Project initiation program 2026-2027
Participation in the emergence of collaborative and cross-sector projects

The Réseau québécois sur l'énergie intelligente (RQEI) is composed of a diverse group of researchers, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and research staff from universities and colleges. Located throughout Québec, these institutions have their own technical teams and research infrastructure. One of RQEI's objectives is to facilitate collaboration between its research teams, share infrastructure and promote their achievements in Québec, Canada and internationally.

The program aims to provide funding to be used as a strategic lever to support the creation of research chairs, programs requiring complementary funding or promising projects in terms of new collaborations between regular RQEI research members. It is designed to encourage the emergence of collaborative and cross-sector projects in each of RQEI's research areas, while contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge. This type of funding can also be used to prepare the first phase of a project. Inter-institutional and inter-level projects are encouraged.

Particular attention will be paid to the processing of applications to promote equity in the allocation of funds among research teams and across the three RQEI research areas. Applications must involve at least two RQEI co-researcher members. New collaborations between members will be encouraged. Funding awarded under a previous competition does not guarantee subsequent funding; any new application must present distinct objectives, a new phase or a clearly demonstrated added value.

Funding objectives:

1. Support collaboration among RQEI members.
2. Promote the development and exchange of expertise within RQEI.
3. Help develop relationships among RQEI member institutions.
4. Contribute to the training of RQEI member teams.
5. Promote the research work of RQEI members in Canada and internationally.

Requirements:

1. Applications must involve at least two RQEI co-researcher members.
2. The project must be in line with RQEI's scientific program (https://www.rqei.ca/recherche/).
3. The project must meet at least two funding objectives.
4. Only one application will be considered per beneficiary/principal applicant for the duration of the program.

Funding:

1. Up to $45,000 per project, of which at least 50% must be dedicated to financial support for graduate students and/or bursaries/salaries for postdoctoral fellows working on the project. Total 2026-2027 envelope: $135,000, subject to availability and until the envelope is exhausted.

Evaluation procedure:

1. Suitability of the project for RQEI research programming.
2. Relevance of the project to the pooling of RQEI members' expertise and infrastructure.
3. Relevance of activities to the development of new professional collaborations within RQEI.
4. Leverage potential for a subsequent funding application and expected outcomes, without constituting automatic continuation funding.
5. Evaluation by experts from an external evaluation bank, with declaration and management of conflicts of interest.

Planning:

1. Program launch: 6 September 2026.
2. Application deadline: 13 November 2026.
3. Announcement of results: December 2026.
4. Receipt of funding: announcement of results + 2 to 6 weeks.
5. End of project: January 2028 (reporting and results).

Application procedure:

Applicants must submit the completed form and any document that can support the application (team presentation, previous work, current or future complementary funding, timeline, budget, figures or appendices) in a single PDF document. Documents must be sent by e-mail to rqei@uqtr.ca. The e-mail subject line should read: "RQEI2026-PROG_AMORCAGE" followed by a space and your last name in upper case.

In case of discrepancy or uncertainty regarding the English translation, please refer to the French version or contact the RQEI team. The RQEI team reserves the right to modify this program without prior notice. Applicants should always ensure that they are consulting the most recent version.

INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE FUNDING APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Funding application form

For RQEI use - request number

1. Project title

2. Project summary

Plain-language project : summary, objectives, approach and expected outcomes (approximately 300 words maximum).

3. Project duration

Start date (jj/mm/aaaa)	End date (jj/mm/aaaa)

4. Applicant identification

Main RQEI research area: ☐ AXE 1 ☐ AXE 2 ☐ AXE 3

Institution name

Co-researcher member of RQEI

Last name First name	*Phone*	*E-mail*

Institution name

Co-researcher member of RQEI

Last name First name	*Phone*	*E-mail*

Institution name

Co-researcher member of RQEI

Last name First name	*Phone*	*E-mail*

Institution name

Co-researcher member of RQEI

Last name First name	*Phone*	*E-mail*

5. Project description

What is the project about? What are the expected results? Which research area does this project fit into? How is the project organized? What are the roles of the applicants and their teams? Does this project involve students? Has this project already received funding? Will the results be used in another funding application?

Please specify whether there has been any collaboration between the institutions on the same research topic, whether the authors have previously published together, and whether a junior lecturer will be receiving the funding.

5. Project description (continued)

Continuation of the project description.

5. Project description (continued)

Continuation of the project description.

Bibliographic references (Section 5)

Please list the references cited in the project description here.

6. Budget and timeline

Indicate the main budget items, the institutions involved and the share of funding dedicated to students or postdoctoral fellows.
A detailed budget may be attached as an appendix.

Budget item	Amount requested	Institution	Justification

HQP threshold check (50%)

Total amount dedicated to students / postdoctoral fellows: $

Timeline and deliverables

Current or planned complementary funding; The allocation of financial support from the RQEI amongst institutions for the drafting of agreements between researchers.

7. Commitment of applicants

1. I certify that the information provided in this form and in any other document supporting this application is true and accurate.
2. I certify that this application for financial assistance and, where applicable, the granting of financial assistance under RQEI funding programs do not involve any real, potential or apparent conflict of interest.
3. I undertake to inform RQEI, in writing and without delay, of any real, potential or apparent conflict of interest related to this application, its evaluation or the implementation of the project.
4. I undertake to carry out the project as approved and to request RQEI approval for any substantial modification.
5. I undertake to use the funds in accordance with the applicable rules of the FRQ, the managing institution and RQEI.
6. I undertake to acknowledge RQEI support in any public communication concerning the project and to inform RQEI of the use of its name and logo.
7. I authorize RQEI to disseminate a non-confidential summary of the project and related content on its platforms.
8. I agree to present the project results to RQEI and to provide the required scientific and financial reports at the end of the project.

Co-researcher member of RQEI *Last name First name*	*Date (jj/mm/aaaa)*	*Click to sign digitally*
Co-researcher member of RQEI *Last name First name*	*Date (jj/mm/aaaa)*	*Click to sign digitally*
Co-researcher member of RQEI *Last name First name*	*Date (jj/mm/aaaa)*	*Click to sign digitally*
Co-researcher member of RQEI *Last name First name*	*Date (jj/mm/aaaa)*	*Click to sign digitally*

THIS PAGE SHOULD BE SENT NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE PROJECT.

8. Project feedback

Write a report on the project here (approximately 10 to 15 lines) and ideally attach 1 photo for dissemination.

Scientific and financial reporting