



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) ON COLLABORATION IN
TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING**

BETWEEN

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

AND

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany

1. Background

DFG and NSERC (hereinafter collectively as “the Participants” and separately as the “Participant”)

Recognizing that DFG and NSERC have had an Exchange of Letters in place since December 1995, which encourages joint German-Canadian research efforts and the facilitation of movement of researchers and graduate students between Germany and Canada;

Recognizing that both the NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (CREATE) and the DFG International Research Training Groups (IRTG) respectively provide opportunities for the training of teams of high qualified students and postdoctoral fellows in Canada and abroad and joint doctoral training programs between German universities and universities abroad; and

Guided by the desire to further collaborate in supporting training, research, exchange and cooperation by teams of scientists in Germany and Canada,

Have reached the following understanding:

2. Purpose of the MOU

The purpose of this MOU is to provide the framework for collaboration between the IRTG and the CREATE programs. Acting within their respective framework of powers, responsibilities and laws, the Participants will collaborate on funding the training of teams of students and post-doctoral fellows for research programs jointly established and implemented in both Canada and Germany that promote the development of new researchers within the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) disciplines.

3. Research Areas

The collaboration between both countries promotes and furthers the development of new researchers within the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) disciplines. The collaboration may also facilitate interdisciplinary research training that combines the NSE with the social sciences and humanities, or health research, provided that combining the strengths of the various disciplines will lead to greater impact for the trainees. However, the main focus of a proposed project must fall within NSERC's mandate.

4. Eligible research teams

Eligible research teams on the German side shall be defined in the DFG program literature and shall typically be comprised of researchers, doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows at a German university. Likewise, on the Canadian side, eligible research teams shall be defined in the NSERC program literature and shall typically be comprised of researchers, undergraduate students, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at a Canadian university. Non-university institutions on both sides may participate as collaborators. Groups of similar size are preferred.

In keeping with their respective program criteria and policies, NSERC and DFG may consider the following in identifying successful proposals:

- the lead researchers on both the German and the Canadian side of the research team should have strong international reputations;
- the research team should have a strong management structure;
- the research being conducted by the research team should be of high quality with the potential to develop into a German-Canadian center of competence of the highest academic quality;
- participation on the research team must include the acquisition of other professional skills such as leadership, business management, entrepreneurship and communication.

5. Funding

The NSERC CREATE grant may fund eligible research teams in Canada in accordance with the terms and conditions of its grant funding including any NSERC policies and guidelines on the use of funds.

It is mutually understood that DFG and NSERC will provide support to the research training group in their own country. These groups will support researchers and highly qualified people in their own country, as well as cover costs of funding the accommodation of trainees who visit the partner country. It is also mutually understood that each research training group takes the responsibility for providing studentships/fellowships to its students for the duration of their stay

at the partner institution in order to enable them to conduct the research work for the cooperative program in the partner country.

6. Proposal Evaluation Process

6.1 Letters of Intent/Pre-Proposals

- (1) German-Canadian initiatives will first submit an IRTG pre-proposal to DFG. DFG will evaluate these pre-proposals according to its established procedures for Research Training Groups.
- (2) Based on the agencies' competition schedules, NSERC will accept in the spring the successful IRTG pre-proposals as LOI for the CREATE competition.

Once both DFG and NSERC have approved a pre-proposal/LOI, it moves to the full proposal competition for both agencies with a view to funding their respective national components.

6.2 Full Proposals

The joint full proposals would be submitted in parallel to NSERC and DFG by the Canadian and German applicants, respectively. NSERC will accept the application in the format submitted for the IRTG, but could decide to ask the applicant to submit supplemental information if not all the information required for its review or to comply with its policies is contained within the submission to the DFG.

Submissions to DFG should be made early enough to allow for the organization of an on-site-review typically held in the fall. Submissions to NSERC should take place no later than by the CREATE deadline for the respective annual competition, in order to ensure the outcome is not delayed for a full year.

