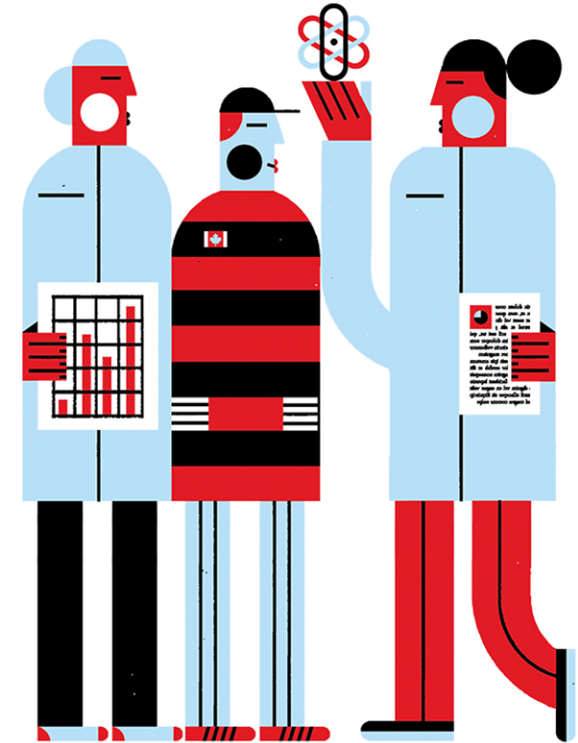




NSERC Community Update 2025

June 5, 2025

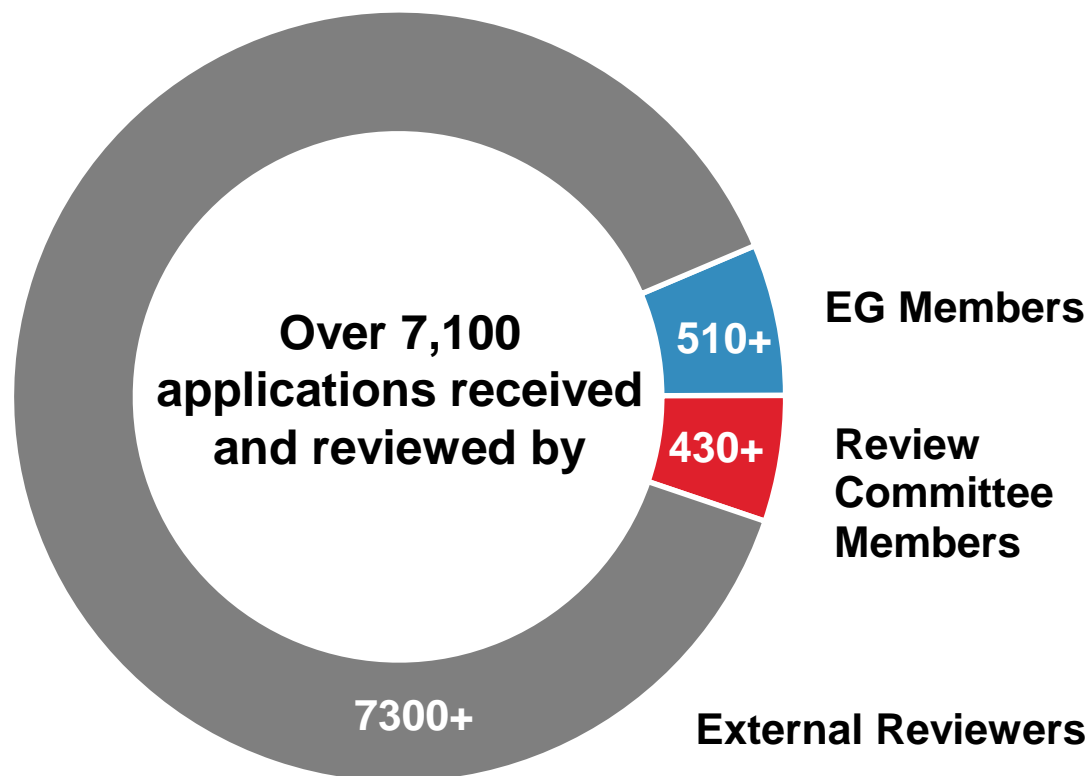
Research Grants and Scholarships



Research Grants and Scholarships

Thank You!

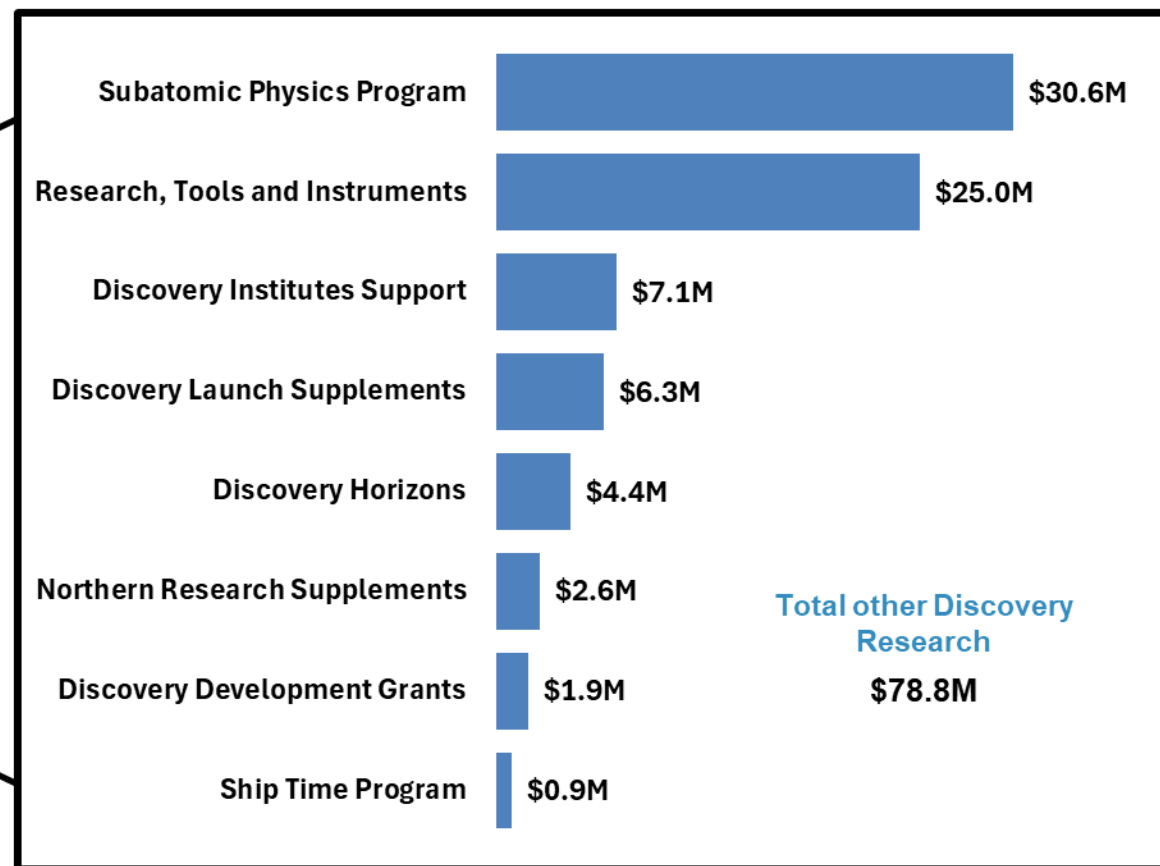
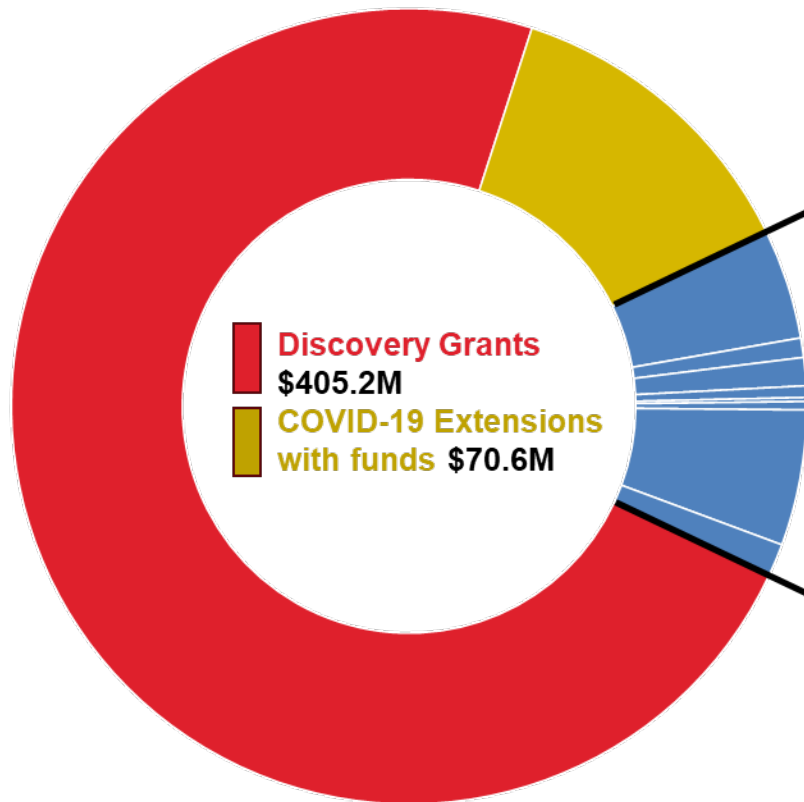
Peer review is essential to the success of NSERC programs. A massive amount of work from members of the research community creates a fair and thorough peer-review process for applicants in the Discovery & Talent programs



