

NSERC Alliance – MITACS Program

NSERC Alliance - MITACS joint funding opportunity allows applicants to leverage cash contributions from partners for funding from both NSERC and Mitacs. NSERC Alliance projects aim to generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results, whereas MITACS internships are HQP-training oriented. The joint NSERC Alliance - MITACS projects are more extensive in scope than a standard MITACS internship. As the program requires researchers to submit separate applications, the clarifications to the process are provided below.

The Flow of Funds and Overhead

Partner organization's contribution for training HQPs will be paid directly to MITACS. SFU will receive an internship payment from MITACS per the standard MITACS process. Partner organization's contributions to MITACS should be limited to salary and expenses that are directly related to the internship (i.e., the intern's travel expenses, lab materials, or publication fees). Such contributions will not be subject to overhead.

Partner's contributions unrelated to the MITACS internship will be treated as regular NSERC Alliance matching funds. In particular, they will be subject to the 25% overhead and must be sent directly to SFU.

Sponsored Research Agreements

As recommended by NSERC, SFU enters into research collaboration agreements with partner organizations to formalize the Alliance projects. The same process applies to joint NSERC-MITACS projects.

Intellectual property (IP) arising from the NSERC – MITACS projects will be governed by the sponsored research agreement, not the MITACS IP terms and conditions.

MITACS IP terms and conditions were created for standard MITACS projects, and they apply only to interns' contributions under MITACS internships. NSERC-MITACS projects are broader in scope than a standard MITACS internship. Therefore, MITACS IP terms do not adequately cover the full scope of the NSERC-MITACS project.

While many companies are familiar with MITACS, the NSERC process may be new to them. Research Services encourages researchers to inform a partner organization of a sponsored research agreement process prior to proceeding with the applications to ensure that the process is acceptable to a partner organization.

You can find a template of a standard sponsored research agreement here [\[active reference\]](#). Please feel free to share it with a partner organization.

If the proposals are successful, a Contracts Officer will liaise with a partner organization to finalize the agreement.