

Mitacs Internship FAQs

Answers to industry partner questions

Accelerate or Accelerate Entrepreneur?

Q: My lab is starting a new company and is interested in partnering with Mitacs to hire trainees on internships. Which program would be applicable to our situation, the Accelerate Program or the Accelerate Entrepreneur Program?

A: If the trainee who would be completing the internship is listed as a cofounder of the company, you should apply for the Accelerate Entrepreneur Program. If the trainee is not listed as a cofounder, you should apply through the Accelerate Program.

Benefits for industry partners?

Q: For industry partners, what are the benefits to participating in these programs?

A: These Mitacs programs offer industry partners a great opportunity to try out new talent and build their talent pipeline, at a lower risk since it is not entirely at the partner's expense. Mitacs programs also provide exposure to new ways of thinking and insight into the research currently underway at universities.

Answers to trainee questions

Is funding from other sources allowed?

Q: Is it possible for trainees who hold other funding (such as CIHR or NSERC awards) to receive a Mitacs internship?

A: While there are no specific conditions preventing trainees who hold other funding from applying, it is required that Mitacs interns work full-time on their internship projects. This could be problematic, depending on the source and requirements of the other funding. The best practice is to contact the other sources of funding prior to pursuing an internship to determine the specific time commitments and requirements.

Can I apply to both the Accelerate and Elevate programs?

Q: As a Postdoctoral Fellow (PDF), can I apply to both the Accelerate and the Elevate Programs, one after the other?

A: The short answer is yes, as long as the total time spent in all Mitacs Programs is three years or less for the PDF.

The Accelerate Program has a rolling deadline, and a PDF can be in the Accelerate Program for up to three years. Accelerate is great for kickstarting partnerships.

The Elevate Program is two years in length and is great for partnerships that are already well-developed. Once a PDF has received Elevate funding, they are no longer eligible for Accelerate funding.

You could apply to the Accelerate Program first for a year in order to build the partnership. Then, if it is working well, you could apply for the two-year Elevate Program.

How long after graduating am I eligible to apply?

Q: As a PDF, how long after graduating with my PhD will I be eligible for these Mitacs programs?

A: While it is preferred that PDFs apply within five years after completing their PhD, the program managers understand that sometimes “life happens” and are willing to take into consideration special circumstances, such as maternity leave, sick leave, or military service. If you graduated more than five years ago but believe that you have circumstances that should be considered regarding your eligibility, contact a Mitacs representative.

Do I have to re-apply for each new unit?

Q: I am interested in completing a year-long internship, which would amount to three Mitacs internship units. However, the partner that I would be working with can only commit to one internship unit at a time. Do I have to reapply for each new internship unit?

A: Contact your Mitacs representative to discuss applying for the three internship units simultaneously, with the understanding that after each four-month time period, that is, the end of each unit, there will be an evaluation to confirm whether or not funding should continue.

Accelerate Program timeline?

Q: What is the timeline for applying to the Accelerate Program?

A: The Accelerate Program is open to applicants year-round. After your application is submitted, the peer-review process typically takes 6-8 weeks.

Can non-Canadians apply?

Q: Are trainees who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada eligible to apply for Mitacs Internships or Fellowships?

A: Yes! As long as they are listed as a full-time PDF or student at a Canadian university or college.

Benefits for interns?

Q: For an intern, what are the top value-added benefits of participating in these programs?

A: Networking, seeing things from different perspectives, and keeping the doors open to future career opportunities in academia and/or industry.

What else?

Overall, the Mitacs Programs aim to provide flexibility, so that these programs work for you. The Mitacs team is always happy to have a conversation to assist you in figuring out what opportunities and adjustments will work for your situation.