



CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. IS THE CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT LIMITED TO A SPECIFIC AREA OR TYPE OF RESEARCH? 2
2. WHAT TYPES OF RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE BEST SUITED TO THIS PROGRAM? 2
3. DOES MY APPLICATION HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 1? 2
4. DOES THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR NEED TO HOLD A FACULTY APPOINTMENT TO BE ELIGIBLE? . 2
5. DOES A CO-APPLICANT NEED TO HOLD A FACULTY APPOINTMENT? 2
6. HOW MANY PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS CAN BE ON ONE APPLICATION? 2
7. ARE INTERNATIONAL CO-APPLICANTS AND COLLABORATORS ALLOWED?..... 3
8. WHAT PERSONNEL COSTS ARE ELIGIBLE?..... 3
9. IS THERE A MAXIMUM BUDGET/TIME PERIOD FOR THE GRANT? 3
10. ARE TRAVEL EXPENSES ALLOWED WITHIN BUDGET?..... 3
11. WHAT FORMAT OF THE CV IS REQUIRED?..... 3
12. DO YOU REQUIRE SIGNATURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEADS OF ALL CO-APPLICANTS OR ONLY OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR?..... 3
13. I SUBMITTED A CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION PREVIOUSLY BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN RECEIVING FUNDING. CAN I RESUBMIT MY GRANT APPLICATION THIS YEAR? 4
14. HOW MANY GRANTS CAN I HOLD WITH MSC?..... 4
15. HOW MANY APPLICATIONS CAN I SUBMIT IN THE CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION? ... 4

1. IS THE CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT LIMITED TO A SPECIFIC AREA OR TYPE OF RESEARCH?

No, it is open to all areas of research. The Catalyst Research Grant program awards seed funding that allows researchers to develop and test new and innovative research questions and pursue pioneering approaches that have the potential to impact the field of multiple sclerosis (MS).

2. WHAT TYPES OF RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE BEST SUITED TO THIS PROGRAM?

The intention of this program is to allow investigators to test novel, high-risk ideas or interventions that have not been examined in MS or examined to a limited extent. By testing a new idea or intervention, the researcher will gather important preliminary data to open new lines of inquiry and new avenues of research in MS, as well as build sufficient evidence to apply for larger grants and conduct larger studies. The Catalyst Research Grant is not intended for projects which already have sufficient preliminary data.

3. DOES MY APPLICATION HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 1?

Yes, all applications must be submitted by October 1 at 4:00 PM Eastern time. The online system will not accept applications after the deadline. All required documents must be completed and submitted prior to the deadline, straggling documents will not be accepted. In addition, any documents that surpass the assigned page limits or fail to adhere to the formatting guidelines will be removed from the application.

4. DOES THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR NEED TO HOLD A FACULTY APPOINTMENT TO BE ELIGIBLE?

Yes, the principal investigator must be an independent researcher and hold a faculty appointment at a recognized Canadian academic institution in order to apply. The same eligibility requirements apply to co-principal investigators.

5. DOES A CO-APPLICANT NEED TO HOLD A FACULTY APPOINTMENT?

No, the co-applicant does not need to hold a faculty appointment. However, co-applicants must be at the postdoctoral level or higher (research associate, faculty member). A postdoctoral fellow can be a co-applicant but must be in the same university department as the PI (or Co PI).

6. HOW MANY PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS CAN BE ON ONE APPLICATION?

There can be only one principal investigator (PI) per Catalyst Research Grant application. There is no limit to the number of co-principal investigators on an application. The PI listed as the primary applicant is responsible for overseeing the proposed research project. A co-principal investigator is an individual who shares responsibility for the direction of the proposed research project with the PI.

7. ARE INTERNATIONAL CO-APPLICANTS AND COLLABORATORS ALLOWED?

A co-applicant must have an appointment in a Canadian university department but no specific rank is required (e.g. postdoctoral fellow). A postdoctoral fellow can be a co-applicant but must be in the same university department as the PI (or Co PI). Collaborators can be recruited from international institutions only if their role fills an unmet need that is not available in Canada. A letter of collaboration is required from collaborators.

8. WHAT PERSONNEL COSTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

MS Canada (MSC) will permit trainees as an allowable expense on the grant commensurate with the needed capacity to complete the project. Trainees should be identified in the proposal and justified. Requested salaries are not to be used to replace salaries or portions of salaries already assured by institutional or other funds, including those receiving endMS Personnel Awards. Eligible trainees are encouraged to apply for funding through the endMS Personnel Awards.

9. IS THERE A MAXIMUM BUDGET/TIME PERIOD FOR THE GRANT?

A Catalyst Research Grant can be up to \$50,000 CAD for up to two years. Submitted applications must include aims that align with the scope and budget of the Catalyst program to be considered for funding. If the project will exceed two years, a rationale must be provided in the research plan. These grants are non-renewable.

10. ARE TRAVEL EXPENSES ALLOWED WITHIN BUDGET?

Use of funds for conference travel is not permitted. Travel necessary for the conduct of the study will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

11. WHAT FORMAT OF THE CV IS REQUIRED?

MSC requires CVs to be submitted using the template provided on ProposalCentral for Primary Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator(s) (if applicable). For instructions on how to complete the CV template, please see [here](#).

12. DO YOU REQUIRE SIGNATURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEADS OF ALL CO-APPLICANTS OR ONLY OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR?

The signatures of the Department Head and Dean of the Faculty or Institution of the Principal Investigator are required. Please consult the Program Guide for more information on the required signatures for the application. Electronic signatures are accepted.

13. I SUBMITTED A CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION PREVIOUSLY BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN RECEIVING FUNDING. CAN I RESUBMIT MY GRANT APPLICATION THIS YEAR?

Resubmitting an application is permitted under MSC competition rules and will be assessed according to the Review Criteria for a new application. Resubmission of applications must include a "Response to previous review" and should demonstrate substantive modification to the proposal addressing the reviewers' comments. A Catalyst Research Grant application can only be submitted two times (one original submission and one resubmission).

14. HOW MANY GRANTS CAN I HOLD WITH MSC?

A PI can hold a maximum of two (2) Discovery Research Grants (formerly Operating Grants) and one (1) Catalyst Research Grant (formerly Pilot Research Grant) from MSC at one time.

15. HOW MANY APPLICATIONS CAN I SUBMIT IN THE CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION?

A PI may concurrently submit a maximum of one (1) new Catalyst Research Grant application and one (1) Discovery Research Grant application per competition.

If the FAQ Guide did not answer your question, please direct inquiries and questions to ms.grants@mscanada.ca.