

## **Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Canadian Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat for Canadian Researchers hosted by the European Research Council grantees in Europe**

In accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement on the Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and Canada, signed on 17 June 1995 and entered into force on February 27 1996<sup>1</sup>, as amended<sup>2</sup>, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Canadian researchers is hereby established between the European Commission and the Canadian Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants").

The Canadian Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) is responsible for the administration of collaborative programme initiatives between the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), hereinafter referred to as the Canadian Granting Agencies. For any aspects of this Implementing Arrangement that pertains to the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Programme, TIPS will engage with the Vanier-Banting Secretariat, which is the entity responsible to administer this particular programme.

By the European Commission side, this Implementing Arrangement is intended to be administratively managed by the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), which is the dedicated implementation structure of the European Research Council. The European Research Council (ERC) is part of the Horizon 2020 - the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and its mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.

The Participants understand that the collaboration under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to operate only within the limits of its respective authorities, policies and other requirements.

Research opportunities are intended to be provided in accordance with the terms set out in the Agreement.

This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international law.

### **1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES**

The Participants intend to provide opportunities for Canada Research Chairholders<sup>3</sup> and/or the Banting Postdoctoral Fellows<sup>4</sup> to pursue research collaborations with European researchers already supported through the EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L74 of 22/03/1996, p.25.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L156 of 23/06/1999, p.23 .

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <http://banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html>

It is expected that collaborations would occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest related to disciplines in engineering and the natural sciences, health sciences, humanities and social sciences.

## **2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES**

This collaboration is intended to enable researchers/fellows supported by the Canada Research Chairs and/or the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships programme to carry out research visits with the ERC-supported European teams.

The collaboration is intended to enable researchers to participate through a single and long-term (e.g. up to 12 months) visit or multiple short-term visits (e.g. for joint experiments). Research visits are expected to begin at least 12 months prior to the termination date of the Canada Research Chairs grant and/or Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship. Multiple short-term visits should aggregate to a jointly determined minimum (e.g. 3 months).

## **3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION**

The following set of operational steps is intended to be used:

- (a) The ERCEA solicits expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting Canada Research Chairholders and/or Banting Postdoctoral Fellows to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.
- (b) The ERCEA sends to TIPS a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects and other information as mutually decided between the TIPS and the ERCEA to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.
- (c) TIPS, in collaboration with Canadian Granting Agencies and the Vanier-Banting Secretariat, will inform Canada Research Chairholders and/or Banting Postdoctoral Fellows of the collaborative opportunities available describing the goals of the ERC programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers. Canada Research Chairholders and/or Banting Postdoctoral Fellows will be invited to communicate directly with the ERC-supported teams to negotiate the terms and conditions of the collaboration with ERC-supported European teams.

## **4. STEERING GROUP**

The two Participants intend to set up a Steering Group consisting of two representatives from each side. As necessary, each Participant may designate additional participants to the meetings. The Steering Group will be co-chaired by a representative of the TIPS and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Operational guidance and management plans consistent with the needs of the respective Participants in order to implement this Arrangement will be adopted by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group will review the activities, including reporting activities, under this Implementation Arrangement and decide if any adjustment will be necessary on a periodic basis. The Steering Group will meet at least once per year, and its meetings will be held virtually or alternately in Canada or at the ERCEA headquarters.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/funding-schemes>

## **5. FUNDING**

Activities under this Implementing Arrangement are intended to be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of each Participant, and to the terms in this Implementing Arrangement.

### **(1) The Canadian Funding Agencies**

Canada Research Chairholders and/or Banting Postdoctoral Fellows can continue to receive their grant/stipend according to the terms and conditions of the award. They will also be allowed to use them for the purpose of collaborating with ERC-supported European teams, including the coverage of their travel expenses. However, they will be required to obtain approval from their respective institution before concluding a collaborative agreement with their European counterparts. Furthermore, Banting Postdoctoral fellows will also need permission from their supervisor.

### **(2) The ERC**

Visiting Canada Research Chairholders and/or Banting Postdoctoral Fellows may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the Host Institution of the ERC projects) for the duration of the visit, so that any relevant expenses can be claimed under the ERC grants, supporting the team and the activity as noted below. Sufficient flexibility exists for the ERC grant to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC being required. The ERC grant agreement provides that only the costs eligible within its terms can be reimbursed<sup>6</sup> and the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. The involved Canadian visiting researcher should be solely in charge of seeking and obtaining any payments or reimbursements under this section, without the involvement of the Canadian Granting Agencies. Eligible cost categories include:

(i) For researchers receiving grant/stipend by the Canada Research Chairs and/or the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships programme, subsistence costs on a per diem basis, or any other applicable modality of the Host institution, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution, commensurate to the level of experience of the individual visiting career researchers.

Alternatively and only if the salary of the Canada Research Chairs or the stipend of the Banting postdoctoral fellows is suspended during the period of the visit, salary, stipend or other compensation of the visiting researcher, including any applicable social/health coverage expenses, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution. In this case no additional subsistence costs will be offered.

(ii) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the researcher supported by the Canada Research Chairs and/or the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships programme that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

## **6. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES**

The Participants, by mutual consent in writing, may allow the inclusion of other programmes in addition to the Canada Research Chairs and the Banting postdoctoral fellows programmes managed by the Canadian Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS).

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<sup>6</sup> Essentially, this means the costs must be (a) incurred for the sole purpose of meeting the grant's objectives, (b) be incurred during the duration of the project and (c) correspond to the usual management and accounting practices of the host institution of the Principal Investigator.

## 7. DURATION

Cooperation under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to commence from signature by both Participants for a period of three years, unless terminated by either Participant upon ninety days written notice to the other Participant, or sooner by mutual consent in writing. This Implementing Arrangement may be amended or extended by written consent of the two Participants.

Signed at Brussels, on 27 October 2016, in duplicate in the English language.

**For the European Commission**



**Carlos Moedas**

Commissioner for Research, Science and  
Innovation

**For the Canadian Tri-agency Institutional  
Programs Secretariat**



**Ted Hewitt**

Chair of the Tri-agency Institutional  
Programs Secretariat  
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