



AquaNet Call for Proposals Policies

Please address your proposal to the Executive Scientific Director and outline the research question (s) your proposal is addressing. The completed application should be sent on CD to: AquaNet Executive Scientific Director, c/o AquaNet Administrative Centre, Ocean Sciences Centre, Memorial University, St. John's, NL A1C 5S7.

Proposals may be submitted in either official language.

Eligibility

AquaNet follows NSERC's guidelines for determining eligibility of expenditures. Guidelines on eligible expenditures are available on the NSERC website at:

http://www.nserc.ca/professors_e.asp?nav=profnav&lbi=f3

NSERC now requires that students sign a consent form, signed by their supervisor, to allow their names to be included in an application for funding. For further information, please refer to the NSERC website at:

http://www.nserc.ca/programs/pdf100_e.htm

Funding

The maximum stipend support awarded by AquaNet is two years for a Masters student and three years for a PhD student. Maximum stipend support awarded is \$16,500 for a Masters student and \$19,000 for a PhD student.

Salary funds are not typically awarded for research assistants or technicians and if requested will require justification.

Funding for adjunct professors must be for activities related to training of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) at the institutions where the professors receive adjunct status.

Evaluation Process

Proposals will undergo a two-tier evaluation process: the first is a peer-review of the scientific merit of the project (i.e., excellence of the research and the researcher); the second is evaluation according to the NCE / AquaNet selection criteria listed below. Recommendations on funding are made by the RMC to the AquaNet Board of Directors., All decisions of the Board of Directors with respect to the awarding of funds will be final.

AquaNet/NCE Evaluation and Selection criteria: (a comprehensive description of the NCE criteria is provided on a separate page.)

1. Excellence of the science
2. Development of highly qualified personnel
3. Networking and partnerships
4. Knowledge exchange and technology transfer
5. Management of project
6. Does the proposal adhere to AquaNet's guiding principles of innovation, risk management and/or respect for traditional and local knowledge?
7. Does the proposal address the research question?
8. The proposal is expected to achieve results in one to two years.

An overall rank will be applied to each proposal based on the above two evaluation processes. Grants will be awarded based on the ranking assigned to each proposal, and the availability of network research funds.

Reporting requirements

Progress reports should be submitted to the Executive Scientific Director. Progress reports will be reviewed by the RMC, which will make a recommendation to the Board regarding continued funding. There will be a 15% holdback of funds in each year pending review of progress reports. If progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory when measured against the milestones set by the researchers and accepted by the RMC, or if the funds are no longer required to complete the research study, the RMC reserves the right to reallocate these funds.

Information on the projects may be requested on an *ad hoc* basis to fulfil AquaNet's reporting requirements to the Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program. Financial information will be obtained annually through the Financial Services departments of the institutions receiving AquaNet funds.

For communications purposes, AquaNet must be notified of the titles of AquaNet-funded publications no later than the date of publication.

Acknowledgement of funding

AquaNet must be acknowledged as the funding source in all research dissemination activities related to AquaNet-funded proposals. The standard acknowledgement is: *This research is funded by AquaNet, Canada's Network of Centres of Excellence in aquaculture.*

Background Information

The Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program is part of the federal government's Innovation Strategy. It is an investment in Canadian research and entrepreneurial talent to turn innovation into economic and social benefits for all Canadians.

Leading researchers from different universities and the public and private sectors work together on common areas critical to Canada's social and economic development. Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are trained in a team environment and exposed to areas of national and industrial concern. Small, medium and large-sized business partners tap into valuable expertise and research, providing the competitive edge to develop NCE innovations.

These networks extend across the country and are turning research results into marketable products, processes, policies and services for businesses, governments and people.

Business partners are capitalizing on these innovations to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving and increasingly knowledge-based global economy.

The Networks of Centres of Excellence Program brings together partners in Canada and abroad, including universities, federal government agencies and departments, provincial governments, industrial partners and other organizations.

AquaNet's funding comes from Industry Canada through SSHRC and NSERC. AquaNet, like all other NCEs, funds research of relevance to the mission of the Network. Some distinctions between AquaNet and the granting agencies are:

- AquaNet-funded research is driven by the aquaculture sector;
- Networking and partnerships are mandatory for AquaNet-funded research.