Discovery Grants and other research grants

Discovery Research Programs Committed Funds FY2025-26

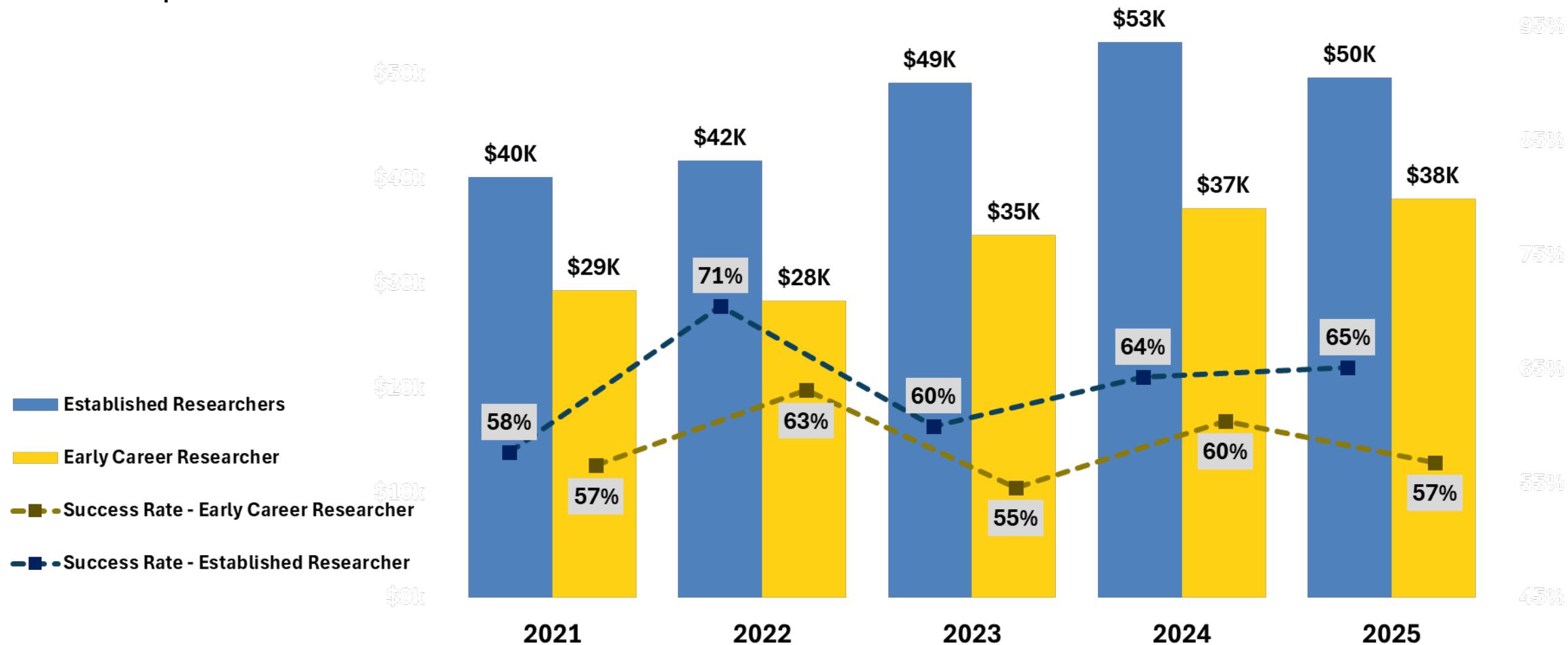
\$554.6M



2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Discovery Grants over the last 5 years

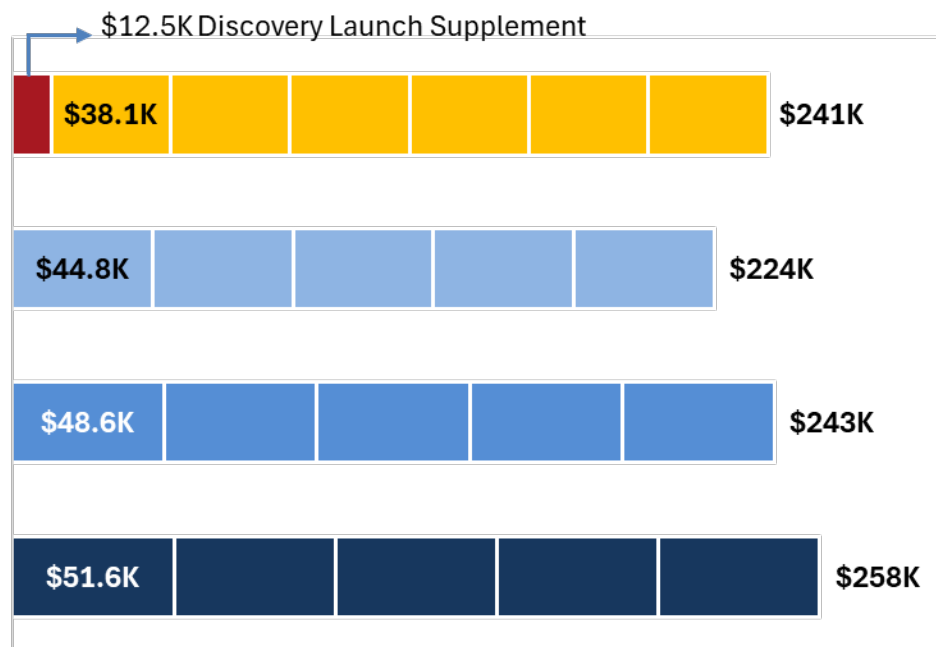
Results presented for CY2025 are not official



2025 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Supporting Early Career Researchers

Total Amount Awarded



- Most Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who apply within the 5-year eligibility window are funded
- The window is adjusted for eligible delays (credited as twice the amount of time taken)
- ECRs receive a one-time Discovery Launch Supplement (\$12,500) and the option of a 6th year of funding
- The success rate of applicants who reapply after their first grant is over 70%

2025 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

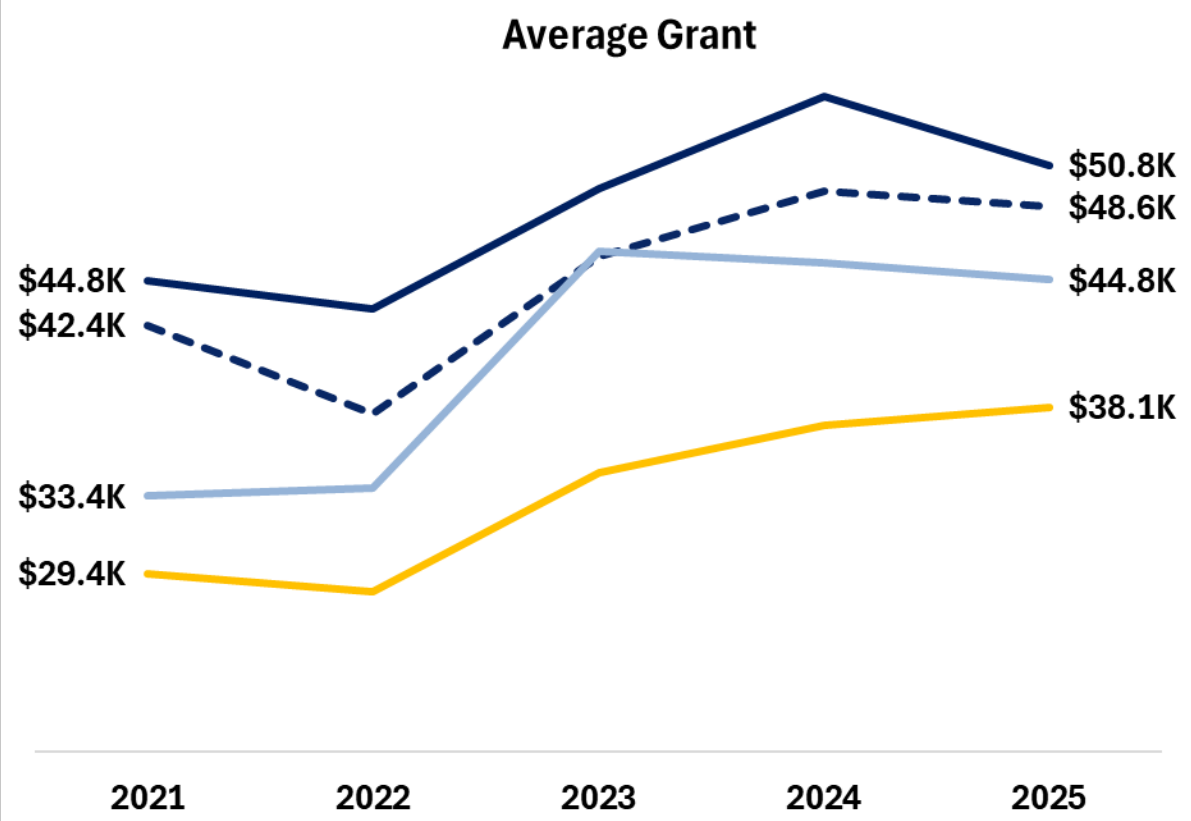
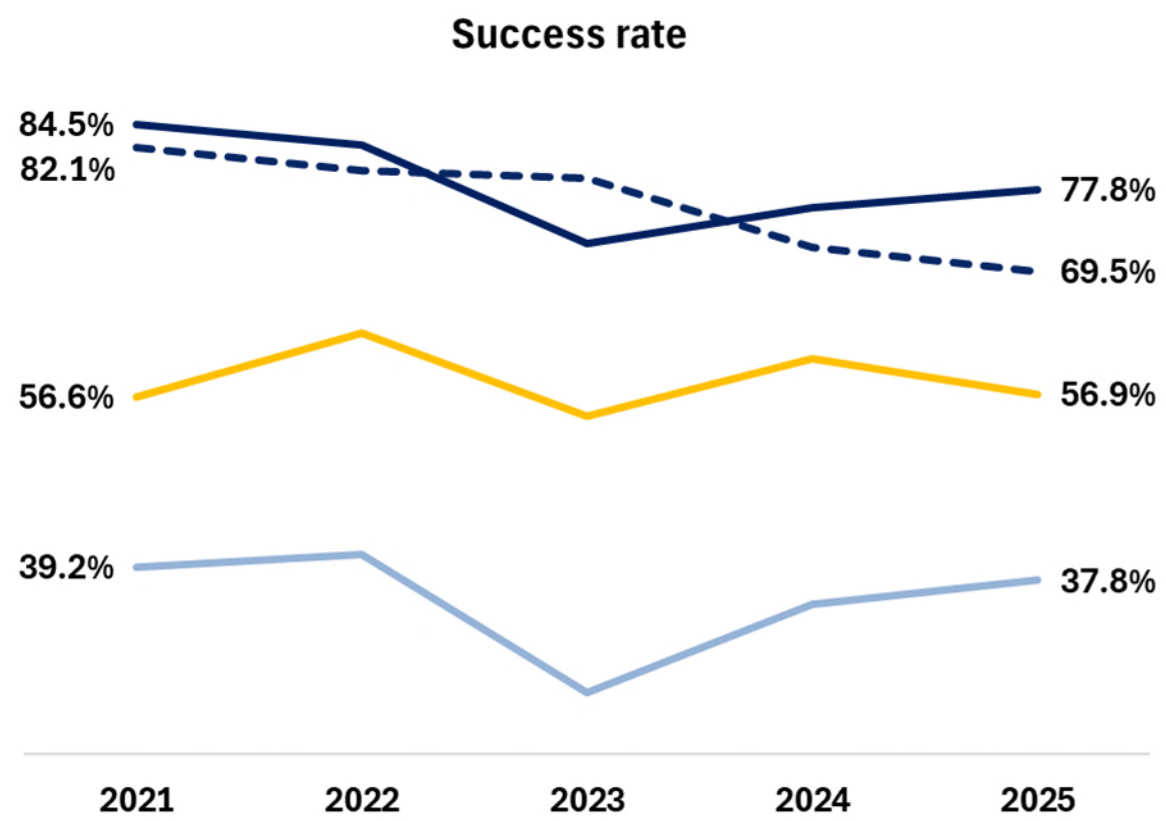
Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)				Overall
		First Renewals	Other Renewals	Not Holding a Grant	All Established Researchers	
# of applications	889	472	1227	787	2,486	3,375
# of awards	505	328	994	298	1,620	2,125
Success Rate	57%	69%	81%	38%	65%	63%
Average Grant (yearly)	\$38,110*	\$48,649	\$51,559	\$44,809	\$49,728	\$46,967

