



Norwegian Agency for
International Cooperation
and Quality Enhancement
in Higher Education



Mitacs Accelerate International – for Norwegian students

About the Award

[The Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education](#) (Diku) has partnered with Mitacs to support research collaborations between researchers and graduate students at Norwegian higher education institutions and Canadian companies and universities.

Through a Accelerate International Award, Norwegian graduate students have the opportunity to carry out a research project in a Canadian company. The research will be carried out under the supervision of university professors in Norway and Canada and will provide an opportunity for further cooperation between the private sector and universities in the two countries.

The award is open to graduate students in all disciplines at Norwegian higher education institutions and for-profit companies in Canada.

Applications are accepted any time.

The Accelerate International Award provides:

- An opportunity for Norwegian researchers and graduate students to connect with Canadian companies and universities
- International research experience for the participating student, who undertakes a 16- to 24-week research project at the company partner's offices or facilities and a Canadian university
- A \$15,000 research grant in the Canadian professor's name

Mitacs and Diku strive to ensure that award recipients have a high-quality research experience with internationally recognized companies who facilitate learning and provide hands-on training in students' field of study.

How to apply:

Applicants are responsible for developing a research project proposal, which they must submit via a [Mitacs business development representative](#).

Applications are accepted any time — applicants are encouraged to apply at least 16 weeks prior to project start date to ensure time for adjudication, filing of appropriate documentation, and travel and accommodation arrangements.

Application package

- [Accelerate International proposal](#)
- [Student CV](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct and Ethics](#) *
- [International pre-departure form](#)*
- [Other applicable documents, as required](#)

*These forms can be submitted after the submission of the proposal; however, funds will not be released until Mitacs receives these forms.

1. Contact Diku at noram@diku.no for support during the project set-up and application process
2. Review eligibility and award guidelines
3. Consult with your home university's international office to determine any requirements or protocol for international travel and research in Canada
4. The graduate student and home university supervisor develop a research project proposal with all identified partners
5. Collect all required signatures: student, Norwegian professor, Canadian company, Canadian professor, and appropriate Canadian university office(s). Contact Mitacs at international@mitacs.ca if you require clarification.
6. Diku will assist the student in sending the completed proposal (in Word format) by email to the Mitacs Business Development Representative for Norway.

Travel to the destination is **not permitted** prior to the approval of the award AND Mitacs' receipt of the company's financial contribution, the International Pre-departure and Student Code of Conduct and Ethics forms. Neither Mitacs nor Diku are responsible for costs incurred before a proposal is approved.

What happens next

1. Mitacs contacts participants about their proposal outcome approximately 6–8 weeks after the proposal submission
2. Upon invoice by Mitacs, the company forwards its \$7,500 contribution to Mitacs
3. The student provides the completed Mitacs Code of Conduct and Ethics and International Pre-departure forms to Mitacs
4. Mitacs forwards the \$15,000 award as a research grant to the Canadian university's Office of Research Services. Minimum \$10,000 in student scholarship and minimum \$2,500 in travel support will be made available to the Norwegian student.
5. The student departs to the destination and begins the research project. At least 25% of the project must be spent at the Norwegian university.

Eligibility

Students

- Must be registered for full-time graduate studies (Master and PhD levels) at a Norwegian higher education institution
 - International students cannot return to their country of citizenship for the purpose of program participation unless they also possess Norwegian citizenship or permanent residence
- Must be the legal age of majority in Canada (18 years of age or older)
- Must meet travel and immigration requirements for their intended destination, including possessing a valid passport at the time of travel
- Must spend at least 25% of the project at the Norwegian university
- Cannot hold more than **one** Accelerate International Partnership Award per academic lifetime

Professors in Norway

- Must hold a faculty position at a higher education institution in Norway
- Must be eligible to supervise graduate students

Canadian company

- Must be a for-profit company with an office or facility where the student can undertake the research project
- Must be located in Canada

Professors in Canada

- Must hold a faculty position at a [Mitacs Full, Associate or Honorary Partner university](#)
- Must be eligible to supervise graduate students and hold Tri-Council funding

Award guidelines

All parties involved with the Accelerate International program must comply with the Canadian university's policies regarding the ethical conduct of research and scholarly activities. Any issues or disputes around research or academic misconduct will be subject to both the Canadian and Norwegian universities' processes following their institutional policies.

