

Mitacs Newsletter for Research Administrators

Welcome to the second edition of the Mitacs Newsletter for Research Administrators. This quarterly newsletter is part of our ongoing effort to better support and serve our institutional stakeholders by sharing timely updates, policy changes, and resources in one place.

Mitacs was pleased to participate in the 2026 Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) National Conference in Vancouver from May 10 to 13. Through three well-attended sessions, we shared updates on Mitacs programs and policies, discussed recent developments in Mitacs Plus, and explored post-award administration challenges with research administrators from across Canada. Our final session, co-facilitated by research finance leaders from the University of Waterloo and McMaster University, created an especially valuable opportunity for collaborative discussion. The insights and feedback gathered throughout the conference are helping us better understand institutional needs and identify opportunities to strengthen our processes, services, and support for the research administration community.

In this issue, you'll find updates on new and evolving Mitacs opportunities, the Innovation Awards nomination call, Mitacs Plus enhancements, and important guidance on project start and end dates.

Program Offerings

Mitacs connects businesses with top research talent through collaborative fellowships and internships, providing funding and access to resource networks to help drive success.

Explore our program offerings: <https://www.mitacs.ca/programs-resources/programs/>

Ready to apply? Contact your [Mitacs Advisor](#).

Coming this Fall: New AI Opportunities

Canada's AI ecosystem continues to grow, and Mitacs is proud to be part of the national effort. Recently named a key partner in the Government of Canada's **AI for All** strategy, Mitacs is helping expand AI-related opportunities and strengthen connections between research, talent, and industry. Building on this exciting momentum, we will be launching new AI-focused offerings this fall designed to support researchers and institutions in engaging with Canada's evolving AI landscape. **Stay tuned for more information in upcoming communications.**

Thanks to our funding partners.



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2026 Mitacs Innovation Awards: Nomination call now open

Nominations are open for the 2026 Mitacs Innovation Awards, celebrating Mitacs-supported students, postdoctoral fellows, professors, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders whose work is creating real-world impact for Canada. Self-nominations and peer nominations are accepted across five award categories. Research administrators are encouraged to share this opportunity with their institutional communities. **Submit a nomination by September 8, 2026.**

For full details, eligibility, and nomination requirements, visit the Mitacs Innovation Awards webpage: <https://www.mitacs.ca/about/mitacs-awards/>

Key Changes You Need to Know

Accelerate & Business Strategy Internship (BSI): Eligibility Update and Application Changes

Updates have been made to the **Accelerate** and **BSI** application processes to align with Mitacs' funding agreements and partner eligibility requirements.

Eligible Partner Organizations

Partner organizations may be:

- For-profit corporations;
- Not-for-profit corporations;
- Hospitals;
- Municipalities;
- Indigenous governments.

Updated Funding Requirement for For-Profit Partners

For-profit partners must provide **private-sector (non-government) funds** to Mitacs.

Private-sector funds **cannot** be sourced from:

- Federal government grants, contributions, or other government aid;
- Provincial government grants, contributions, or other government aid;

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- Municipal government grants, contributions, or other government aid;
- Government operating funds.

Note: Revenue earned from government customers is not considered government aid and remains eligible. Not-for-profit organizations, hospitals, municipalities, and Indigenous governments are encouraged, but not required, to provide private-sector funds.

New Application Questions

The following questions have been added to Accelerate and BSI applications to confirm the source of partner funds:

1. Are the funds that will be sent to Mitacs sourced from federal government aid? (Yes/No)
2. Are the funds that will be sent to Mitacs sourced from provincial government aid? (Yes/No)
3. Are the funds that will be sent to Mitacs sourced from municipal government aid? (Yes/No)
4. Are the funds that will be sent to Mitacs already used to meet a matching requirement for a federal program? (Yes/No – details required if Yes)

This fourth question replaces the previous question regarding leveraged funds.