* Does not include additional Discovery Launch Supplement funding provided in first year (\$12,500)

2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

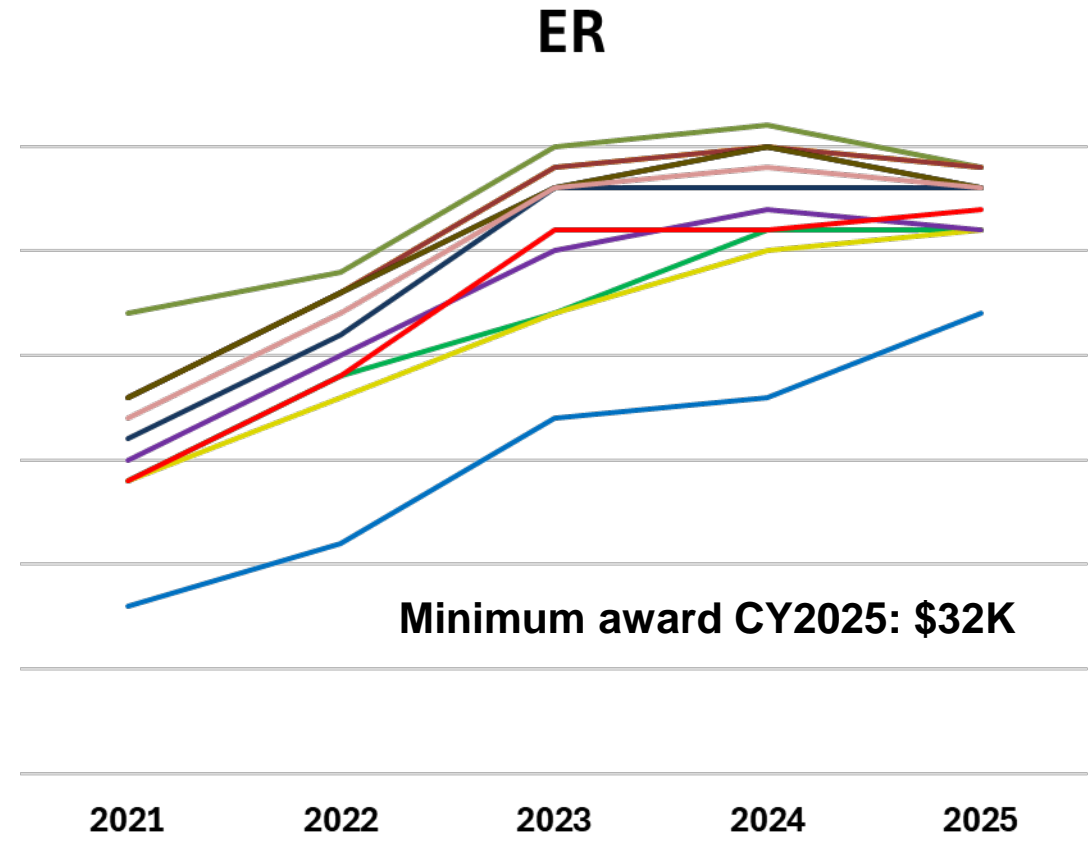
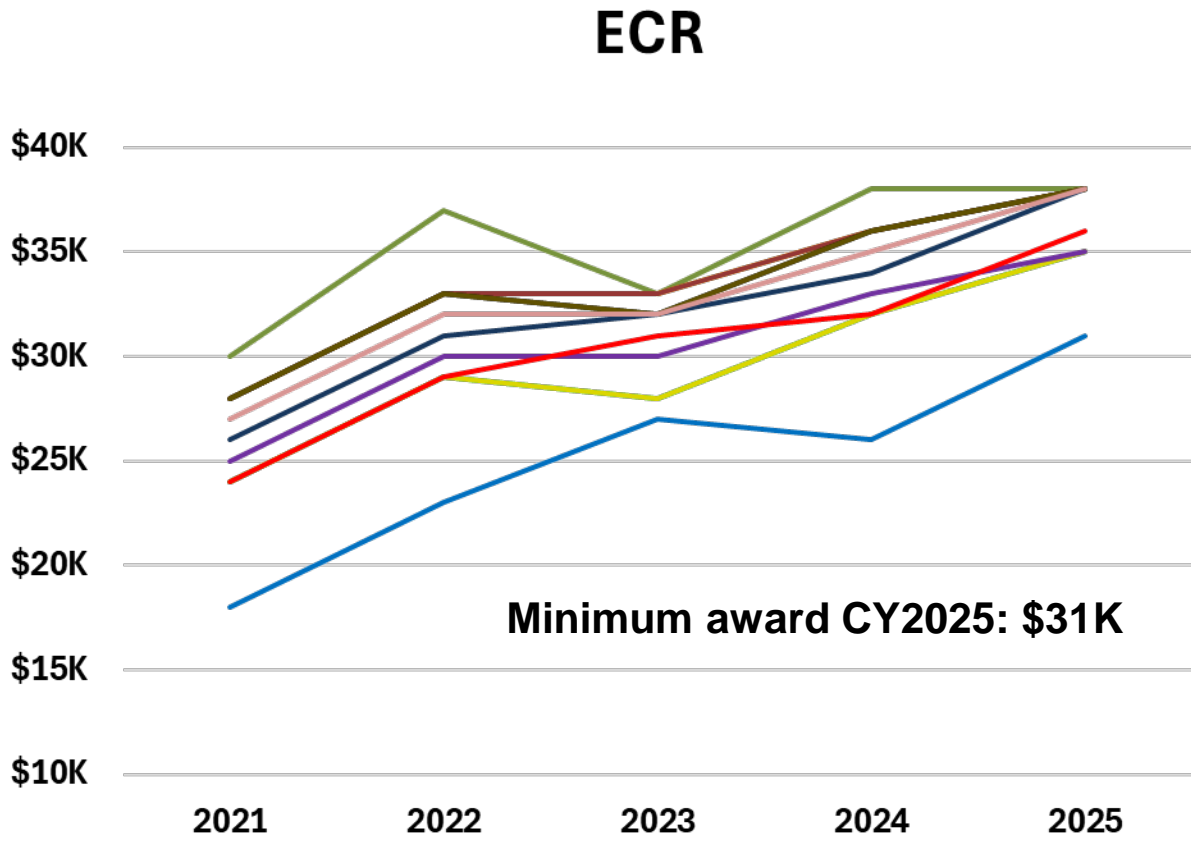
Success Rate and Average Grant 2021 – 2025



- Established Researcher First Renewal
- Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)
- Established Researchers Returning (ER-R)
- Early Career Researcher

2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

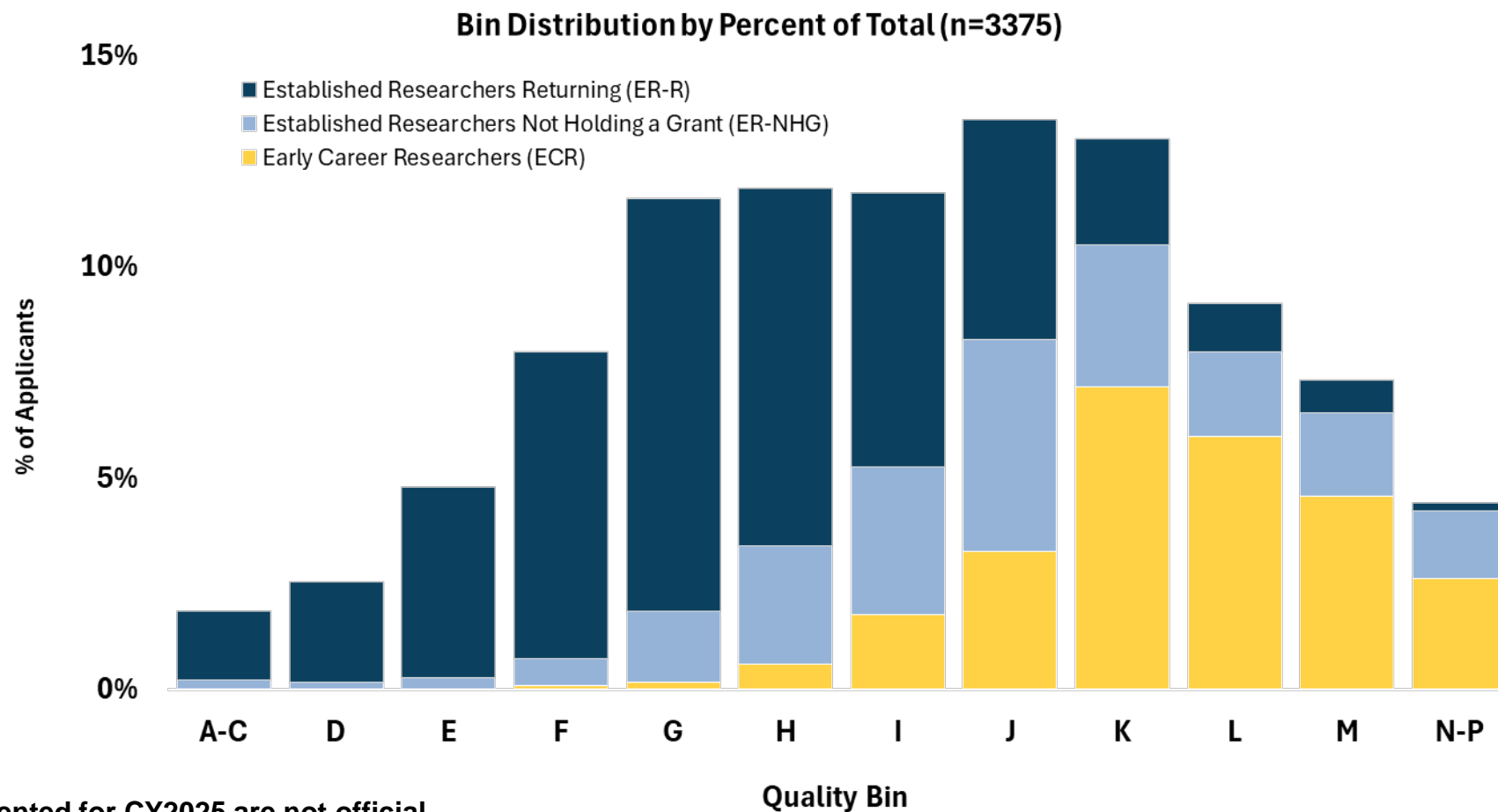
Historical minimum fully funded bin



- 1501
- 1502
- 1503
- 1504
- 1505
- 1506
- 1507
- 1508
- 1509
- 1510
- 1511
- 1512