Student's responsibilities

- Make all necessary preparations for travel abroad with the appropriate university office(s)
- Attend any mandatory sessions as required by the home university
- Obtain appropriate visa or work permit for the destination
- Ensure confidentiality of company information as specified in the research plan 3
- Work full-time on the research project
- Submit a final report and exit survey to Mitacs at the end of the project
- Norwegian academic supervisor's responsibilities
- Adhere to institutional policies for research abroad
- Provide ongoing direction and research support to the student prior to and during the research project
- Submit an exit survey and sign the final report prepared by the student

Company responsibilities

- Send the financial contribution to Mitacs in Canadian dollars
- Provide ongoing direction and research support to the student prior to and during the research project
- Advise the student on appropriate travel arrangements and accommodation
- Provide the student with any necessary documentation to support the visa application
- Ensure the student has appropriate lab and/or office space and resources during the research project and that activities are limited to those specific in the research plan
- Submit an exit survey and sign the final report prepared by the student

Canadian academic supervisor's responsibilities

- Provide ongoing direction and research support to the student prior to and during the research project
- Provide the student with any necessary documentation to support the visa application (where applicable)
- Assume fiduciary responsibility for the award
- Submit an exit survey and sign the final report prepared by the student

Adjudication

Applications for the Accelerate International Award are peer-reviewed by subject matter experts. Applicants are notified of the outcome of their peer review approximately **6–8 weeks** after the proposal submission.

Proposals will be adjudicated based on the following criteria:

1. Mitacs Accelerate International Awards support research-based internships. Does the proposed project qualify as research in its discipline?
2. Is the project appropriate for the academic degree level of the intern?
3. Are the objectives clear?
4. Is the methodology appropriate to achieve the objectives?
5. Is the timeline realistic?
6. Other comments and suggestions for the applicants. For example, is there prior work that should be considered by the researchers?

7. Confidential comments for Mitacs:

8. Will the research work potentially have adverse effects on the environment? Do you recommend that an additional environmental impact review be conducted?

Funding

- Mitacs issues the award letter and funds upon receipt of:
 - The student's completed International Pre-Departure and Student Code of Conduct forms, respectively
 - Confirmation of project start and end dates
 - The company partner's \$7,500 contribution
- The award will be sent to the Canadian university's Office of Research Services (or equivalent) and administered as a research grant in the Canadian supervisor's name
- The student must receive a minimum \$10,000 stipend. Remaining funds must be used to support project-related research and travel related to the research project, including \$2,500 minimum towards student travel costs. Funds must be spent according to the proposal budget and [Tri-Council eligible expenses](#).
- Applicants are encouraged to seek support from other funding sources and use prudence when allocating funds to travel and accommodations

Deliverables

The following deliverables must be submitted to Mitacs **no later than one month** after the project concludes:

1. A final report that summarizes the project
 - The student is responsible for drafting the final report and securing approval and signatures from the participating supervisors
2. Exit surveys from the:
 - Student
 - Canadian academic supervisor
 - International company
 - International academic supervisor

Frequently Asked Questions

I am a student who is interested in completing a research project abroad. Can Mitacs help me find a company?

Applicants are responsible for identifying their own project partners. However, interested candidates should contact Diku at noram@diku.no for support during the application process.

My Accelerate International Award proposal has been approved. When will the funds be available?

Mitacs forwards funds to the Canadian university upon receipt of the \$7,500 company contribution and all necessary documentation. Please note that policies regarding the distribution of the research grant may vary according to the home university.

Which disciplines are eligible?

All disciplines are eligible.

I am not a graduate student; am I eligible to apply?

The award is only open to graduate students — undergraduates and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible.

Can a postdoctoral fellow at a Canadian university supervise an award recipient?

No, the supervisor must be a faculty member at a [Mitacs Full, Associate or Honorary Partner university](#) and eligible to hold Tri-Council funding.

Can a participating academic supervisor support more than one Accelerate International Award at the same time?

Yes.

How are Accelerate International Award proposals reviewed?

Each proposal is peer-reviewed independently and must meet award standards outlined by Mitacs and Diku.

Although adjudication is approximately six to eight weeks in length, we advise submitting an application at least 16 weeks before the proposed project start date to allow adequate time for travel, accommodation, and pre-departure arrangements.

What status will I have at my home university while I am abroad?

All participants must maintain full-time graduate student status at their Norwegian university during their time abroad. For further inquiries about status, contact your home university.

Who owns any intellectual property generated during a research project?

Intellectual property is shared between the university and their researchers, in accordance with the relevant policies of the home university, unless a separate agreement is negotiated.