

**Tri-Agency: Grant Relief due to COVID-19**

<p><b>Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)</b></p>	<p><b>Time Extension without funds:</b></p> <p>In summer 2020, NSERC allowed academic institutions to approve extension requests (without additional funding) up to 12 months for Agency grants with an end date between February 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, inclusive. These extensions applied only to projects where the research was delayed due to COVID-19. <a href="#">In March 2021, NSERC announced that now it will allow one-year extensions to grants with end dates between March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022.</a> As before, this provision applies to all NSERC grants, regardless of whether they received a previous time extension of any length for any reason (including, where applicable, automatic extensions).</p> <p><u>Implementation at McGill:</u> Research Financial Management Services (RFMS) is working closely with the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) to process these additional extensions. All NSERC grants with an end date between March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022 will be extended. Researchers who do not wish to benefit from an extension can inform RFMS/OSR.</p> <p>If a PI wishes to request an extension for their NSERC Collaborative Research and Development (CRD) and Alliance Grants, OSR would need to contact partnering companies or Quebec consortia to obtain their approval of an extension.</p> <p><b>Extension with funds:</b></p> <p>All grantees holding active Discovery Grants as of April 2020 were able to receive a one-year extension with funds at their current funding level and didn't participate in the Fall 2020 competition. <b><u>Discovery Grant recipients with end dates of March 31, 2022 and later will be contacted once they are in the final installment year of their grant.</u></b></p> <p>In light of these extensions, the 2021 Discovery Grants competition was for new applicants (those not currently holding a Discovery Grant) and those who chose not to accept the extension.</p> <p>In June 2020, NSERC offered grantees who received the last installment of their active Discovery Grant or NRS in April 2020 and who were classified as <a href="#">Early Career Researchers (ECR)</a> the option to extend their grant by one year, with funds, to allow more time to establish their research program and career. Grantees who took advantage of this option received an additional installment at their current level of funding.</p>
<p><b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)</b></p>	<p><b>Time Extension without funds:</b></p> <p>In summer 2020, SSHRC allowed academic institutions to approve extension requests (without additional funding) up to 12 months for Agency grants with an end date between February 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, inclusive. These extensions only applied to projects where the research was delayed due to COVID-19. <a href="#">In March 2021, SSHRC announced that now it will allow one-year extensions to grants with end dates between March 31, 2021 and May</a></p>

	<p><a href="#">31, 2022</a>. As before, this provision applies to all grants, regardless of whether they received a previous time extension of any length for any reason (including, where applicable, automatic extensions).</p> <p><u>Implementation at McGill</u>: RFMS is working closely with the OSR to process these extensions. All eligible SSHRC grant holders will be informed that their grants will be extended automatically, and they will have an opportunity to inform RFMS/OSR if they do not wish to benefit from an extension.</p> <p><b>Extension with funds</b>: SSHRC did not provide any grant extensions with additional funds.</p>
<p><b>Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)</b></p>	<p><b>Time Extension without funds:</b></p> <p>In summer 2020, CIHR implemented automatic one-year extensions without funding to the authority-to-use-funds date for all active grants. This gave researchers an additional full year to use any residual funds not yet spent to compensate for disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p><u>Implementation at McGill</u>: CIHR allowed extensions to grants that ended on March 31, 2020 and later without any justification. RFMS/OSR approved these grants (~ 600 files) for one-year no-cost extensions.</p>
<p><b>Notes for all Tri-Agency:</b></p> <p>The Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) announced that 2018 and 2019 New Frontiers in Research Fund Exploration award recipients will be allocated top-ups equivalent to approximately 2.2 months of funding to help ensure continued support for students, fellows and research personnel during the pandemic, and, when research resumes, to complete the project.</p> <p>All NFRF Exploration grants are eligible for a one-year automatic extension without funding. Award holders may request an additional extension up to 12 months, if needed. This is to mitigate any delays in projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	

