

FIRST CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2017 Sentinel North Research Chairs

The Office of the Vice Rector of Research and Innovation (VRRRI) at Université Laval (UL) is launching a first competition to allocate three to six research chairs under its Sentinel North (SN) program financed by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund.

Objectives and characteristics of the Sentinel North research chair program

The purpose of the SN research chair program is to attract both accomplished and promising new researchers¹ to UL to strengthen and/or increase the institution's research capacity in SN's strategic priority areas. The funding available for this first call is \$3 million over five years (2017 to 2022), which is sufficient to fund three to six chairs depending on the type of chairs created (junior or senior), including at least one in the humanities and social sciences.

There will be two types of Sentinel North research chairs:

- ◆ “Junior” chairs held by outstanding new researchers recognized by their peers as likely future leaders in their field. These chairs will be awarded for a period of five years at a level of \$100,000 per year. The purpose of the junior chairs is to provide emerging researchers with support to kick-start their careers.
- ◆ “Senior” chairs held by outstanding researchers recognized by their peers as world leaders in their field. These chairs will be awarded for a period of five years at a level of \$200,000 per year. The purpose of the senior chairs is to attract established researchers to UL by providing them with support to establish or maintain their careers at an international level.

Who can apply?

Applications are submitted by faculty deans. Any UL faculty may submit applications in accordance with the terms and conditions of the competition. There is no limit on the number of applications that a faculty may submit (see [List of Université Laval Faculties](#)).

How to apply

Deans must email applications to Angelo Tremblay, Vice Rector of Research and Innovation, at angelo.tremblay@vrr.ulaval.ca.

Important dates

- ◆ Submission deadline: June 26, 2017
- ◆ Announcement of competition results: Week of July 17
- ◆ Chair start date: As soon as possible, but no later than March 31, 2018

Origin of applicants and equity

Because the goal of the SN chair program is to ensure or strengthen UL's research capacity in SN's strategic priority areas, applications must be from outside UL and lead to the establishment of a new faculty position at UL.

In accordance with its recruiting policies, UL values diversity and is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all qualified applicants ([Université Laval Job Equity Programs](#)). UL invites all qualified individuals to apply, in particular women, members of visible and ethnic minorities, Aboriginal persons, and persons with disabilities. The University expects recruiting and application processes established in each faculty to comply with equity standards, which include prioritizing equally qualified members of these groups.

Applicants' degrees

Applicants for senior chairs must have obtained their most advanced degree more than 10 years prior to applying for the chair. Researchers of exceptional stature who obtained their degree less than 10 years prior may also apply.

Status of applicants

Applicants for senior chairs must be full professors at their institution of origin or be associate professors close to obtaining tenure.

Applicant profiles

In all cases, applicants must demonstrate a high level of incrementality compared to international researchers. Incrementality is defined by:

- ◆ A publication record above the peer group average, based on the number and impact of academic journals in which articles have been published.
- ◆ Supervision of more graduate students than their colleagues (senior chair).
- ◆ Funding above the peer group average: Holders are able to obtain operational funding on a continuous basis from recognized funding agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR for Canadian applicants).
- ◆ The presence of international collaborations (publications, research funding, knowledge

transfer activities).

- ◆ A number of knowledge transfer activities above the peer group average: The conduct of diversified activities, such as attendance of scientific symposia, radio interviews, sharing of their research results in both scientific journals and major dailies, maintenance of a website, etc.
- ◆ Leadership evidenced by the fact that the applicant is a major contributor to the development and transfer of knowledge in his/her field of expertise and contributes to the flagship multidisciplinary research platforms of his/her institution.

In short, there must be an obvious contrast between the performance of a peer group member and that of the applicant.

Evaluation process

Faculties must select and submit the applications deemed the most scientifically worthy. Applications will subsequently be analyzed by a multidisciplinary committee, which will recommend the awarding of chairs. The committee will produce a report whose recommendations will be submitted to the Sentinel North Steering Committee for a final decision based on Sentinel North's institutional and strategic priorities (see Evaluation Criteria section).

The committee may determine that applications do not meet the competition criteria and recommend not to award all the planned chairs. Such chairs could then be made available again in the next competition.

In the event that an applicant selected for a chair withdraws, the chair will become available to the first applicant on the waiting list, if any, or will be made available again in the next competition.

Evaluation committee

A multidisciplinary committee will evaluate the applications submitted based on the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria identified herein. The committee will be chaired by the vice rector of research and innovation and include the Sentinel North executive director.

The content of the deliberations is strictly confidential. A summary of the committee's comments on each application will be sent to the appropriate dean, vice dean of research and the applicant.

Application guidelines

- ◆ Gather the documents listed below (see items 1 to 6) and submit them in an integrated, searchable PDF (not a scanned image).
- ◆ Any additional pages or documents other than those required will be removed from the

application. Text, charts, and illustrations may be presented in one or two columns.

