

VSRN
Vision Sciences
Research Network

FUNDING for RESEARCHERS

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

2026-2027 Competition

INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline for Letter of intent: **August 15, 2026***

Deadline for Full application: **October 15, 2026***

**Should these dates fall on a Friday or Saturday, the candidate will have until Sunday night to send the application.*

Goal

The objective of the National and International Networking Funding Program (NIN) program is to foster collaborations outside Quebec and to increase the visibility of Vision Sciences Research Network (VSRN) researchers nationally and internationally.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- The project must be relevant to vision health;
- The project must involve a minimum of two research teams, one in Quebec and one from outside Quebec;
- The nominated principal investigator of the Quebec team must be a regular VSRN member;
- The principal investigator of the outside Quebec team must work in academia;
- The principal investigator of the outside Quebec team must commit to provide subsidy financial contribution to the project (in kind contributions are accepted);
- If more than one project is submitted by the same researcher, there should be no conceptual overlap between the projects or other VSRN funding programs;
- In the case of a renewal, the amount awarded for the first application must be spent at more than 70% of the total amount by the deadline for the submission of the full application (supporting financial report is requested).

The principal investigator and co-investigators must be independent researchers, as defined by the FRQS: "Person who has a doctorate or its equivalent and a university affiliation allowing him to supervise graduate and postgraduate students; is autonomous vis-à-vis his research activities; and who occupies a regular professorial or research position at a Québec university or a regular research position in a Québec health and social services institution. Professional diploma holders must have completed a minimum of two years of full-time research training" [Source: "FRQ's Common general rules"](#).

The principal investigators and co-investigators from outside Quebec must meet equivalent criteria, in their respective province or country,

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the performance criteria equivalent to those established by the FRQS. The criteria are specified at the top of each section of this form. The project's level of intersectorality will be considered in the evaluation.

Amount and grant conditions

- Financial support for a project is granted for one year, renewable once.
- The maximum budget that could be awarded per project is **\$50,000**, but the number and amount of grants depend on the availability of funds.
- A distribution of funds, proportional to the number of members in each axis of the Network, may also be calculated among the projects deemed fundable by the Scientific Committee to ensure the sustainability of all strategic research areas of the VSRN.
- Only particularly efficient teams will be eligible for a renewal (maximum of one renewal per project) upon presentation of a renewal application.
- A special fund from the "*Fondation des maladies de l'oeil*" may be restricted for projects that may have an impact on ocular diseases. You are therefore encouraged to indicate if this is the case since this could allow the funding of additional NIN projects.
- Funding from the VSRN will be sent to the **fund manager of the principal investigator of the Quebec team**. The use of funds by the research team must comply with the [FRQ's Common general rules](#). The principal investigator outside Quebec must commit to subsidize in part the cost of the NIN project (in kind contributions are accepted).

Scientific Report

For all funded projects, a detailed scientific report of the scientific benefits and the leverage effects must be [submitted at the end of this grant](#) and/or at the [renewal](#). The "Scientific Report" form is included in the "**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING PROGRAM RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM**" (Progress Report sections). These reports will be integrally used for the renewal application in the Network Annual Report and Network renewal application.

Financial report

For any funded project, a [financial report](#) must be submitted at the end of the financial year (March 31st) following the grant, and this until the end of the grant period. As mentioned by the FRQS in their Network Management Guide, at the end of this grant period, the unexpended amounts will have to be returned.

Commitment

Principal investigators and co-investigators commit to:

- Mention support from the "Vision Sciences Research Network", and the "*Fondation des maladies de l'oeil*", if applicable, in any publication or presentation resulting from the research project funded by the Network;
- Present the research results at the VSRN Annual Meeting.

How to apply

Documents to submit for the first application and the renewal:

– LETTER OF INTENT:

- **Only sections 1 and 2** of the "**FIRST OR RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM OF THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING PROGRAM**" duly completed.

– FULL APPLICATION:

The application must be submitted as a **single PDF document including, in the following order:**

- All sections of the "**FIRST OR RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM OF THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING PROGRAM**" duly completed;
- Attestation of partnership, if applicable;
- CVs of principal investigators and co-Investigators from Quebec (Narrative FRQ or CIHR CV – [instructions](#) – [template](#)) and the equivalent for international researchers.

Incomplete and / or non-compliant applications will be rejected.

To submit your Letter of intent (PDF), your Full Application (PDF) or for more information:

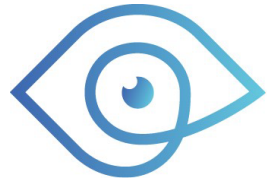
Vision Sciences Research Network (visionnetwork.ca)

reseau.vision@ircm.qc.ca

Teleworking: 438-825-1425

Réseau thématique soutenu par le

Fonds de recherche
Santé
Québec 



VSRN
Vision Sciences
Research Network

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING PROGRAM

2026-2027 Competition

FIRST APPLICATION FORM

Deadline for Letter of intent: **August 15, 2026***

Deadline for Full Application: **October 15, 2026***

*Should this date fall on a Friday or Saturday, the candidate will have until Sunday night to send his/her application.

