

Frequently Asked Question

on submitting the Outline Proposal to the NORFACE Research Programme on
Migration in Europe, Social, Economic, Cultural and Policy Dynamics

How many national partners should there be in a project? Is it the case that a project with a high number will be given preference?

As long as there are partners from three or more NORFACE countries, the precise configuration should be determined by the research question and project design. There is no optimum number, and applicants should not add partners for the sake of it. All partners should have a significant role in the research.

Can our application include more than one Co-Applicant per NORFACE partner country?

Yes, if you see it as appropriate, you may have more than one research team based in the same NORFACE partner country. However, please note that your application still has to include research teams based in a minimum three NORFACE partner countries.

The Guidelines for Applicants state “Each Co-Applicant is responsible for leading project activities at his/her own institution”. Can we list more than one Co-Applicant per University?

Please name only one Co-Applicant per University/Research Institution. The official Co-Applicant will be responsible for managing the NORFACE funds in his/her institution.

The Guidelines for Applicants state “Each applicant can ask funding for personnel costs, consumables, travel costs, equipment and subcontracting in accordance with the relevant national research funding rules. Does this mean that permanent academic staff can recover their salary costs in accordance with national guidelines?

All appropriate direct costs including research assistance, equipment, consumables and travel will be met from project funds, plus a standard allowance of 20% for all indirect institutional costs. The costs of permanent academic staff should be included as direct costs only where this is normally permissible under the rules of the appropriate national funding agency. In other cases, the costs of teaching replacement may be claimed, if this accords with national practice

Can disciplines outside of social sciences be included in the project proposals?

Yes, they can when they are an integral part of and support the research questions and theme. However, the proposal should be predominantly within the social sciences. The list of social sciences disciplines referred to in section 2 of the research specification is illustrative and not intended to be exclusive.

The programme specification encourages multi-disciplinarity, but will single disciplinary proposals be acceptable?

It is expected that the complex nature of this topic will require insights from a range of different disciplines or sub-disciplines. However, where it is justified by the research question, a high quality single disciplinary approach might be appropriate. .

Experience suggests that in research being funded by the European Commission, multidisciplinary proposals tend to be at a disadvantage when assessed comparatively with single disciplinary projects. Will this also be the case for this programme?

The research programme is being administered by the NORFACE CO-ordination Office at the Academy of Finland on behalf of the 13 partner research councils. Funding decisions will be made on the recommendation of an expert Panel who will be appointed by the partners and experienced in handling multi-disciplinary work.

The Guidelines for Applicants state that project teams should strive to include researchers at different stages of their career. Surely, if I include new researchers or people I don't know well, I will weaken my project?

While the principal purpose of the programme is to facilitate excellent research in addressing the topic of migration, an important but subsidiary purpose is to build research capacity for the future. A sensitively assembled project team, which takes account of its members' different experience and expertise and matches these to the project design, should facilitate the achievement of this aim.

Which relevant publications should be cited in the CVs?

Please cite up to ten (10) publications for the PI and up to five (5) publications to each Co-Applicant that are relevant in the field of your project. Please concentrate on the theme of your project. Do not necessarily cite your most recent publications, if they are not relevant to the theme of your project.

If there are ethical issues present, is approval required before submitting a proposal?

No, where specific ethical approvals are required under national arrangements, these do not need to be obtained before submitting a proposal, but must be obtained before work starts on the project.

Can NGOs be included in the projects?

Yes, they can.

The Principal Investigator will be a senior researcher. How is a senior researcher defined?

The Principal Investigator should have a strong scientific track record and experience from leading a research group and preferably also from managing an international research project. However, no formal requirements are set for the Principal Investigator (such as minimum length of professional experience).

Does the sentence "Co-applicant status is not limited to researchers at any specific career stage after completing PhD" mean that the Co-Applicant has to have a PhD? Is it an eligibility criterion?

A Co-applicant should have a PhD degree or possess equivalent competence. The Co-applicant can be a senior or a more junior researcher, but s/he should have the capability of leading a research team.

The short research plan should include no more than 2000 words? Does this include a literature list?

The short research plan of maximum 2000 words should include a short literature list. Please note that the length of the short research plan has been extended from 1500 words to 2000 words.

Questions regarding participation of Canadian researchers in the NORFACE programme

European scholars will likely ask these questions:

How do I link up with Canadian researchers?

You may search for partners through the NORFACE Forum available through the NORFACE website or you may contact the SSHRC Program Officer, Mika Oehling, tel: (613) 992-4227, email: mika.oehling@sshrc.ca.

Will Canadian researchers have to be budgeted for in the overall project budget?

Canadian researchers participate as Co-operation partners and they do not write a detailed budget in the budget table. Co-operation partners need to explain how their participation will be funded.

What kind of documentation is needed for Canadian participation in a NORFACE project? What do we need to confirm their participation?

The Principal Investigator of the project proposal will add the name and e-mail address of the Co-operation partner in the EPSS and thereby invite him/her to take part in the proposal. The Co-operation partner can then access the proposal and fill in his/her participant details.

Canadian scholars will likely ask these questions:

How do I apply to the NORFACE call?

First, you need to find an eligible Principal Investigator from a European partner country who is a member of the NORFACE network and become part of the research team as a Cooperation Partner. Details are available online at <http://norface.org/migration.html>

How much money will be available for Canadian researchers participating in the NORFACE call?

There will be a budget envelope of \$250,000 per year for four years (48 months) set aside by SSHRC to finance the participation of Canadian researchers in the NORFACE call.

When will the SSHRC funding be available?

SSHRC will be asking successful Canadian participants to submit their budget needs after the full proposal adjudication is completed. These budgets will be considered by a SSHRC peer-review committee and awarded in early 2009.

Will I have access to NORFACE funds?

No, NORFACE awards are available only to researchers in NORFACE partner countries.

May I use funds from other sources?

You are encouraged to find funds from other sources. In the case of other SSHRC grants, make sure that you comply with the terms and conditions of the award.

How do I link up with NORFACE researchers?

You may search for partners through the NORFACE Forum available through the NORFACE website. On the NORFACE forum researchers may advertise their research interests, the research topics of their proposals and partners they are interested in getting contact with.

Can students and postdoctoral research fellows participate on these projects?

You are strongly encouraged to involve students and postdoctoral research fellows in the project in support roles.

Can a Canadian scholar act as the principal investigator on a NORFACE project?

No. Canadian scholars must partner with a European principal investigator.

Can Canadian scholars participate in the development of the full proposal if they have not participated in the development of the proposal outline?

Yes. Researchers can be added to the project right up until the full proposal stage.

Do we need to allow for inflation when drawing up a proposed budget? Does NORFACE adjust our budget to the inflation rates during the lifetime of the project?

NORFACE will not adjust your budget during the lifetime of the project, so you should allow for inflation in your proposed budget. Although you will be allowed to transfer funds from one budget item to another, you will not be allowed to overrun the maximum funding granted to your project.