How Eligibility Is Assessed

- For projects involving **for-profit partners**: Questions 1–3 must be answered "No" for the project to remain eligible.
- For projects involving **not-for-profit organizations, hospitals, municipalities, and Indigenous governments**: Projects remain eligible regardless of responses to Questions 1–3.
- For **all projects**: A response of "Yes" to Question 4 will make the partner contribution and project ineligible, unless the application is being submitted through an established joint process with another partner funder (e.g. NSERC or SSHRC).

As of **September 3, 2026**, all new submissions must use the updated application templates.

Indigenous Pathways Eligibility Update

Mitacs expanded eligibility for the **Indigenous Pathways** initiative. To participate in Indigenous Pathways, **one of the following criteria must be met:**

- **NEW:** The partner organization is an **Indigenous Government or Indigenous Government-owned entity** (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit);
- The partner organization is a **for-profit organization** with self-identifying Indigenous persons (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) holding **50% or greater ownership**;
- The partner organization is a **not-for-profit organization** whose board consists of **50% or greater self-identifying Indigenous persons** (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit); or
- The student participating in the project is a **self-identifying Indigenous person** (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit).

This update expands eligibility to include Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Government-owned entities and supports greater collaboration with Indigenous communities and organizations.

Mitacs Plus

Mitacs is embarking on a multi-year enterprise transformation journey to improve our technology, processes and how we work with stakeholders. This includes the launch of a new application portal, Mitacs Plus. Thank you for your patience and feedback as we continue to improve the application process and strengthen efficiency and transparency in post-award management.

During this transition phase, we have concurrent application intake processes for the Accelerate program. Please speak to one of our [Mitacs Advisors](#) to find out which application platform to use at this time.

What is Mitacs Plus?

[Discover Mitacs Plus - Our new self-serve application portal](#)

Mitacs Plus in Action

A recent application submitted through Mitacs Plus progressed from **application submission to award payment in just 36 days**. This exciting example demonstrates the potential for a more streamlined and transparent application and award process.

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Latest features & enhancements in Mitacs Plus:

- **Multiple Academic Supervisors:** Applications with more than one academic supervisor are now supported.
- **Start date change requests:** Participants can request start date changes directly in the portal, with automated checks to ensure requests follow program rules.
- **Cancellations:** Participants can submit internship unit cancellation requests directly in the portal.
- **Accessibility improvements:** Several high-priority accessibility enhancements were implemented.
- **Simplified ORS sign-off:** ORS representatives can now approve applications by typing their name directly in Mitacs Plus, eliminating the need for a cursor-based signature.

Coming up in September in Mitacs Plus:

- **Read-only (non-signatory) access for ORS representatives who require access to applications and notices of award:** We'll be reaching out soon to confirm if any new or existing contacts should have this new read-only ORS access level.

Questions or Feedback?

Feedback or questions can be sent to experience@mitacs.ca - our **Client Service & Support (CSS)** team is ready to assist you every step of the way.

Compliance Corner

Planning Project Start and End Dates:

Institutions and project participants should plan carefully around the following requirements for Mitacs Accelerate and Business Strategy Internship (BSI) projects:

- **Project start:** Projects should begin within one year of research approval. Internship units must not start until the research review has been approved and Mitacs has received the partner organization's contribution.

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- **Project end:** Project end dates may be extended by up to one year beyond the original projected end date, with Mitacs approval. Internship units that are not completed within the approached timeframe, including units without a named intern, may be subject to cancellation.
- **Partner payment:** Mitacs reserves the right to terminate or cancel a project if the partner organization does not submit its contribution.

Payment status and communications: Award payment status for Mitacs Plus applications is visible directly in the portal. For applications submitted outside of Mitacs Plus, research administrators may request to receive automated communications about upcoming internships with outstanding partner contributions.



We welcome your feedback

Have feedback on this edition or suggestions for a future topic? We welcome your input as we continue developing this newsletter as a practical resource for the research administration community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the important role you play in supporting Mitacs programs and participants at your institution.

Newsletter questions and feedback:

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