- ☐ **Letter of intent** (fill in only sections 1 and 2)
- ☐ **Full application** (fill in all sections)

SECTION 1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

The information in this section must be identical in the **Letter of intent** and the **Full Application**.

Project's title:

Investigators* and collaborators

- This list must be identical to the one proposed on the letter of intent. It will be used to ensure transparency and avoid conflict of interest in the scientific committee recruitment process.
- A **minimum of two principal investigators** is required, including a **member of the VSRN** and an affiliate of an institution **outside Quebec**.
- Add the necessary number of lines.

LAST NAME, first name, titles	check				• E-mail • Main affiliation • Complete address (city, country)
	Principal investigator ^{1,2}	Co-investigator ²	Collaborator	Student	
VSRN team					
	Mandatory				
Outside of Quebec team					
	Mandatory				

- 1: must be a faculty member of a recognized Quebec university (other province, country) or a permanent member of a clinical ophthalmology unit of a university hospital.
- 2: CV is required for these 2 categories

Research axis (not limited to one check):

- ☐ Biology and Pathology of Vision
- ☐ Emerging Technologies
- ☐ Vision Neurosciences
- ☐ Rehabilitation and Social Issues of Visual Disorders

Type of research (not limited to one check):

- ☐ Discovery
- ☐ Clinical research
- ☐ Translational research (preclinical research)
- ☐ Social sciences
- ☐ Politics and public health

Sectors involved (not limited to one check):

- ☐ Natural sciences and engineering
- ☐ Social and human sciences
- ☐ Arts and letters
- ☐ Health

Language of correspondence:

☐ English

☐ French

Language in which you will submit your project:

☐ English

☐ French

Is this project focuses on eye diseases?

☐ yes

☐ no

Project summary (**maximum 350 words**):

SECTION 2. SUGGESTION OF POTENTIAL REVIEWERS

(5 names from Canada or internationally)

The evaluators **must not have published with you with the researcher outside Quebec during the last five years.**

Include: LAST NAME, first name, titles, affiliation, email, phone, expertise.

SECTION 3. SIGNATURES

Names and signatures of the principal investigators, co-investigators and collaborators
Add the required number of lines.

Name	Signature	Date
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Name	Signature	Date
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Name	Signature	Date
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Name	Signature	Date
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Name	Signature	date
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Name	Signature	date
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Name	Signature	date
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SECTION 4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Complete information of the Finance Director or the representative who will manage the grant. If the project is funded, the Finance Department will need to send the VSRN the bank details in order to make a bank transfer between the two institutions.

LAST NAME, first name:

Phone number:

Email:

Institution (to which the cheque will be payable to):

Complete address where the cheque must be sent:
(civic number, office number, street name, city, postal code)

Fund number (if available):

SECTION 5. PROJECT SUMMARY (French AND English, **maximum 250 words for each language**)

Describe, in plain language, the goal of the study, expected results and impact of the collaboration on the national and international visibility of the VSRN team (networking, new collaborations, joint publications, student exchanges, leverage effects, new partnerships).
For the purpose of dissemination and promotion.

Titre du projet :

Résumé :

* * *

Project's title:

Summary:

SECTION 6. PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR THE YEAR TO COME

(maximum 3 pages, an appendix of 2 pages maximum is allowed for figures, tables and references)

Describe the problem, objectives, methodology, preliminary results and relevance of the project. Also describe the project's spin-offs (leverage effect), and its cross-sectoral nature (if applicable)

SECTION 7. ROLE OF INVESTIGATORS, COLLABORATORS, STUDENTS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS (maximum 1 page)

Describe the role of each of the principal investigators, co-investigators and collaborators involved in the project and the link with their expertise. Also, indicate the role of students and postdoctoral fellows involved in the project for which you request a budget (scholarship, travel expenses, or other). Specify the locations where the project stages will take place.

SECTION 8. TIMETABLE AND FEASIBILITY (maximum 1 page)

Describe the timetable of the main stages of the project and the feasibility of this project.

SECTION 9. BUDGET (add pages if necessary)

Describe the expenses for which the funds are requested for each relevant budget category.

Detail the financial contribution of researchers and staff of national and international teams. The in-kind contributions are accepted and must be quantified in Canadian dollars.

Note: *The co-financing of international students directly involved in the collaborative project is strongly encouraged.*

OPTIONAL SECTION

MANDATORY ONLY IF THIS APPLICATION **HAS ALREADY BEEN EVALUATED** BY THE “NIN”
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IN THE PAST

SECTION 10. FEEDBACK TO REVIEWERS (1 page maximum)

Describe and detail the improvements performed in response to the Scientific Committee's recommendations from a previous evaluation.

Note: Previous evaluations will be forwarded to the Scientific Committee (up to 2 years) for a similar project anteriorly submitted to the VSRN.