## Tri-Agency: Support for research trainees and staff at Canadian institutions (\$291.6M federal envelope)

<p><b>Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)</b></p> <p><b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)</b></p> <p><b>Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)</b></p>	<p><b>Support for Scholarship and Fellowship Holders</b></p> <p><a href="#">On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Tri-Agencies provided further information on the direct support offered to scholarship or fellowship holders</a> through the Canada Graduate Scholarships (Master's, Doctoral and Vanier streams), Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships, and agency-specific doctoral and postdoctoral programs, which were granted an extension. For eligible students and postdoctoral researchers whose research scholarship or fellowship ended between March and August 2020, support was be extended for an additional four (4) months and fully funded. This represents an investment of up to \$40 million to help these students and postdoctoral researchers complete their research projects and training. <b><i>Award holders needed to attest that their research was disrupted by COVID-19 constraints and that they did not benefit from compensation under the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) r the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or other income supports related to COVID-19. Award holders were contacted by their respective agency, and funding was provided before September 30, 2020.</i></b></p> <p><b>Supplemental Funding for Trainees and Research Support Personnel Funded Through Research Grants</b></p> <p>In July 2020, NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR contacted eligible grant holders directly to offer supplemental funding to support trainees (students and postdoctoral fellows) and research support personnel funded through research grants in recognition of the need to continue supporting their salaries and stipends. These additional investments addressed income challenges related to delays in research created by the COVID-19 pandemic and played a critical role in ensuring continuity in research projects and programs.</p> <p><b><i>Grant holders who did not pay salaries or stipends from a grant were not eligible for the supplement.</i></b></p> <p>In October 2020, CIHR sent a revised Authorisation for Funding to each grant recipient with the amount of the supplement. NSERC and SSHRC sent individual notifications to grant recipients.</p> <p>Supplement amounts were calculated by Tri-Agency on a per-grant basis by obtaining the average annual grant amount, then calculating a percentage of the three-month value of the grant. These funds were used to pay salary or stipends for the period from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. There is no carry-forward permitted of unspent supplement funds after March 31, 2021, and any unspent (residual) funds from the supplement must be returned to the Tri-Agency by the University.</p>
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	<p>The Tri-Agencies provided OSR and RFMS with a list of all grant recipients including the amounts for the approved supplements. OSR and RFMS created a separate research fund for each supplement by December 2020. Because the funds can only be used for salaries and/or stipends within a limited timeframe, the separate account enabled grant holders, research administration and research accounting to ensure eligible use of funds in its obligatory reporting back to the Agencies on the use of the supplements.</p> <p>Number of supplements received from the three agencies: NSERC: 637 grants; SSHRC: 155 grants; CIHR: 223 grants</p> <p>Please see the <a href="#">NSERC</a> / <a href="#">SSHRC</a> / <a href="#">CIHR</a> websites for more information, as well as the <a href="#">FAQs on the NSERC website</a>.</p>
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### **Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF) (\$450M federal envelope): Other Research Relief for non-governmental funding sources administered by Tri-agency**

[In May 2020, the Prime Minister announced](#) the Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF) as part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. The temporary program was established to help sustain the research enterprise at Canadian universities and health research institutions that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [CRCEF](#), with a total budget of \$450 million, had two objectives:

- as a priority, to provide wage support to universities and health research institutions, both of which are ineligible to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), to help them retain research-related personnel during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- to support extraordinary incremental costs associated with maintaining essential research-related commitments during the COVID-19 pandemic, and then ramping-up to full research activities as physical distancing measures are eased and research activities can resume.

The program was delivered in four funding stages. CRCEF Stages 1, 2, and 4 provided wage support for eligible research personnel (up to \$325 million). Stage 3 supported incurred costs associated with maintenance and ramp-up of research activities (up to \$125 million). **McGill submitted applications on behalf of the university and its affiliated hospitals to Stages 1, 3, and 4 of the CRCEF. More information about the CRCEF program and McGill's implementation of support from the CRCEF can be found on the [McGill CRCEF webpage](#).**

## Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ): Grant Extensions and Supplements due to COVID-19

<p><b>Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT)</b></p>	<p><b>Time extensions with funds:</b> In summer 2020, all FRQ Strategic Clusters, Centres, Institutes and Research Networks received a one-year extension with additional one-year funding. Consequently, this results in the one-year postponement of the next competitions for these programs. If applicable, the forms linked to these will open in summer 2021.</p>
<p><b>Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC)</b></p>	<p><b>Additional installments for FRQNT Research support for new academics grant holders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In December 2020, the FRQNT offered supplemental installments for researchers awarded grants in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 FRQNT Research support for new academics program competitions. In March 2021, the FRQNT offered additional supplemental installments targeted at supporting the training of highly qualified personnel.</li> <li>• For grantholders with grants of \$20,000/year (amount awarded to grantholders within the Montreal urban community), this would amount to a single installment of \$10,500, exempt from indirect research costs. These funds must be used for scholarships, scholarship supplements and salary support for college, undergraduate or graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.</li> <li>• For grantholders from the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 competitions who didn't request or refused a COVID supplement, it would be possible to request additional support in the amount of \$17,500 for the training of highly qualified personnel under the same conditions.</li> <li>• To request this additional installment, grantholders were required to access and submit the form via the FRQnet portfolio in the section - <i>Available competitions</i>. Grantholders had until <b>Friday, March 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.</b> to express their interest in obtaining a supplementary installment, which will be paid to McGill on April 15, 2021.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)</b></p>	<p><b>Additional installments for FRQSC Research support for new academics and Research-creation support for new academics grant holders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In March 2021, FRQSC announced that some researchers who received grants following the Fall 2019 Research support for new academics and Research-creation support for new academics competitions are eligible for an additional installment.</li> <li>• This supplement is in addition to the amounts announced in the grant letter placed in the Portfolios of the persons concerned dated April 30, 2020 and targets the financial year 2020-2021.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The supplement consists of a single payment of \$17,500, exempt from indirect research costs, and will be paid to McGill on April 15, 2021. These funds must be used for scholarships, scholarship supplements and salary support for college, undergraduate or graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.</li><li>• Those who are eligible for this additional installment were required to complete the required form and attach the required documents <b>by Friday, March 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.</b></li></ul> <p><b>OSR will work with RFMS to create new research funds for each of the additional installments provided by the FRQNT/FRQSC.</b></p>
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