!

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Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT)

FRQNT is a not-for-profit granting agency. Reporting to the Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, it implements government research strategies in fields related to natural sciences and engineering.

www.frqnt.gouv.qc.ca

To subscribe to the FRQNT electronic newsletter, write to: webmestre.nt@frq.gouv.qc.ca
[GÉNIALI](#), the electronic newsletter on strategic clusters and team research projects, highlights research funded by FRQNT.

Mandate

FRQNT's mandate is to promote scientific development and innovation in Québec with a view to economic prosperity and sustainable development. To achieve this, it helps finance the development and promotion of college and university research, disseminates knowledge stemming from research, and fosters research of highly qualified personnel, primarily in fields related to natural sciences, mathematical sciences and engineering.

Eligible projects

FRQNT funds projects in all areas of application, as long as they are in keeping with its mandate.

Research areas

Research targeted by FRQNT covers a broad spectrum ranging from pure mathematics to the development of new technologies. The themes are grouped into ten major areas:

- [Abstract structures](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Information technologies and communications](#)
- [Living organisms](#)
- [Manufacturing and construction](#)
- [Materials](#)
- [Nature and interaction of matter](#)
- [Natural resources](#)
- [Techniques, measurement and systems](#)

Applying for a grant

Applicant

The applicant, or the person who signs and is responsible for the grant application, in the context of a research project carried out by either an individual or a team, must have the status of researcher, as set out in the [Common Rules and Regulations](#) of the three Québec granting agencies. Individuals who hold doctoral degrees and have teaching positions at a Québec college can be recognized as researchers.

Roles of individuals participating in a research group

In the context of research conducted by a group (team, cluster, etc.), participants can fulfil the role of either a *regular member* or a *collaborator*. The *regular member* is responsible or jointly responsible for the scientific leadership of a research project or the scientific program of a research group. The regular member must meet the definition of a researcher, as set out in the [Common Rules and Regulations](#) of the three Québec granting agencies. Within a team, the applicant is recognized as the principal investigator and the other regular members of the team as co-investigators. The *collaborator* contributes on a one-time or occasional basis to the research activities necessary to carry out the project or the research group's scientific program. While the curriculum vitae is an important tool in the evaluation of a regular member's contribution, the collaborator's contribution is evaluated more on the basis of the description of the nature and quality of this collaboration, as described by the applicant in the grant application. Moreover, unlike the regular member, the collaborator does not have access to grant funds.

Status of individuals participating in a grant application

Each FRQNT grant program sets out specific rules regarding the status of eligible researchers who fulfil the functions of principal investigator, co-investigator or collaborator. These statuses are most often defined on the basis of researchers' affiliations or the communities they come from: university researcher, government researcher, industrial researcher, etc. Each status corresponds to certain characteristics. The status of *college researcher* is reserved for individuals who fall into one of the following two cases:

- Be a full-time faculty member of a CEGEP, publicly-funded private college or government school that offers postsecondary education;
- Have a position as a full-time or part-time researcher in a college centre for technology transfer.

Retired college researchers have conducted research activities at a CEGEP, publicly-funded private college or government school that offers postsecondary education or college centre for technology transfer. They are no longer employed by this institution, but still pursue research activities. Researchers who work at a research centre that is affiliated with a college but does not have the status of college centre for technology transfer can verify their eligibility for the status of college researcher with the FRQNT officer responsible for the grant program to which they want to submit applications. Under Partnerships for Innovation programs, a person from the college community can participate in a project with the status of collaborating practitioner. The collaborating practitioner is from a practice setting such as a public body (government or non-government), or private enterprise.

Management of grants

Institution

Under the [Common Rules and Regulations](#) of the three Québec granting agencies, the principal investigator from the college community must entrust management of grant funds to the educational institution with which he or she is affiliated. When the principal investigator is affiliated with a college centre for technology transfer, the funds are awarded to the educational institution with which this centre is affiliated.

Educational institutions that administer FRQNT funds are regarded as trustees: they must manage grants as assets not belonging to them and are accountable to FRQNT for grant-related expenditures.

Eligible and non-eligible expenses

Under the [Common Rules and Regulations](#) of the three Québec granting agencies, FRQNT grants fund most of the direct costs of the research: they cover expenses associated specifically with conducting research. Expenses

related to remuneration of a researcher or a release from teaching duties or from any other professional activities in order to conduct research activities are therefore not eligible. Institutions that employ individuals participating in research must bear remuneration-related costs. However, to better assist college teachers wishing to pursue research activities, the [National Research and Innovation Policy](#) (PNRI 2014-2019) will make specific credits available to these researchers.

Regular FRQNT grants

An application submitted by a college researcher to the Program to Release College Researchers from their Teaching Duties is compatible with the following grant programs:

- [Team Research Project](#)
- [Strategic Clusters](#)
- [Partnerships for Innovation – Component 1: Targeted Research Partnership Projects](#)
- [Partnerships for Innovation – Component 3: New Strategic Initiatives for Innovation](#)

Grant program specific to colleges

FRQNT has established the [Research Program for College Professors](#), which includes specific eligibility conditions.

Submitting applications

Grant applications must comply with both the [rules for submitting an application](#), as set out in the Common Rules and Regulations of the three Québec granting agencies, and the specific submission requirements for the grant program selected. To access the forms and complete a grant application, researchers must open an electronic account on the FRQNT [website](#).

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Internet-accessible: <http://vega.cvm.qc.ca/arc/doc/RGA-FRQNT.pdf>

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