2025 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category



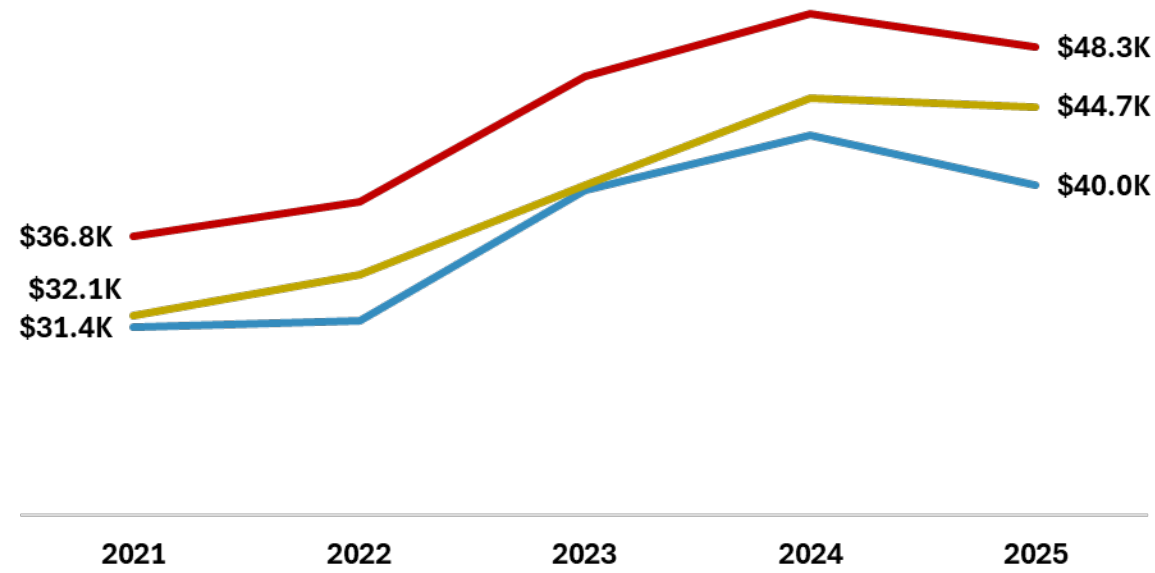
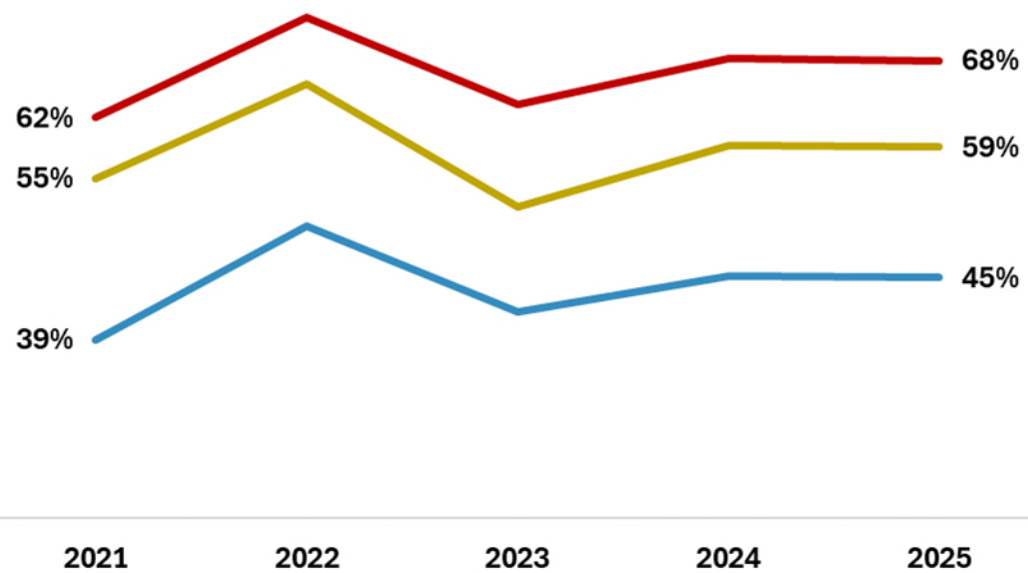
Results presented for CY2025 are not official

2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Results by Institution Size and Year

Success Rate

Average Grant

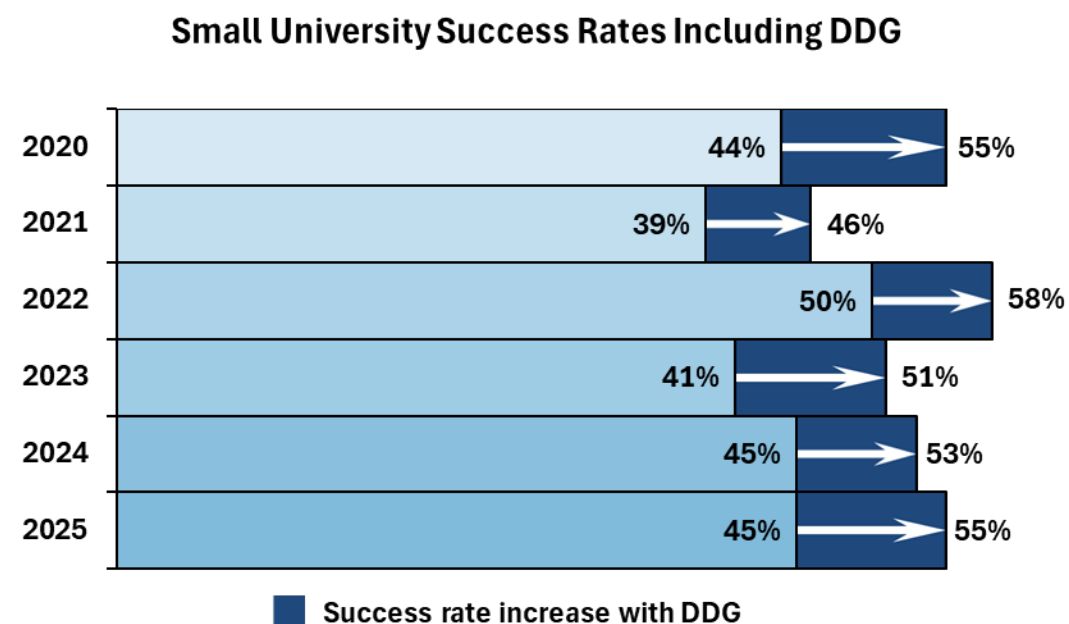


— Small University — Medium University — Large University

2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Supporting research at small institutions

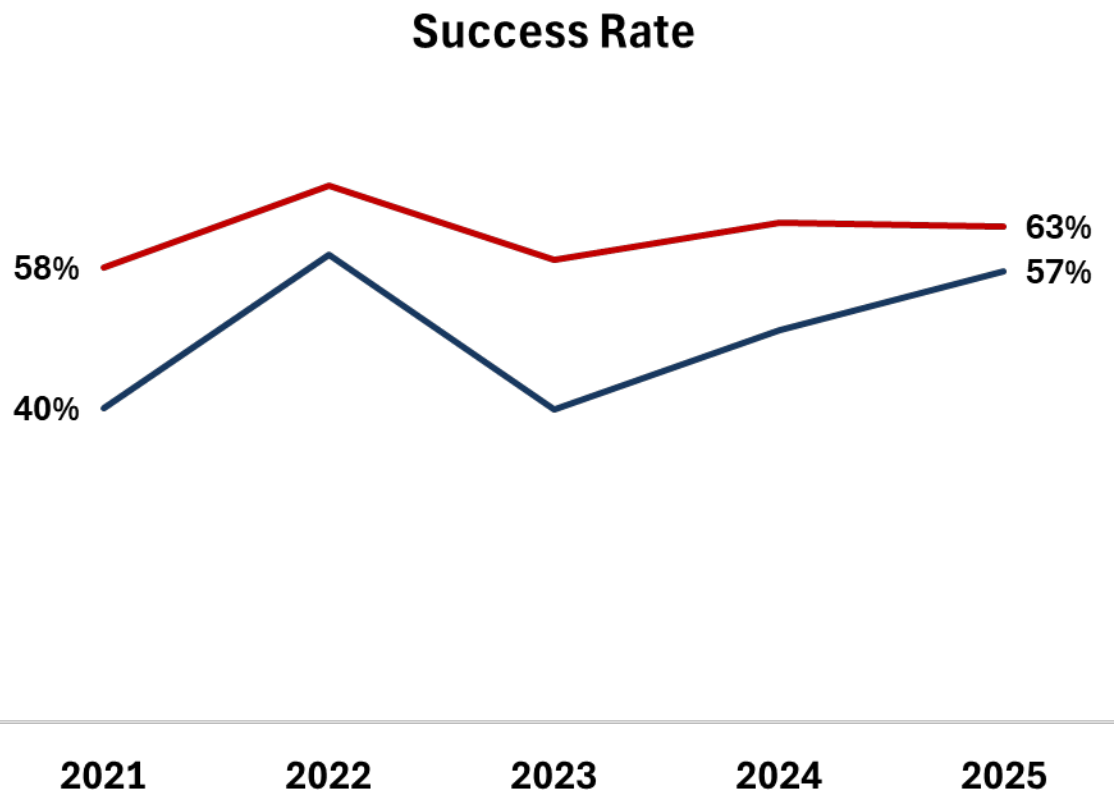
- Discovery Development Grants (DDG) provide resources to researchers from small universities whose Discovery Grant (DG) applications were deemed to be of appropriate quality to merit research support but fell below the funding cut-off.
- 2-year awards valued at \$22k/year plus additional support provided by university.
- University must support grantee through additional measures, such as matching funds, teaching release, purchase of research equipment, scholarship support, travel support, etc.



