Championing Global Innovation

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Canada’s strong economic indicators

As a country, Canada’s economic performance is strong and the foundation of our economy is solid.

But, like many countries, we have challenges translating these assets into increased productivity and growth through innovation.
Canada’s innovation paradox

Between 1985 and 2018, Canada slipped from 90% of US labour productivity levels to 76%
Canada’s innovation paradox

At the same time, Canada punches above our weight on university R&D — but it doesn’t get commercialized

BERD*: Canada as a percent of the United States (1981–2017)

*Business Expenditures on Research & Development
The innovation paradox is not just a Canadian issue

OECD average BERD* is only 82% of the US > which means many other countries face similar challenges.

* Business Expenditures on Research & Development
What must we do?

As the world moves towards digitization and automation, Canada is leading the way to:

• capitalize on our advantages to drive innovative thinking that creates high-value, specialized jobs; and

• ensure Canadians have the skills and training to seize these new opportunities

This requires both a domestic and an international approach
How Mitacs helps achieve those goals

Mitacs powers Research & Development by connecting industry with the best post-secondary institutions to solve business challenges — in Canada and internationally.

• Funded by the federal and provincial governments, we drive research and innovation by building global research networks to boost international collaboration

• We nurture the next generation by training graduate students for their academic/industry research careers
Our impact

10,000 internships in 2019–20
20+ years in operation
35,000+ research projects

67 post-secondary partners in Canada
6,000+ company partners
$700+M invested in the last 10 years
Why international?

Canada must innovate to improve productivity and support economic growth across the country.

- Lacks the capacity to support this growth on its own
- Small population and large geographic size are barriers
- Historic economic reliance on natural resources
- Prevalence of small companies

To address these challenges, international engagement with like minded partners is an essential part of growing Canada’s domestic innovation capacity.

Mitacs international programs have evolved over time to meet a range of needs within Canada’s innovation ecosystem.
Our international approach

Mitacs promotes and enables international research collaborations in all disciplines with strategic partners by implementing bilateral international research mobility programs.

- Expanded research networks & relationships
- Increased economic output & competitiveness
- Access all Canadian partner organizations
- Talent & knowledge development
Our programs
This year, Mitacs will fund over 10,000 national and international research internships representing over $140 million in funding.
Mitacs Accelerate

Research collaborations via internship modules

Funding from $15,000 to multi-million $* and is co-funded by Mitacs and industry partner

We support all disciplines and sectors; open to small-, medium-, and large-scale projects

Quick, simple application process

Applications evaluated by external experts

Decision within 6-8 weeks

High application success rate (>95% )

* All figures in Can$
Mitacs Accelerate

Accelerate International

Two-way mobility between Canada and partner countries

Four-to-six-month research projects > valued at $15K
Mitacs Globalink

- Provides funding for international research collaborations in Canada and abroad, with universities and research institutions
- Showcases Canadian research landscape to international students
- Supports international research abroad for students in Canada
Research Mobility as a Platform for Connecting Innovation Ecosystems

Mitacs expands GRA program and includes partners from Brazil (CAPES), Germany (DAAD) and France (Campus France)

First cohort of students from India arrives in Canada in 2009 under the GRI program
Globalink

There are three programs under the Globalink umbrella: GRA, GRI, and GGF

- Globalink Research Award: 12- to 24-week research project between university partners in different countries; receives a $6K research grant

- Globalink Research Internship: 12-week summer research project in Canada; valued at $12K

- Globalink Graduate Fellowship: Globalink Research Interns who return to Canada for research-based graduate studies; valued at $15K
Globalink Research Awards & MSCA RISE

• Co-funding by Mitacs to participate in Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges (RISE), part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

• Graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in Canada may receive funding through the Mitacs Globalink Research Award, or through the Mitacs Accelerate International program

• Conduct research projects at universities and businesses in the EU Member States
Mitacs Entrepreneur International

Building a network of international accelerators and incubators

Travel grants of up to $5,000

Canadian start-ups can explore new opportunities in international markets

Start-ups must be housed in Canadian university-linked incubators
Our international partners
Thanks to our funding partners
Thank you for your interest

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