



Canada Excellence
Research Chairs
Chaires d'excellence
en recherche du Canada



Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program

The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) program is a prestigious new research funding program that awards up to \$10 million over seven years to each of 20 of the world's leading university researchers, to support their research activities in Canada. This globally unique research initiative will support the salary and benefits of the chairholder and key members of their team, as well as the operating costs of their research.

The selection of Canada Excellence Research Chairs is based on the highest standards of research excellence, and is designed as a two-stage competition with a rigorous, multilevel peer-review process. The peer reviewers are world-renowned experts from varying fields—prestigious prize winners with experience on some of the most important award selection committees in the world.

In the first phase of the competition, universities compete for the opportunity to nominate researchers to hold a CERC. A short list of 17 universities was invited in the first round of competition, held in 2008, to nominate researchers in Phase 2. Selected universities must commit strong support for the CERC team and facilitate their integration at the institution, setting the stage for groundbreaking, innovative research. These universities also commit to sustaining the research advantage provided by the CERC award after the seven-year term.

The CERC program supports research in four strategic areas, focusing on sub-priority areas that address issues of global importance and build on research areas where Canada has or should build a competitive advantage.

The program is further evidence of the Government of Canada's commitment to ensuring the country's future economic growth by investing in innovation and research capacity. Canada's Economic Action Plan (Budget 2009) contains one of the single largest federal budget investments in science and technology (S&T) to date. The plan announced \$5.1 billion in new spending in S&T infrastructure, research, people and commercialization.

Canadian federal S&T spending has increased every year since 2006, surpassing an historic level of \$10 billion in 2007-08. Canada ranks first in the G-7 and second among the 30 OECD countries for research and development performed in the higher-education sector as a percentage of gross domestic product. The Government of Canada's investments to date in the Canada Research Chairs Program, a program of 2,000 high-profile research chairs at Canadian universities, has already significantly added to Canada's research strength.

Canada is a destination of choice for the best and brightest students and researchers, offering a friendly, multicultural, multilingual and tolerant society. One of the world's most valuable research funding programs, the CERC program is designed to help attract talented researchers to Canadian university campuses, and confirms Canada's standing as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning.

For more information on the CERC program or on how to become considered for candidacy, please visit www.cerc.gc.ca.



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