Supporting Collaborative Research & Student Training

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Agenda

➤ About Mitacs
➤ Our other programs
➤ Accelerate
  – How it works
  – Eligible partners
  – How to apply
About Mitacs

Who are we?
• A Canadian non-profit national research organization supporting university research & training
• Funded by the Federal & Provincial Governments
• Office at SFU

We develop & offer programs which:
• Foster linkages between universities & industry
• Further Canadian research and innovation
• Help prepare graduate students & Post Doctoral Fellows for careers
• Build international collaborations
About Mitacs

- National research network (20+ offices)
- 15 years in operation
- Almost 10,000 research projects
- 60+ academic partners
Annual snapshot

Why Mitacs?

$19.3M PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

1260 INDUSTRY PARTNERS

6000 STUDENTS CAREER-READY

61 UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

2800 + INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

2240 RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

470 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS Brought to Canada

290 + PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WORKSHOPS
Program growth

Mitacs research projects

Year
2003/04
2004/05
2005/06
2006/07
2007/08
2008/09
2009/10
2010/11
2011/12
2012/13
2013/14

Projects
18
30
85
170
240
675
1060
1544
1576
2109
2804
The Mitacs network

Why Mitacs?

We work with ALL university departments

✓ Computer science ✓ Forestry
✓ Engineering ✓ History
✓ Anthropology ✓ Languages & linguistics
✓ Economics ✓ Mathematics
✓ Chemistry ✓ Business
✓ Geography ✓ Education
✓ Health sciences ✓ Interactive arts
✓ Genetics ✓ Psychology
✓ Social work ✓ And more...

Non-university partners include

▪ Small & medium business
▪ Large business
▪ Not-for-profit organisations

For projects with non-profit partners please contact us
Our Core programs

**Step**
Free workshops to enhance student & Post-doc “soft skills”
Eg Project Management, Networking, Communications

**Globalink**
Forge international collaborations with specific countries
1A) **Research Internship**: visiting undergrad summer projects
1B) **Fellowships**: to then return to do grad studies in Canada
2) **Research Award**: grad/undergrad projects with prof abroad
3) **Partnership Award**: grad projects with a company abroad

**Elevate**
2 year PDF project with a prof + partner in Canada
Additional skills training toward R&D management career

**Accelerate**
Work on interesting applied research problems
Receive funding, experience, build network

Available to all research disciplines
Mitacs Accelerate

Supporting research collaborations and promoting experiential learning for grad students and Post Doctoral fellows

Overview

- Sees “Interns” as (grad student, Post-Docs)
- ... funded (via a grant) to undertake research with non-academic partners
- ...under their professor’s guidance
- Not employees, retain university status
- Interns do not have to be Canadian citizens
What is a project?

- 4 months or longer period of applied research
- Projects defined by partner, of interest to the intern & professor
- At least 1 “intern”, 1 professor, 1 partner on each project

- Co-funded (grant) by Mitacs + the partner(s)
  - Funds as stipend (intern) + project support (prof)
- At least 50% on-site with the partner (in Canada)
  - Intern “builds bridge” to university
  - Obtains valuable hands-on experience

- 3 Accelerate variants
- ALL research areas are supported
- Not a competition, no deadlines

Standard#
Cluster#
PhD Fellowships
Mitacs Accelerate options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Open call</th>
<th>Non competitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>4+ months</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster</td>
<td>4 months to multi year</td>
<td>$80,000+</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD Fellows</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$30,000 per year</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Role of the professor

Projects are usually set up by the professor(s) and partner(s) agreeing to collaborate. Professor then finds the intern(s)

Interns can set up their own projects but do need their prof’s consent & approval

- The Prof will assist the intern on the proposal preparation
- Will supervise the intern throughout the project
  - Project needs to be of interest + relevance to the prof
  - Not a co-op, it’s a research collaboration
- And the prof will manage the associated grant
Mitacs Accelerate Partners

A Company / industry / business of any size with offices or facilities in Canada where intern can spend 50% time on-site
- ANY sector (eg oil & gas, biotech, environmental)
- ANY size (eg 1 ... to many.... people)

Eligible organisations may also include:

- Some Crown Corporations
- First Nations Development Corporations
- Consultants
- Private clinics

*New*: Non-profit (non-government) organisations also eligible
- Registered as a not-for profit, or charity/foundation
- Project must have demonstrable economic impact

Not eligible: municipalities, hospitals, health authorities, government agencies, First Nation bands

Unsure? Please ask us
Not For Profits (NFPs) as Partners

*New*: Non-profit (non-government) organisations also eligible
- eg: Charity, foundation, industry association, social welfare org.
- Ineligible: hospitals, municipalities, government agencies

1) How is the NFP classified?
Is it registered as a not-for-profit or charity /foundation?

