NSCC SPRINT STUDENT MICROGRANT GUIDELINES

NSCC Applied Research
Joanne.firth@nscc.ca

NSCC SPRINT Student Funding Guidelines – Winter 2026

The **SPRINT Fund** provides support for NSCC Students to engage in original research and innovation activities, build research skills and capacity. All applications will undergo a rigorous review process to ensure projects meet the eligibility and selection criteria.

20 Awards of $500 each

Each semester, the SPRINT fund will provide 20 NSCC students with $500 to support an applied research project with industry. Proposed projects must develop practical solutions for industry's/community partner's real-world challenges. Student projects could count as a course-based project, or work integrated learning/work experience credit, if approved by the Academic Chair and Faculty.

2025-2026 SPRINT Funding Cycle

Application Deadline	**Winter 2026**: Friday, January 23rd, 2026
Available SPRINT Student Funding	20, $500 microgrants each semester.
Funding Decision	**Round 2: Winter 2026** Applications will be accepted until Friday, January 23rd, 2026. Funding decisions will be made by Friday, February 13th, 2026.
Release of Funds	Timeline for release of funds will be determined on a case-by-case basis following the development and approval of each project plan, considering the unique requirements of each project.
Funding Period	All projects should finish by May 22nd, 2026

Sprint Application Package	• SPRINT Application Form
	• Required Elements
	  ○ Project Description
	  ○ Timeline
	  ○ Proposed Budget
	The SPRINT application package is available online at Student SPRINT Microgrant Application Form

SPRINT Student Microgrant Eligibility

1. The applicant must be a NSCC student currently enrolled in a core program.
2. All projects require an industry/community partner.
3. Student projects require a NSCC Faculty or Applied Research Staff supervisor.
4. If the project is being counted toward a course deliverable, students must get approval from their faculty before applying for SPRINT funding.
5. An applicant may only be listed on one SPRINT project at a time. Provided that the applicant is eligible, another SPRINT Fund application can be submitted only after the successful completion of the previous SPRINT project.

Need help with your application? Join the Student Research Network online office hours

Mondays and Wednesdays in December and January

December 1st, 3rd and 8th
January 5th, 7th, 12th, 14th,19th, 21st
11:30am to 1:30pm

Click below to join us on those days:
SRN Office Hours Team Link

These are informal, drop-in sessions for SPRINT microgrant applicants to:

- Ask application questions
- Get project feedback
- Review your draft

Deadlines are fixed and will not be extended upon request. The completed application, including all required approvals and attachments, must be submitted online following the above link.

If the project is counting towards a course deliverable, please sure to discuss with your faculty.

The application and review processes are designed to be transparent and equitable. To qualify for review, all applications must meet the eligibility requirements. Provided that they are eligible, all applications go through a competitive review process.

The demand for funds may exceed the total budget allocation for the SPRINT Fund. As a result, all applications that meet the requirements for submission are not guaranteed funding. All applicants will receive feedback on their application, regardless of whether the application is successful.

Funding Administration and Disbursement

These grants are part of a larger grant through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Student will be paid a stipend/award of $500.

Reporting Requirements

SPRINT Grant: Upon completion of the project, the applicant will be required to submit a short final report. Final reports must be submitted prior to the date specified in the award letter.

Applicants are required to participate in the SPRINT Tech Showcase, as part of NSCC's Tech Showcase held at Ivany campus each year.

Support for Inclusive and Equitable Research

A key priority of the SPRINT FUND is the provision of resources to support equitable and inclusive participation in applied research. We recognize that the participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences promotes creativity, innovation and enrich research outcomes. **Students from underrepresented groups and communities are particularly encouraged to apply for this funding opportunity.** During the application process, applicants from an underrepresented group: Mi'kmaw/Indigenous, Black/African Nova Scotian, members of other racialized groups, persons with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, women may choose to self-identify. The commitment of the SPRINT program is to support the removal of obstacles and barriers that might impact the participation of members of underrepresented groups in research and innovation.

STUDENT SPRINT APPLICATION

Below is an outline of the application. Please review before completing the application form.

The SPRINT Student application form can be found here: Student SPRINT Microgrant Application Form.

Title
The title should clearly identify the focus of the project and be written in plain language.

Project Description
Please describe your project in detail. What is problem you are solving? Is there an industry partner? What will be the project deliverable(s)?

Project Timeline

All projects should be completed within 4 months of award date, and/or before graduation. Please outline your project milestones and when you plan to complete them.

Sample Timeline

Milestone	Description of Activities	Start Date	Completion Date
Prototype development	Using xx methods, develop the final prototype	2025-11-15	2026-01-15
User testing	Small group of students from a specific course will test the initial product	2026-01-15	2026-03-15
Final revisions and testing of prototype	Based on user testing and focus group feedback, revisions to the prototype and a final evaluation with students from a specific class and/or other users that may represent the target market	2026-03-15	2026-04-30
Final report	Prepare and submit final report in collaboration with student(s) and/or other applicants	2026-05-15	2026-06-15

Research Ethics Board (REB) Approval
Does your project involve human participation? This could include include surveys, focus groups, questionnaires and interviews, just to name a few examples. If your research involves human participants, REB approval and TCP-2 CORE-2022 Ethics certificate is required. REB application forms and guidelines are available on the NSCC REB website. Questions about the REB process can be directed to reb@nscc.ca. Applications may be submitted prior to receiving REB approval. However, funding will not be released until REB approval has been granted.

Personal Learning Objectives
Please describe your personal learning objectives for this project. What do you hope to learn?

Anticipated Challenges
Please describe any anticipated challenges or barriers to your project, and how you plan to overcome them.

Application Conditions
- Application submission does not guarantee SPRINT funding
- Give consent to have your name and project title shared within the NSCC platform.

The Student Microgrant is administered through the Applied Research office, following all applicable NSCC and NSERC guidelines.

Student SPRINT Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their application ideas with their Academic Chair prior to starting an application. All applications will be ranked by a review panel. Funds are awarded based on the merit of the application relative to the funding criteria, the number of applications received in a funding period, and the total annual SPRINT Fund budget.

Project Proposal	Proposals should be focused around a clearly defined innovation or research problem. Applications must demonstrate the value of the anticipated results of the project.	25%
Learning Outcomes	It is expected that the proposed project will help them develop the student develop key skills and experience.	25%
Inclusion of an Industry/Community Partner	The student has an industry or community partner who will benefit from this project	25%
Anticipated Challenges	The student has anticipated potential challenges and solutions	10%
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	Students should be able to describe how Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are included in their project. This could include the researcher's background, the partner/company background and/or values, or the project outcome. Information on Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research can be found here: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/EDI_guidance-Conseils_EDI_eng.asp	15%