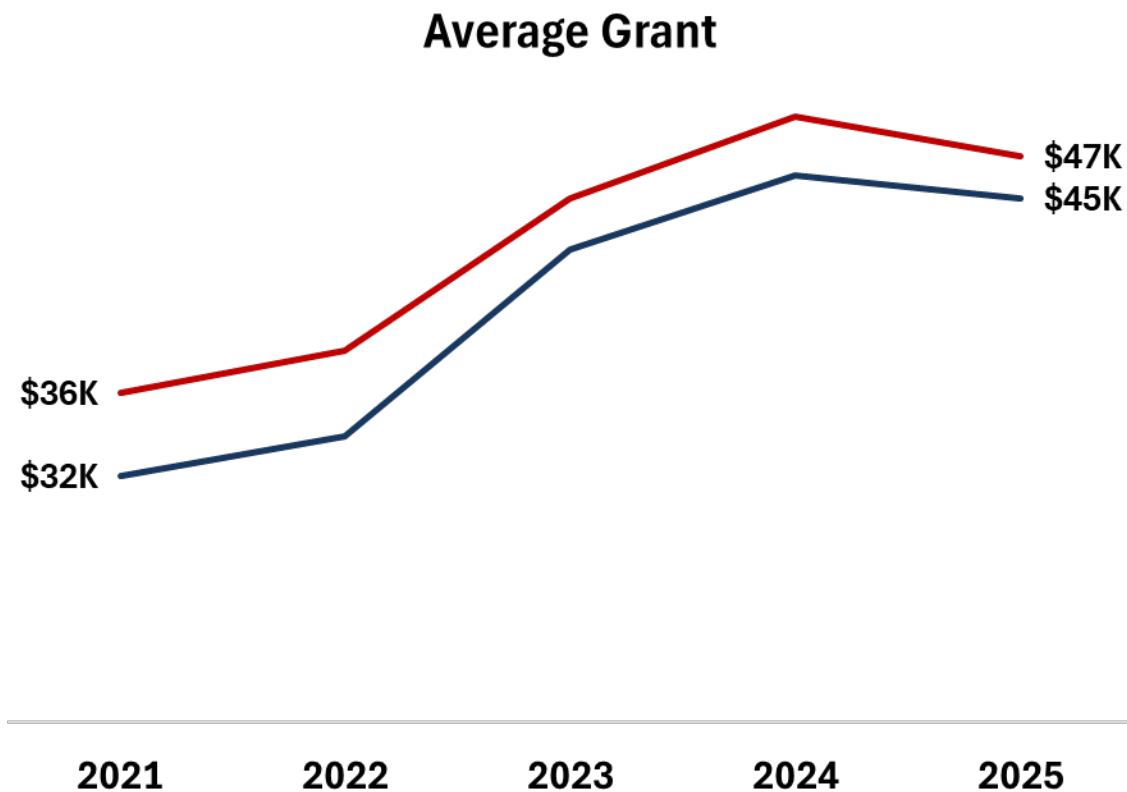
2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Results by Language of Application and Year

Success Rate



Average Grant

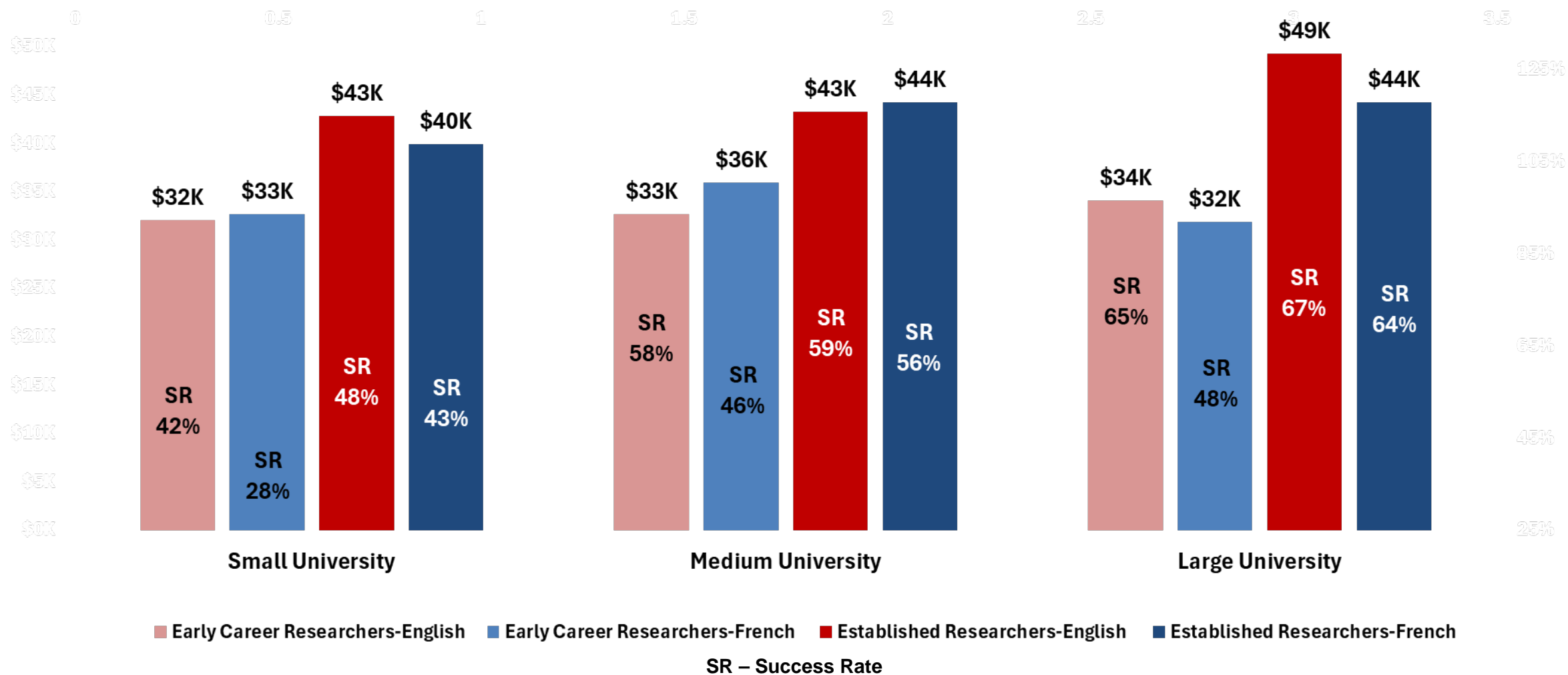


— English

— French

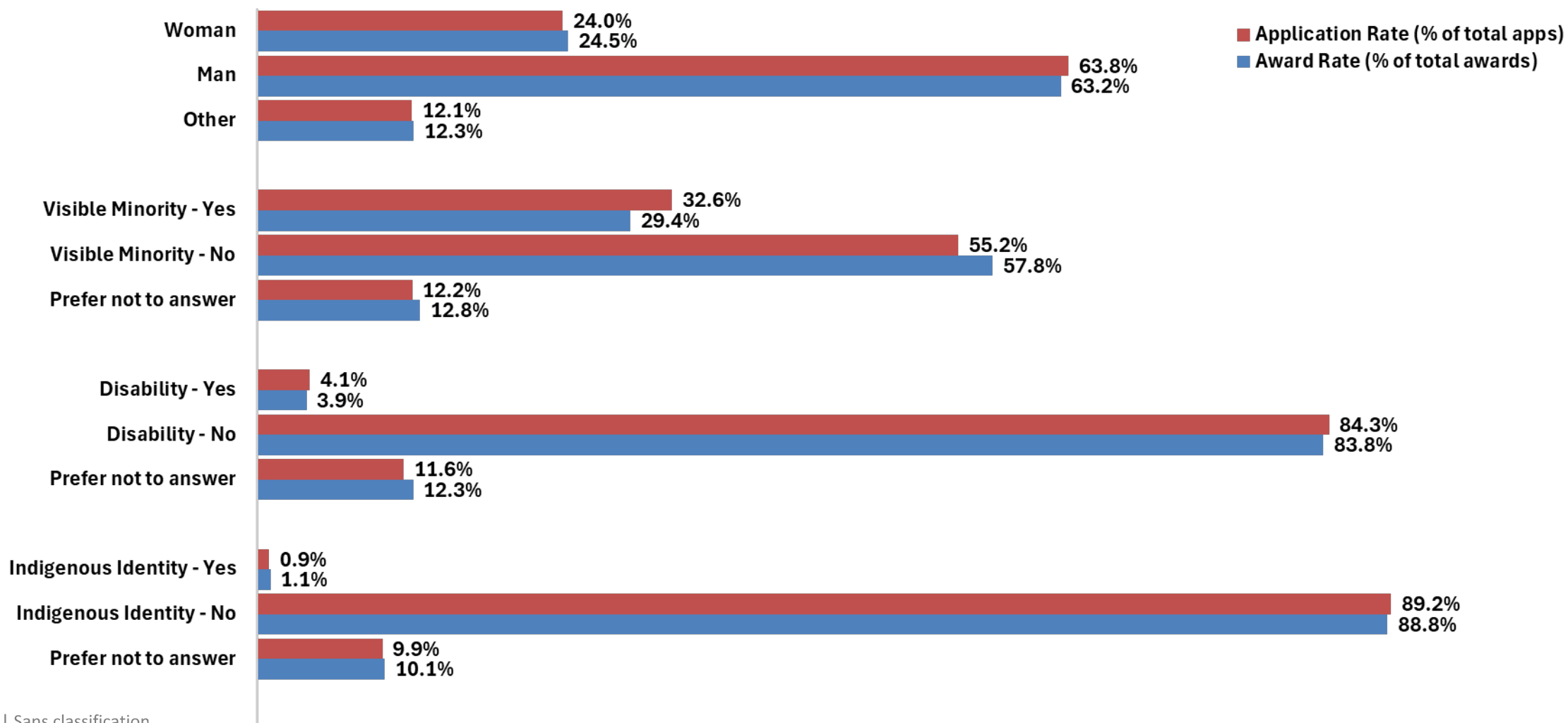
2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Average grant by language of application, institution size, and career stage (2021-2025)



