# NSERC ARD: A Primer for Faculty and Staff

The following is a brief overview of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Applied Research and Development (ARD) Grants program. For more information, please contact the Office of Applied Research and Innovation (OARI).

**An [NSERC ARD project](#) is a federally-funded applied research project carried out by a college on behalf of one or more external partners. The college can be awarded up to $150,000 per year for a one- to three-year project.**

The OARI is responsible for the initiation, coordination, and submission of <u>all Fleming College ARD proposals</u>. We want to make the application process as easy as possible for you – the first step is to let the OARI know of your interest and intention. The OARI will then work with you to prepare the project proposal, the project budget, and complete all the necessary paperwork.

**Key details:**

<u>Project length</u>: 1 to 3 years

<u>Funding</u>: Up to $150,000 per year from NSERC + 25% external partner cash match

<u>Project lead</u>: A Fleming College researcher

<u>External partners</u>: Required

<u>Student involvement</u>: Required

**Project eligibility:**

ARD grants support a wide range of research and development projects undertaken by college researchers with partner organizations. Is your project:

- ◯ In collaboration with at least one external company or organization?
- ◯ Focused on solving a specific problem for a partnering company or organization?
- ◯ An opportunity for at least one student to engage in applied research?
- ◯ Within your scope of expertise or experience?

If you answered "yes" to all of the above, then your project could be a great candidate to receive ARD funding. Contact your Dean and/or Chair, as well as the OARI.

**Expectations for external project partners:**

NSERC has outlined four roles for a project's external partners that collectively must be filled to be eligible for ARD funding. One or more of your external partners must:

- ✓ Collaborate actively in the project's research.
- ✓ Have a credible plan to use the research results to provide economic, social, health or environmental benefits for Canadians.
- ✓ Have the capability, maturity and resources to implement the plan.
- ✓ Contribute a match of at least 25% of the grant amount in cash.

External partners can be from the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors and can include other colleges and universities. Restrictions and eligibility requirements apply and the OARI will help you determine the eligibility of your partner(s).

All external partners are expected to create an account on NSERC's online proposal portal and complete the partner module before the proposal can be submitted. Completion of the partner module includes uploading a signed letter of support and providing an outline of their financial and/or resource contributions to the project.

**Timelines**

Once the OARI is notified of your interest and intent to apply for an ARD grant, they will work with you to determine a timeline for proposal completion and submission, which could take up to 4-6 weeks. Submitting your completed key documents to OARI quickly will help speed up the process. Once the proposal is submitted to NSERC, the notification of results varies depending on the size of the project: for proposals requesting up to $40,000 per year of the project, NSERC's internal review process has a turnaround of results of approximately 2-3 months. For proposals requesting more than $40,000 per year, proposals are longer and reviewed by external reviewers, with results announced in approximately 4-8 months.

The NSERC ARD program is a great way to engage with industry and community partners on applied research while also providing opportunities for students to participate in hands-on learning.

**For more information, contact Laura Coles, Research Support Specialist, OARI.**