How to confirm?
Website (“About us”) or ask an employee of the NFP ... then let us know

2) and project in mind has a demonstrable economic / productivity orientation
Examples include creating new jobs, reducing costs of goods or services, or increasing productivity in a process or industry

How to confirm?
- fill in 1 page project summary + orientation statement
- assessed by Mitacs (~ 2 business day turnaround)
- if approved, apply as normal (paste 1 page summary into proposal)
Past Accelerate Projects: examples

Blind People in the Workplace: Examining the Barriers to Meaningful Employment of Blind Canadians (Social work)

Measuring emission rates of organic compounds from building material (Engineering)

Veratoxin as a New Approach to the Prevention of HIV Infections (Biochemistry)

Controls on Sediment Production from Forest Roads in the Honna Watershed (Geography)

Evaluation of an Educational Intervention for Employees Exposed to Workplace Trauma (Psychology)
How Accelerate works (recap)

A collaborative research project:
- Partner has a challenge / issue to be addressed
- Of interest to professors and their research group
- Co-funded by the partner(s) & Mitacs: grant to professor

Grad student / Post-Doc “intern(s)” balances project time 50-50 between university + partner site
- Builds closer connections
- Interns exposed to non-academic R&D approaches

Non-competitive: can apply any time
Peer reviewed: grant awarded to the professor
We are here to help
- facilitate meetings, look over drafts, answer questions
How to write a proposal

- See “Apply now (getting started)” section at the Accelerate site
- Download proposal template, optional CV template
- Consult (share with) prof + partner, incorporate their feedback
- Then send us a draft for our feedback

Complete all sections (unsure of something, **ask us**)
Include (cite) journal paper references (eg 4-10)
Methods: describe the “what” AND the “how”. **Not** a list of tasks
  Eg Interviews will be conducted
    How many people, how chosen (role, organisation), how long each session, what info to be collected (+ how), how analysed (techniques)?)

>> Ensure the RESEARCH elements are stressed
FAQs (more at our website)

My research is in the area of “X” is it eligible?
-Yes: if the project is research-based (and IF the partner is an eligible NFP the project needs an appropriate economic orientation)

How many internships can I do?
-No limits for professors & partners
-2 for MSc, +6 (more) as PhD, +6 (more) as a PDF = need grad/PDF status

Can my project be outside of Canada?
-Projects need at least 25% time with the professor + 25% with partner in Canada. On an exception basis time might be allowed outside Canada: ask us
> Depending on the country Globalink may be an alternative

Can I apply without a partner?
-No: you need a prof and eligible partner lined up to apply

Can Mitacs find me a partner?
-Unfortunately not.
How to find an eligible partner

- Speak to your professor
  - Approach other faculty
  - Network!
    - Workshops
    - Conferences
    - “Industry” association events
    - LinkedIn
  - Check the Mitacs website (www.mitacs.ca)
Open position - Mitacs

Business Development Specialist (Vancouver Region)

- Contract (1 Year). Recent PhD (within 1-2 years)
  - Excellent communication skills
  - Desire to pursue a career outside of research and academia
- Work closely with Mitacs staff to deliver high-quality programming
  - Create and maintain a network in industry and academia
  - Help university researchers access Mitacs programs
  - Introduce companies to various university researchers
  - Provide support to the Business Development Team

www.mitacs.ca/en/careers
Our Funding Partners

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Register for updates:
www.mitacs.ca/signup
Accelerate: Eligible partners

**Is the project research-based?**

- Yes
  - **Is the partner: a hospital, university, municipality, health authority, or government?**
    - Yes
      - **Is the not-for-profit registered as a not-for-profit or charity / foundation?**
        - Yes
          - (Look at website / ask employee)
          - Yes
            - APPLY !!
        - No (it’s a not-for-profit)
          - No
            - **Does the project demonstrate an economic / productivity orientation?**
              - Yes
                - APPLY !!
              - No
                - No
                  - NOT ELIGIBLE
                  - No
                    - **Is the partner: a for-profit corporation or a Crown Corporation with >50% of revenue from sales of goods & services?**
                      - Yes
                        - APPLY !!
                      - No
                        - No
                          - **Is the partner: a for-profit corporation or a Crown Corporation with >50% of revenue from sales of goods & services?**
                            - Yes
                              - APPLY !!
                            - No
                              - **Is the project research-based?**
                                - Yes
                                  - APPLY !!
                                - No
                                  - NOT ELIGIBLE

**NOT ELIGIBLE**