2025 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

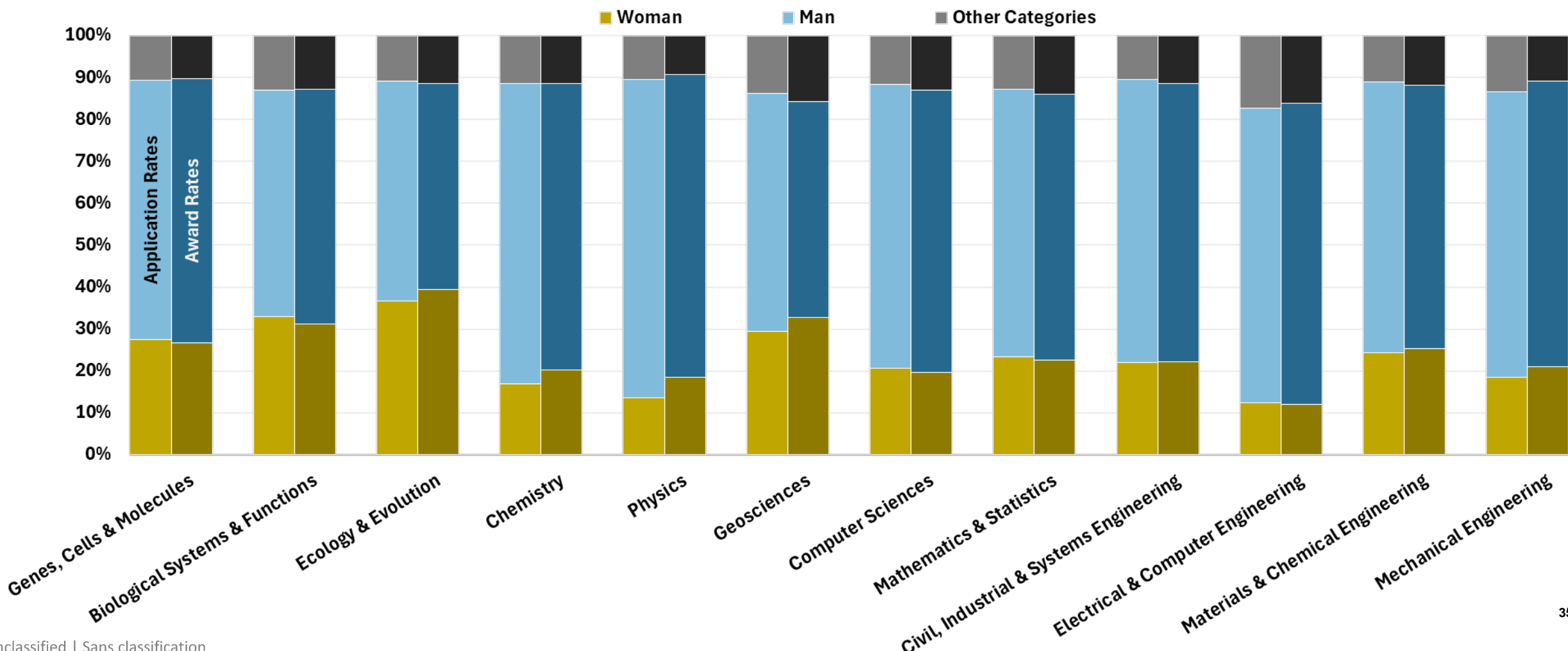
Overall DG results by population groups



2025 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG results - gender ratios by EG

Gender ratios by Evaluation Group



2025 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG results by candidate status and gender

		Women	Men	Other Categories*
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	Number of awards	184	290	31
	Success rate	57%	56%	69%
Established Researchers Returning (ER-R)	Number of awards	276	853	193
	Success rate	80%	78%	75%
Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Number of awards	60	200	38
	Success rate	41%	38%	35%

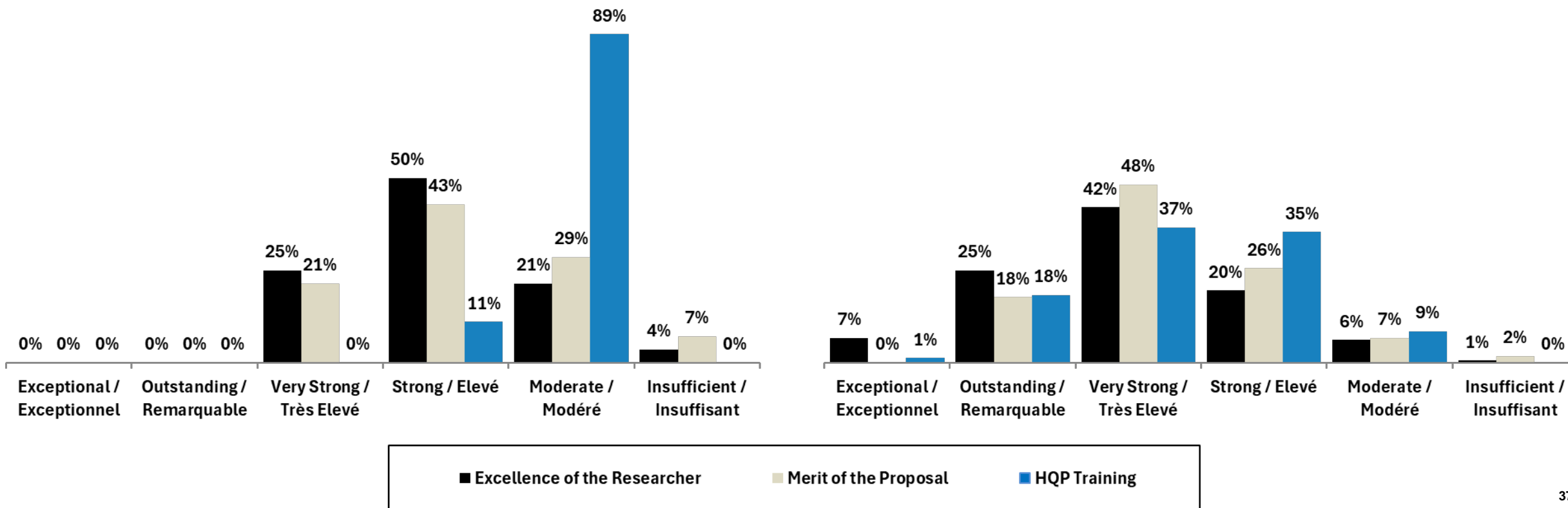
* Other Categories includes those opting not to choose a gender

2025 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1505 – Physics

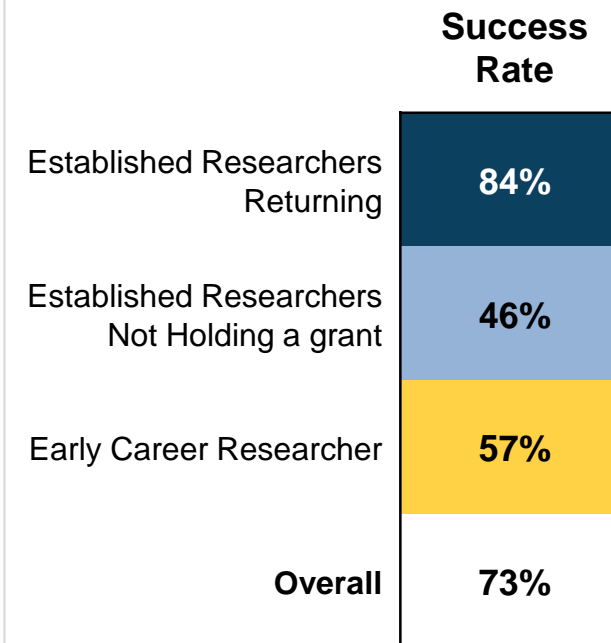
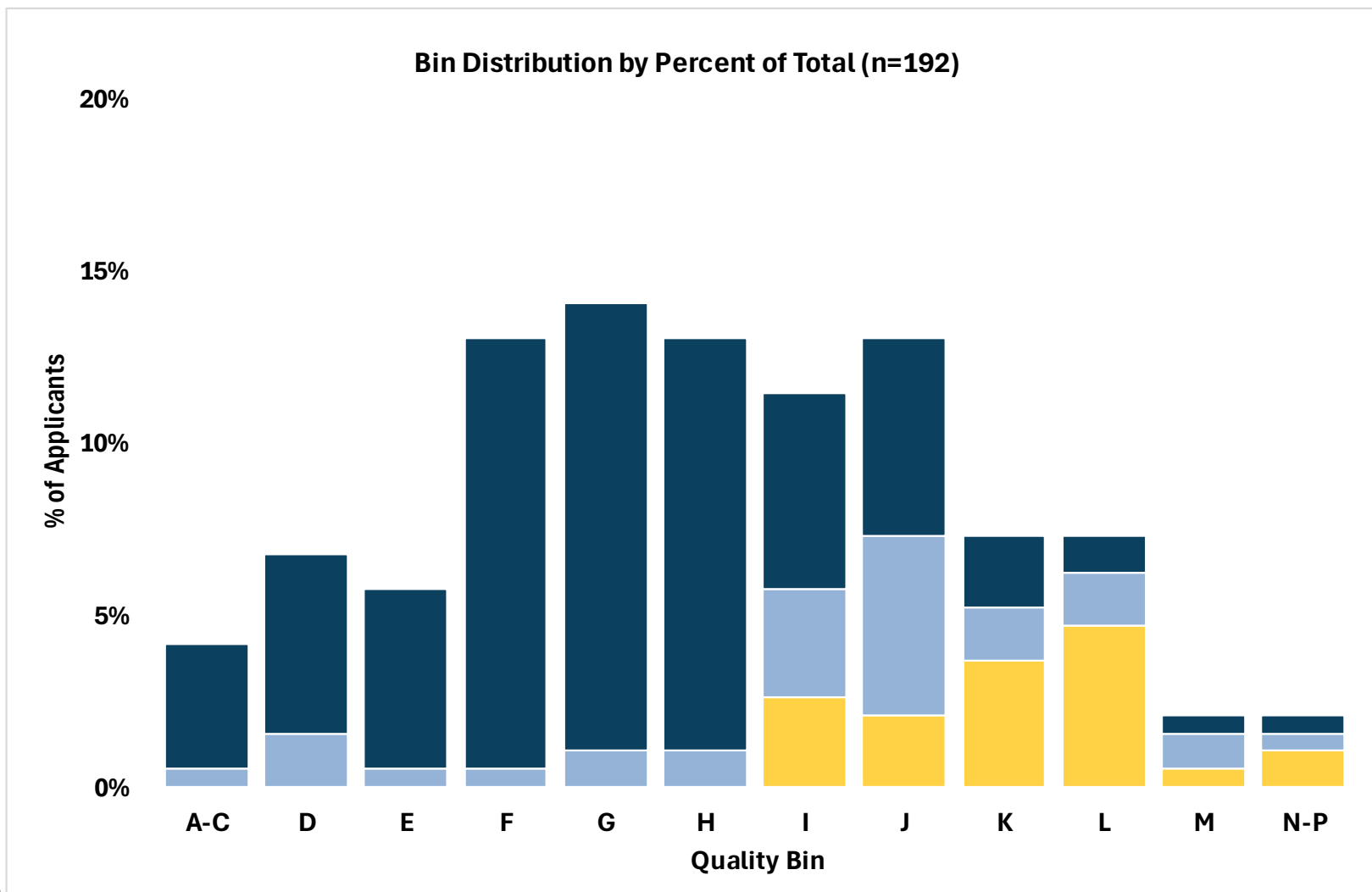
ECR