Both parties will independently organize scientific reviews and funding decisions according to their normal procedures, with the aim of making funding decisions by the end of the calendar year (by DFG Grants Committee for Research Training Groups) and the following January, respectively (by NSERC CREATE Committee). If necessary, NSERC may delay its final funding decision until the next DFG Grants Committee meeting.

NSERC and DFG agree to exchange the results of the review and decision process. DFG will therefore provide NSERC with English translations of the on-site review reports and of the minutes from the DFG Grants committee upon availability. The documents shared by the two agencies will comprise the external reviewer reports, the report of on-site review committees and the comments from the selection committees (translated in English if necessary).

Both DFG and NSERC must recommend funding for the proposal for the international initiative to be successful.

6.3 On-site Reviews

DFG may organize on-site reviews for full proposals in accordance with the guidelines for Research Training Groups. It is understood that an on-site review for the Canadian portion of the proposal is not required. However, on-site visits in Canada may be agreed upon in special cases (e.g. if the research program would require extensive field research in Canada).

DFG may include Canadian experts in its review panels for on-site reviews where appropriate and accept recommendations for participation of particular reviewers identified by NSERC.

DFG may reimburse the travel cost of the reviewers, including the cost for a Canadian reviewer traveling to Germany. NSERC staff may participate in the DFG on-site review if feasible, practical and worthwhile, with NSERC covering its own travel costs.

6.4 Reporting and Renewal

Research teams funded by NSERC will be asked to submit an annual financial report on the usage of funds and to participate in surveys (number of funded candidates, countries of origin, gender ratio etc.).

Research teams will provide a mid-term report to NSERC after three years and must provide a formal report, as part of the renewal application, to the DFG after four-and-a-half years. These may be evaluated to determine future investments in the research training program. NSERC may provide DFG the outcome of the committee's evaluation of the mid-term reports subject to applicable laws.

In the event of termination of NSERC the Canadian research team component may continue to be funded by other sources (e.g. intramural) to obtain the necessary complementary funding for the IRTG. DFG will take such termination into account when considering the renewal proposal of the IRTG

7. Security Policy, Retention, Access to Information and Privacy

All personal information about the candidates (i.e. application materials, information derived from these documents in any format or medium) is provided only for the purpose of evaluating and selecting proposals and must not be used or disclosed for any other purpose. Applicants will agree that information will be shared between NSERC and DFG, for the purposes described. Reviewers will agree that their reports will be shared between NSERC and DFG, and will acknowledge that their identities may not be protected outside of their country. Grantees, reviewers and each funding agency will respect the security, retention, confidentiality, access to information and privacy laws and policies of their respective countries.

8. Promotion of collaboration

DFG and NSERC agree to actively promote the collaboration to eligible universities and to deploy all appropriate measures for the information of applicants and the announcement of results.

9. Authorities

Germany:

Project Authority: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kleiner, President, DFG

Project Manager: Dr. Sebastian Granderath, Research Careers

Canada:

Project Authority: Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President, NSERC

Project Manager: Teresa Jurewicz, Team Leader, Innovative Collaborations and Science Promotion

This MOU will come into effect on the date of signature and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. It may be amended or renewed upon the mutual consent of the Participants. Either Participant may terminate this MOU at any time by providing the other Participant with six (6) months written notice.

The amendment or termination of this MOU will not affect activities already in progress at the time of the amendment or termination of the MOU.

Done at February this 7th day of February 2011.

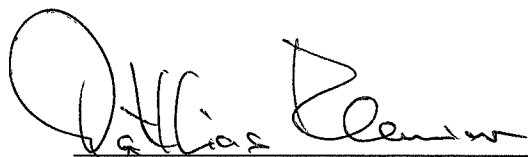
For the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

(DFG)

For the Natural Sciences and Engineering

Research Council

of Canada (NSERC)



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kleiner
Germany



Dr. Suzanne Fortier
Canada