- ◆ Applicants are invited to include tables, charts, illustrations, and references to help summarize the information provided. However, they will **be included in the calculation** of the total number of pages allowed.
- ◆ Use 12-point Times New Roman font or larger.
- ◆ Use 8½ in. x 11 in. (22 cm x 28 cm) paper. Margins must be at least ¾ in. (1.9 cm) wide.

As applications will be subject to a multidisciplinary evaluation, the proposed research program must be described clearly so that evaluators who are not familiar with a field can offer an informed assessment. **Avoid using jargon, acronyms/abbreviations, and very technical terms wherever possible.**

Applications submitted to VRRRI must include:

1. A letter of support from the dean of the faculty. Where applicable, the letter must also describe the applicant selection process and the proposed timetable for endowing the chair. The letter must:
 - a) Describe the chair's capacity-building contribution to the faculty, the University, and Sentinel North.
 - b) Demonstrate that the proposed or prospective chair holder is:
 - i. An outstanding, internationally recognized researcher whose research results have had a major impact on a field in line with Sentinel North's research priorities (senior chair), or
 - ii. A world-class emerging researcher who has demonstrated particular creativity in research and has the potential to forge an international reputation in his/her field over the next five to ten years (junior chair).
 - c) Explain how the proposed research ties in with the faculty's strategic priorities.
 - d) Explain how the proposed research ties in with Sentinel North's strategic priorities (see the Sentinel North (see the Sentinel North [strategy](#) and [conceptual framework](#)).
 - e) Show how the chair adds value for the faculty and for the field of research concerned in the context of Sentinel North.
 - f) Describe the applicant selection process and the proposed timetable for endowing the chair.
 - g) Confirm the faculty's commitment to establishing a faculty position at the end of the five-year term of the chair.
 - h) Where appropriate, describe the faculty's commitment with regard to office and laboratory space and CFI funding.

The letter must supplement the information in the application and focus on the elements important to the faculty and Sentinel North (priorities, strategic plan) that are not covered in the application. The letter should not quote verbatim any elements that are already part of the application.

2. [A self-identification form](#)
3. An up-to-date curriculum vitae based on the Canadian Common CV or a CV template provided by a federal council (SSHRC, NSERC, or CIHR).
4. A description of the research program (3 pages), including:
 - a) Summary (100 words or less).

Briefly describe the specific objectives of the proposed research program.
 - b) Context
 - i. Situate the proposed research in the context of the relevant scholarly literature.
 - ii. Explain how the research program is original, innovative, and of the highest quality.
 - iii. Explain the link between the proposed research and the applicant's ongoing work.
 - c) General objective
Describe the general objective, focuses of research, and any other relevant information in the context of the Sentinel North program (see the Sentinel North [strategy](#) and [conceptual framework](#)).
 - d) Methodology
Briefly describe the main proposed research strategies and approaches.
 - e) Student training
Describe your plan to attract and train graduates, interns, and future researchers.
5. A description of the capacity-building effect on the University (for the researcher, the research area at the University, the faculty, the Sentinel North program, and the institution in general) and the real and potential benefits. The description should explain the applicant's vision for the research chair. Examples:
 - a) How the chair will help structure an emerging field or strengthen an already well-structured field, as the case may be.
 - b) How the chair will help raise the research area to a higher level.
 - c) How the chair will extend recognition and ensure better dissemination of research than a traditional program or what steps will be taken to make Université Laval a leader in the field covered by the chair.

These examples are just suggestions. The main goal of this section is to present the applicant's vision for the chair and the possible benefits for the institution under the Sentinel North program (max. 3 pages).

6. A document indicating how the proposed funds will be used (max. 1 page)

Evaluation criteria

Applications are evaluated based on how they fit in with Sentinel North's institutional and strategic priorities, according to the following criteria and sub-criteria:

1. The quality of the applicant and the research program:

- a) Gains in or sustainment of international recognition in the proposed field over the next five to ten years.
- b) Ability to attract top-quality interns, students, and future researchers.
- c) Tie-ins with institutional and faculty priorities.
- d) Tie-ins with Sentinel North's research priorities (see the Sentinel North [strategy](#) and [conceptual framework](#)).

2. Capacity-building effect and benefits:

- a. Development of a stimulating research and training environment in the applicant's laboratory, particularly for the University.
- b. Applicant's ability to encourage a transdisciplinary approach and collaboration as part of his/her research under the Sentinel North program.
- c. Leverage effect of the chair for the faculty, department, research centre (if any), Sentinel North, and the University both nationally and internationally.
- d. Increase in research capacity in the field, strengthening of a Sentinel North centre of excellence, or promotion of a field that is emerging or absent from UL.
- e. Quality and types of expected benefits for the applicant, the research area, Sentinel North, and the University.