ER



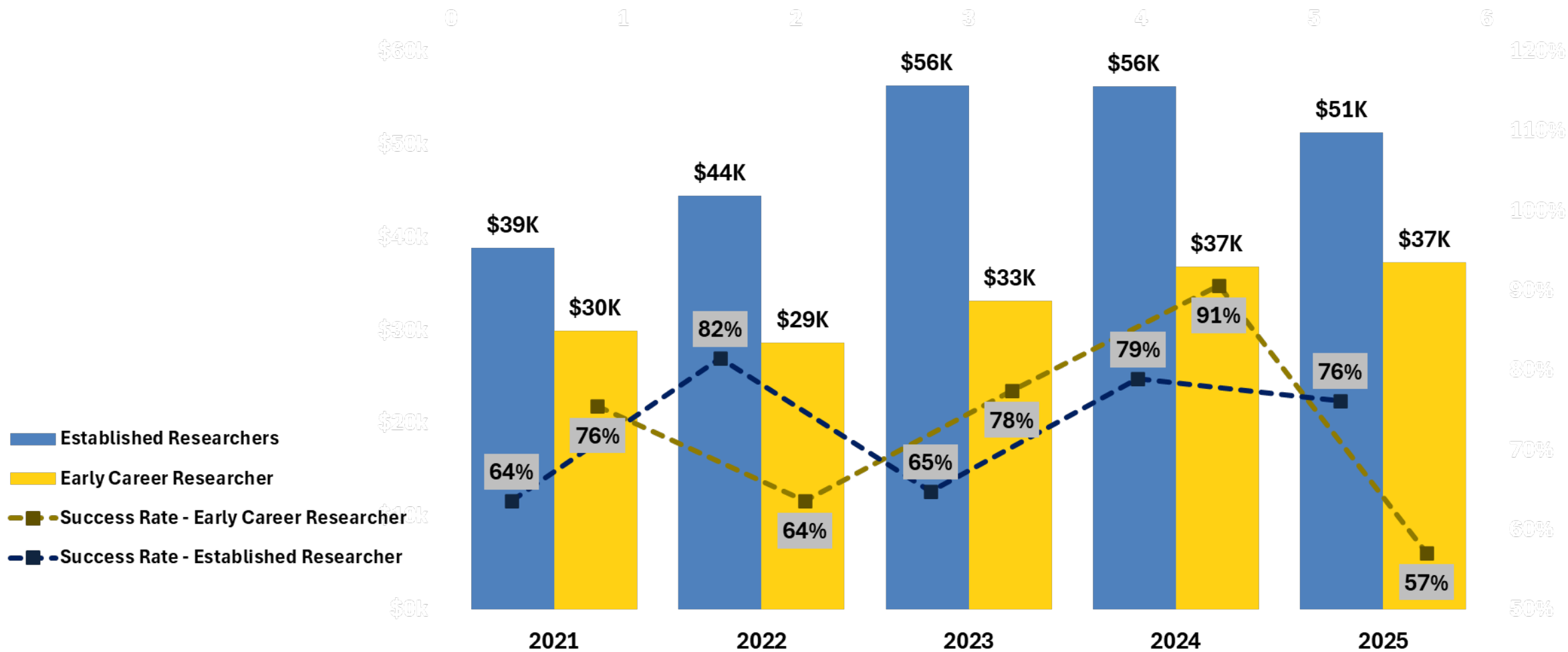
2025 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1505 – Physics

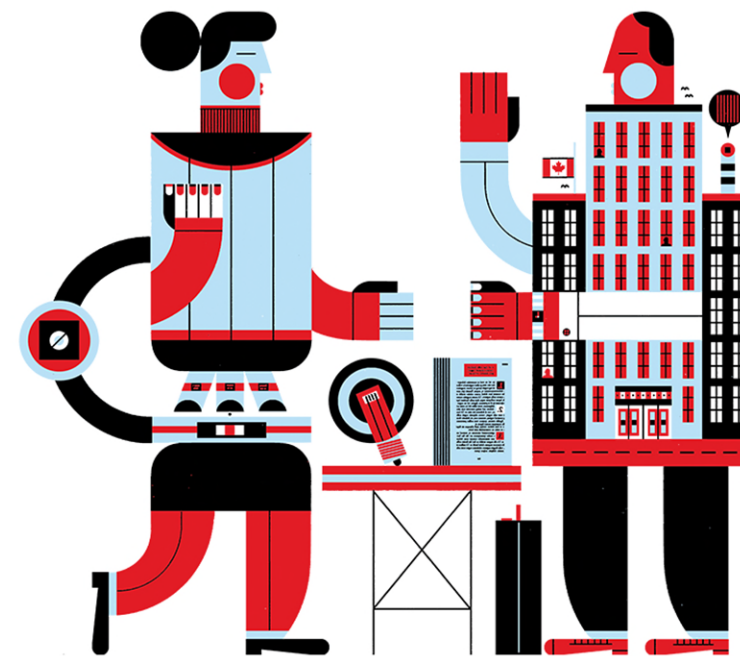


2025 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1505 – Physics



Other Research Grants Results



Other Research Grants Results

Discovery Horizons (DH)

	2022	2023	2024 ^C	2025
Number of LOIs received	842	410	81	84
Number of LOIs invited	64	58	43	50
Number of applications	55	50	33	37
Number of awards	10	16	15	11
Success rate^A	18%	32%	45%	30%
DH budget^B	\$4,757,857	\$6,959,487	\$5,524,730	\$4,178,053

A – Success rate from application stage.

B – Total funding for the duration of the grant (3-5years)

C – Eligibility change, applicants must choose between DH and DG

Other Research Grants Results

Research Tools and Instruments (RTI)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of applications	811	713	585	666	715
Number of awards	201	207	204	199	191
Success rate	27%	29%	35%	30%	27%
Funding rate	25%	29%	36%	29%	27%
RTI budget	\$25.3M	\$25.0M	\$26.0M	\$25.1M	\$25.0M

Other Research Grants Results

Discovery Development Grants (DDG)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of applications awarded	22	28	40	38	47
Number of awards accepted	21	26	38	37	TBD
Number of awards declined	1	2	2	1	TBD
DDG budget	\$330,000	\$420,000	\$800,000	\$760,000	\$1,034,000

Research Excellence



Research Excellence

Research excellence and responsible research assessment

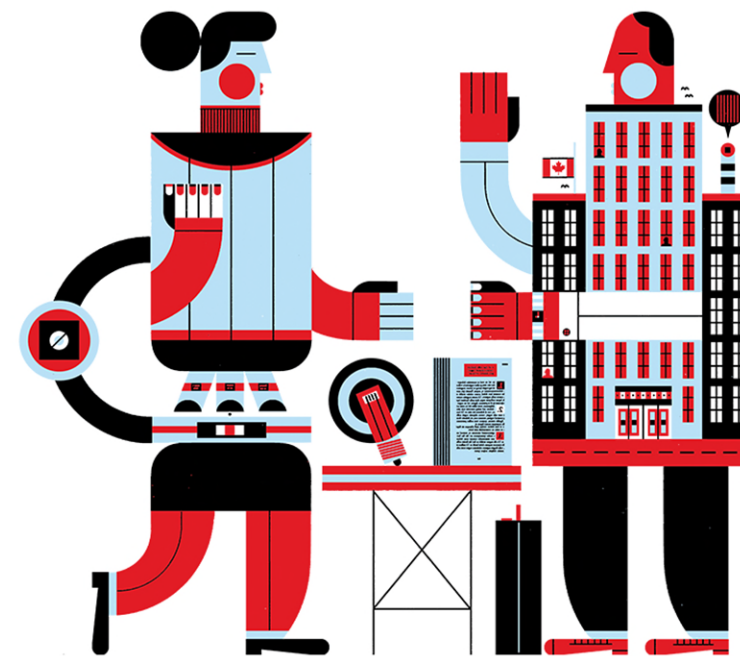
- As part of its 2030 strategic plan, NSERC continues to support research excellence that strengthens Canada
- Responsible research assessment (RRA) is part of a global movement to transform how research is assessed:
 - Broader range of contributions valued
 - Quality and impact of contributions considered
 - Citation-based metrics (JIF, h-index) avoided
 - Equity, diversity and inclusion considerations integral

Research Excellence

Research excellence and responsible research assessment

- NSERC is committed to advancing RRA through its ongoing support of DORA
 - Guidelines on the assessment of contributions to research, training and mentoring
 - Video: Balanced, broad and responsible: a practical guide for research evaluators
 - Evaluating impact and use of the guidelines in DG program
 - Co-chairing of the Global Research Council working group on RRA

Tri-agency CV



Transition to the tri-agency CV

- NSERC, in collaboration with CIHR and SSHRC, is gradually transitioning from the Canadian Common CV (CCV) to a new tri-agency CV (TCV).
- Applicants can share a wider range of research achievements, emphasizing quality and impact — such as policy influence, public engagement, leadership, and mentorship — alongside conventional research outputs like publications.
- NSERC has been piloting a narrative CV in the [Discovery Horizons](#) funding opportunity for the past three competitions and will continue to do so for the upcoming competition.
 - The new approved TCV will be implemented in Discovery Horizons for the 2027 competition.
- Other NSERC funding opportunities will begin to use the TCV once they onboard onto the Tri-agency grants management solution (TGMS).
- For questions email TCV-CVTO@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

What does the tri-agency CV template look like?

Tri-agency CV

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Personal statement

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Most significant contributions and experiences

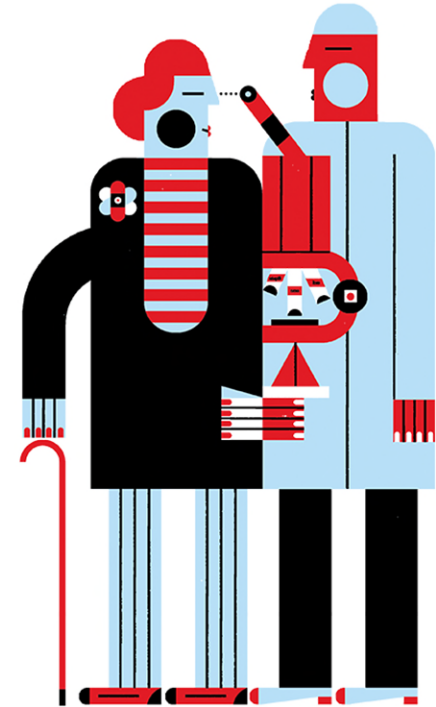
Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Supervisory and mentorship activities

Click or tap here to enter text.

