

Questions & Answers
QQSF Information Session
November 1, 2017
Last Updated: January 27, 2023

Q: What are eligible expenses?

A: The fund is primarily intended to support HQP related expenses.

Q: Is travel funded?

A: Yes, as it appropriately connects to the project.

Q: Any special IP considerations as it relates to this fund?

A: QQSF does not insert any new IP terms. The regular processes through UW are applicable for patenting and related expenses. For funded projects (only), we do look to support the exploration of a patent. This funding is outside of the QQSF.

Q: Are you looking for leveraged industrial funding?

A: No requirement for industry match. Additional funding sources that enhance the project are welcome.

Q: Can you provide clarification on the requirement to not displace or replace NSERC funding?

A: Show that NSERC isn't supporting your proposed project. If you've already applied to Tri-Agency you shouldn't be applying to QQSF for the same thing unless funding was denied by NSERC.

Q: Clarify the scope of the program – a lot of things could be described as quantum. Could you put a box around what you'd consider a quantum project and what you wouldn't? Are you talking about controlling quantum systems?

A: QQSF is really trying to broaden the quantum research community at the University. It seeks to find a way of connecting quantum to new ideas and applications. We do not want to unnecessarily create boundaries that may exclude a novel idea and high quality science.

- **Update (May 2018): For additional clarity, QQSF applications may consider new ideas and applications that relate to the three grand challenge areas (computation, sensing, communication). For quantum computation this includes, for example, the development of quantum algorithms and quantum information processing. For communication, this includes applications of entangled qubits such as QKD. Finally, for topics that fall outside the three grand challenge areas the applicant may select "New Ideas" on the QQSF form.**

Q: How many rounds will there be for QQSf? Number of approved applications?

A: The Transformative Quantum Technologies program runs over seven years. The budget includes annual earmarks for QQSf. We'd like to accelerate activity and so there are two rounds this calendar year. There's some flexibility in terms of numbers that will be approved based on the quality of the proposals received. We view our effort as building a bigger community of quantum researchers and want to do that early in the process.

Q: Is the review of the proposal internal or external to UW?

A: The review takes place by an internal selection committee with membership that spans three faculties at UW.

Q: Can we know who is on the selection committee?

A: There are 5 faculty and a couple observers. It does not include Prof. David Cory. The names of the selection committee are not generally released as best practice.

Q: Clarify what you can ask for in the proposal when you've already applied to NSERC. For example, with regards to student funding on the grant, can we apply for a grant with NSERC for 2 students and then also apply to QQSf for the students to do additional or different research?

A: You can't ask for the same funding to NSERC and QQSf for the same students to do the same thing. In addition, if the students are being hired to work on one research project they can't be funded for another project at the same time - unless they are only partially committed to each project e.g., their time is split 50 / 50 between separate NSERC and QQSf projects. Contact tqt@uwaterloo.ca if you require further clarification.

Q: There may still be overlap [with funding applications for new projects] if we're hiring students on the QQSf project but also need funding from other sources for equipment that the student will be using. Is this permissible?

A: Yes. Equipment purchases are viewed separate from QQSf.

Q: Are new ideas and applications in quantum limited to science, engineering and math? (Added Nov 2019)

A: Contributions need not be limited to science, engineering and math. For example, one of our investment priorities includes societal, economic and policy impacts related to the adoption of quantum technologies.

Q: If an applicant submits more than one application per round could both applications be funded?

A: TQT will not fund more than one QQSf per PI in a round.