



Networks of Centres of Excellence Program

Selection and Evaluation Criteria

To ensure that the program objectives are met, proposals are assessed against the five criteria outlined below. Networks are also evaluated on an ongoing basis during tenure of a grant against these same criteria. A threshold of excellence must be exceeded for each criterion. The quality of research is considered first and, unless it is deemed excellent, the network is denied NCE funding. In other words, research excellence is a necessary condition for the initial or continued funding of an NCE. It is not the sufficient condition, because the goals of the program are also reflected in the four additional criteria.

The descriptors of the five criteria are given below for the guidance of applicants. They are not all-inclusive.

Criterion 1. Excellence of the Research Program

- The excellence, focus and coherence of the research program;
- The achievements of the researchers and their ability to contribute to the research program;
- The value added by the network approach, in terms of the quality of the research and achievement of the goals that can be pursued;
- The extent to which the program will contribute to Canada's ability to lead in areas of research with high economic and/or social impact;
- The extent to which new and emerging social and ethical issues, where relevant, will be addressed in the research program;
- The relationship of the research program to similar work conducted in Canada and abroad.

Criterion 2. Development of Highly Qualified Personnel

- The ability to train and retain outstanding researchers in research areas and technologies critical to Canadian productivity, economic growth, public policy and quality of life;
- Training strategies that promote multidisciplinary and multisectorial research approaches and encourage trainees to consider the economic, social and ethical implications of their work.

Criterion 3. Networking and Partnerships

- Effective research and technology development links between academic institutions, federal and provincial agencies and private sector participants;
- Multidisciplinary, multisectorial approaches in the research program;
- Evidence that an effort has been made to include all suitably qualified groups;
- Optimization of resources through the sharing of equipment and research facilities, databases and personnel;

- Presence, nature and extent of contributions from the private sector and federal and provincial agencies, and prospects for increasing commitments as the work progresses.

Criterion 4. Knowledge Exchange and Technology Exploitation

- Likelihood that new products, processes or services can be commercialized by firms operating in Canada and that they will strengthen the Canadian industrial base, enhance productivity, and contribute to long-term economic growth and social benefits;
- Prospect for social innovation and the implementation of effective public policy through collaboration with the public sector;
- Effective collaboration with the private and public sectors in technology, market development, and public policy development;
- The impact, or potential impact, on the partners' science and technology capabilities;
- Effective management and protection of intellectual property resulting from network-funded research.

Criterion 5. Management of the Network

Each network must possess an organizational structure appropriate for the management of the research and business functions of a complex multidisciplinary, multi-institutional program. These elements must include:

- A board and committee structure to ensure that appropriate policy and financial decisions are made and implemented;
- The presence of effective leadership and expertise in the research and the business management functions;
- Effective research planning and budgeting mechanisms;
- Effective internal and external communications strategies.