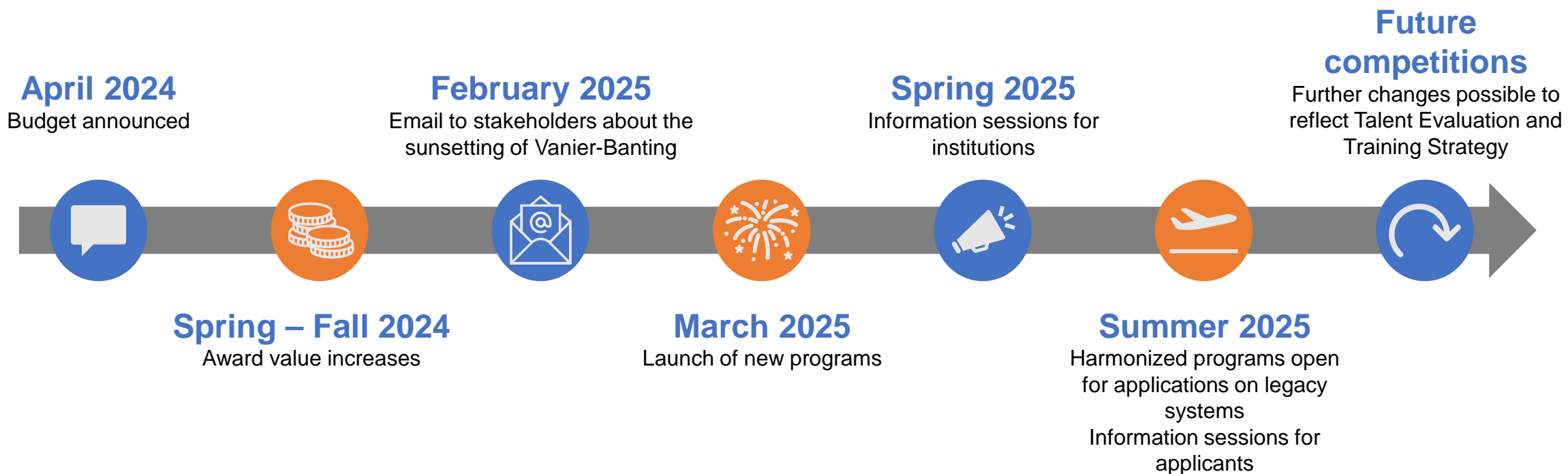
- Instructions: Describe up to 10 important contributions or experiences that relate to your application
- The English version of the TCV must not exceed 5 pages (6 pages for French)

Talent Harmonization



Talent Harmonization update

Implementation of the new talent program



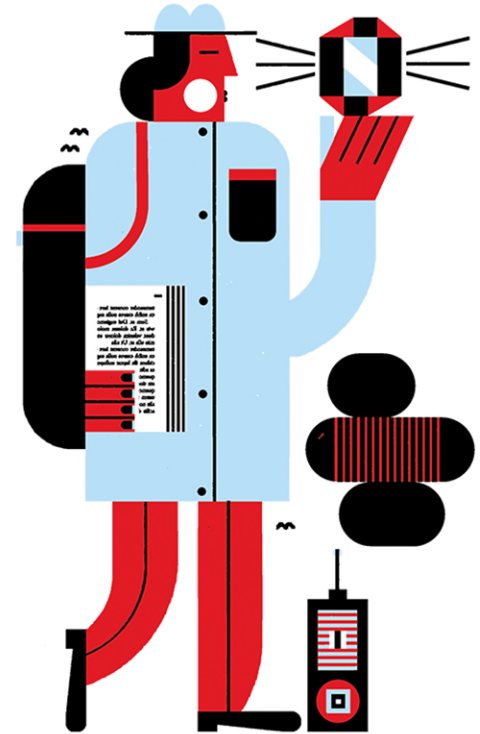
Talent Harmonization update

Key Changes

- **International applicants** will be eligible to apply to doctoral (up to 15% can be awarded) and postdoctoral (up to 20%) programs
- A **limited number** of doctoral (up to 20%) and postdoctoral (up to 30%) awards will be eligible to be **held abroad** (Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and protected person award holders only)
- CIHR will onboard onto the Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements initiative at the master's level
- **Additional 1,720 awards** (across all 3 agencies):
 - 300 master's
 - 1,200 doctoral
 - 220 postdoctoral
 - 600 to 900 awards will be reserved to support federal research priority areas
- **Eligibility windows have increased**
 - doctoral program: up to 36 months of full-time equivalent study
 - postdoctoral window will be up to three years from the degree completion date

Questions? Contact NSERCScholarships-BoursesCRSNG@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA

Revised Eligibility Requirements for Grant Participants



Revised eligibility requirements for grant participants

Revisions to NSERC eligibility requirements for grant participants

- **Key drivers:** Simplification, clarification, harmonization with CIHR and SSHRC (where relevant)
- **Who did we consult?:** NSERC-eligible institutions, CARA listserv
- **Effective date of updated requirements:** August 1, 2025

Revised eligibility requirements for grant participants

Revisions to NSERC eligibility requirements for grant participants

Key changes

- Remove requirement for contract duration of no less than three continuous years
 - A term or contract can be renewed during the grant term if the eligible appointment is not established for the full grant term
- Adjunct defined as a part-time position
 - Adjuncts with a primary position outside of Canada are no longer eligible

Revised eligibility requirements for grant participants

Revisions to NSERC eligibility requirements for grant participants

Key changes

- Separate the requirement to conduct research in NSE from the eligibility requirement to conduct independent research
 - These will continue to be assessed, but independently
- Remove requirement for collaborators to conduct independent research
 - To harmonize the definition more closely with SSHRC, a collaborator is expected to contribute to the intellectual direction of the project
- Terminology clean-up: replace 'faculty' with 'individual'; remove reference to 'academic' appointment.

Use of Artificial Intelligence in the preparation of grant applications

- The agencies recognize that generative AI may be a valuable tool to applicants in the preparation of grant applications
- The applicant is ultimately accountable for the complete contents of their application
 - Ensure that information included in grant applications is true, accurate and complete

[Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in the development and review of research grant proposals](#)

NSERC Updates

NSERC New Accessibility Plan

- Accessible Canada Act – came into force in 2019
- NSERC accessibility plan and progress reports online
- Joint NSERC-SSHRC Accessibility plan for 2026-2028
- Virtual focus groups in June and July
- Interested in participating?
 - Send us an email at accessibility-plan-accessibilite@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

RGS Program Updates

Discovery Grants – Engagement and Collaboration Agreement Requirement for Indigenous Research (2026)

Beginning in the 2026 competition year, applicants who indicate that their proposal involves Indigenous research (by checking the relevant box in the DG application) will be required to submit the **NSERC Indigenous Community Engagement & Collaboration Agreement Template**.

This new requirement aims to:

- Support respectful, ethical, and reciprocal Indigenous research practices
- Document meaningful and ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities
- Clearly outline roles, responsibilities, benefits, and consent

Key details:

- Required **only** for applications that involve Indigenous research
- Submitted at the **full application stage**
- The template and guidance materials will be available in advance of the NOI deadline

Contact: indigenousinitiatives@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

RGS Program Updates

NSERC Prizes

Timelines:

- The call for nominations will launch in August of 2025
- Application deadlines
 - November 15, 2025, for the **NSERC Awards for Science Promotion**
 - November 28, 2025, for the **Herzberg, Polanyi, Brockhouse and Strickland Prizes**
 - December 5, 2025, for the **Synergy Awards**
 - December 15, 2025, for the **McDonald Fellowships**

In nominating a person or a team, please consider:

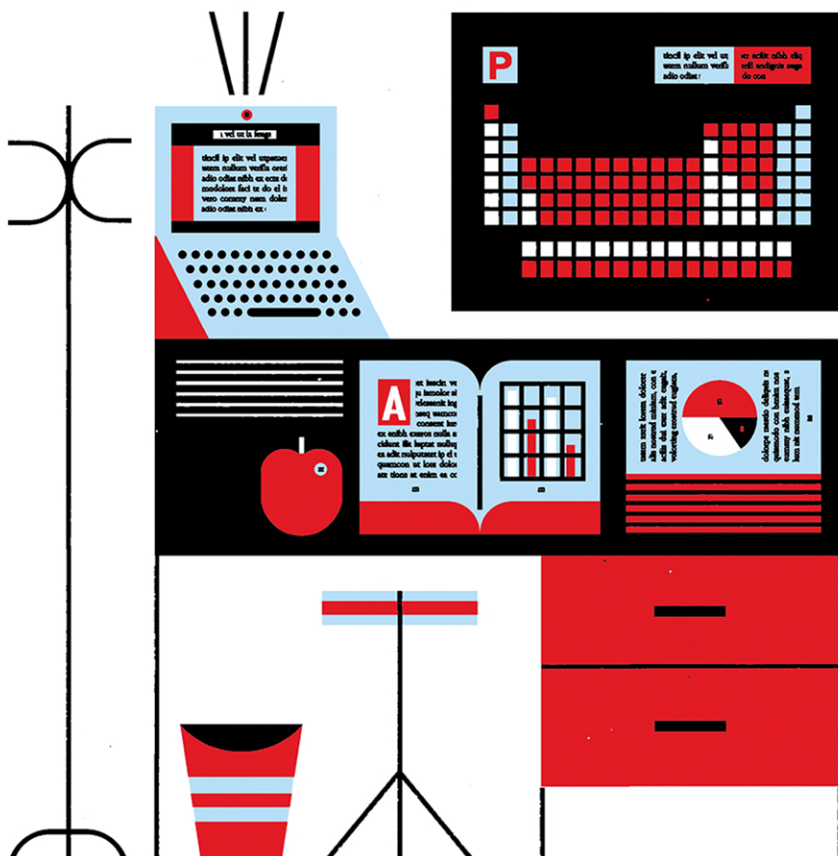
- Encouraging your colleagues to nominate someone as there can be more than one nomination per institution.
- Thinking broadly before nominating to ensure diverse candidacies are considered.

RGS Program Updates

Upcoming Deadlines for Spring/Summer 2025

Grant/Program Application Deadlines

- Discovery Horizons LOI – **June 16th**
- NOI Discovery Grants – **August 1st**
- NOI Subatomic Physics: Project, Individual, MRS, Category 2&3 RTI – **August 1st**
- Ship Time Program - **September 2nd**
- PromoScience - **September 15th**
- Subatomic Physics: Large Projects (> \$500,000/yr), RTI Category 2&3, & MRS – **October 1st**
- Research Tools & Instruments (and Subatomic Physics Category 1) - **October 27th**
- Northern Research Supplements Program - **November 3rd**
- Full Application Discovery Grants - **November 3rd**
- Full Application Subatomic Physics: Individual and Projects (< \$500k/yr) – **November 3rd**



Questions?

Research Grants: resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Scholarships and Fellowships: schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Research Partnerships: rpp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Catherine Harrison: Catherine.harrison@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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