

RISE to the CHALLENGE

Research Inspired Student Enrichment
2026–2027 Awards Guidelines

Newfoundland & Labrador

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Research Inspired Student Enrichment (RISE) Awards provide Newfoundland and Labrador high school students with the opportunity to attend research-related enrichment programs focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Through these awards, the Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development (JGRD) and the Innovation and Business Investment Corporation recognize the need for early development of the talent required to advance Research and Development (R&D), innovation and economic growth.

Successful applicants will attend one of three summer enrichment programs in 2027:

- Research Science Institute (RSI) is a partnership between the Center for Excellence in Education (CEE), a not-for-profit organization based in McLean, Virginia, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which offers a six-week summer enrichment program in the Boston, Massachusetts area, emphasizing advanced theory and research in STEM fields. This program introduces students to the entire research process, from literature review to experimental design and analysis.
- The University of Toronto (U of T) offers two streams of programming. Da Vinci Engineering Program (DEEP) is a four-week program, which offers pre-university engineering and science enrichment and research project design opportunities. CREATE, also a four-week program, offers immersive engineering design challenges and engaging research opportunities. RISE recipients accepted to U of T may be selected to attend either program, at the University's discretion.
- Boston Leadership Institute (BLI) is a three-week program held in Wellesley, Massachusetts offering STEM research programs taught by top educators and researchers. Ranked among the top five summer science enrichment programs in the United States, this program provides students with an opportunity to develop high-level research skills and subject matter expertise through lectures, presentations and hands-on experiments.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the RISE Awards is to expose Newfoundland and Labrador high school students to innovation and research activities at an early stage in their education. Exposure to research programs assists students to consider career paths in STEM.

ELIGIBILITY

Current Level II students attending high school in Newfoundland and Labrador are eligible to apply for these awards. Students must meet the following criteria to be considered for an award:

- Minimum 90% overall average in Level 1
- Minimum 90% average across all STEM courses completed in Level 1
- Minimum of eight (8) credits in science and mathematics courses to be completed by the end of 2026-2027 academic year (Level II), including those completed in Level I

Confirmation of enrollment in at least eight (8) credits in science and mathematics courses by the end of Level II will be required via a copy of your official 2025-2026 (Level I) transcript issued by the Department of Education or a PDF copy of your transcript generated by PowerSchool is acceptable. A copy of registered courses for the 2026-2027 academic year is required and can either be certified by a school administrator or a PDF copy of your course enrollment generated by PowerSchool is also acceptable.

Beyond the general eligibility criteria specified, applicants being considered for a RSI award will be subject to a more stringent screening process, due to the demanding nature of the RSI curriculum. If RSI is indicated as the applicant's first choice of program, then the following criteria will be used:

- Minimum of 12 credits in science and mathematics courses to be completed by the end of the 2026-2027 academic year (Level II), including those completed in Level I

Note: Applicants must be in a position to travel to the supported enrichment program, including having a valid passport for travel outside Canada or be able to obtain a B-2 Tourism Visa for the US (**travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html**). Fees and travel required to obtain the B-2 Tourism Visa are the responsibility of the applicant. Applicants must be a Canadian Citizen and/or have permanent residence status in Newfoundland and Labrador.





2027 RISE AWARDS

OBLIGATIONS

Applicants are responsible for ensuring their awareness of the program requirements independent of, and in addition to, the application to JGRD.

Please note:
RISE award recipients will be required to complete all registration paperwork required by the program, and make independent travel arrangements. Program registration fees and accommodation costs however will be handled by JGRD for all students who receive a RISE award. Travel stipends will be provided for travel expenses.

Applicants indicating RSI as their first choice should be aware of the additional requirements of attending the RSI program, which may include supplemental advanced reading material and coursework.

Students attending U of T (DEEP/CREATE) programs will be responsible for registering for STEM research based curriculum courses.

AWARD STRUCTURE AND LEVEL OF SUPPORT

A maximum of 20 awards will be approved under this program, with a maximum of one (1) placement to RSI. The remaining students may be selected to attend either BLI or U of T (DEEP/CREATE) programs.

Applicants are required to rank the enrichment programs in order of preference, but program selection will be based on availability. As such, there is no guarantee that the first choice will be offered.

Registration fees will be paid directly to the enrichment program by JGRD and will cover full tuition and living expenses, including accommodations and most meals. Successful applicants will receive a travel/expenses stipend to cover travel expenses to and from the enrichment program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application package must include the following four (4) documents in PDF format:

- Completed application form
- Copy of the applicant's official 2025-2026 (Level I) transcript issued by the Department of Education
- Copy of registered courses for the 2026-2027 academic year certified by the school administrator
- Essay detailing personal goals, achievements, and aspirations.
  See Essay section of guidelines for more information.

A complete application package must be submitted electronically to RiseAwards@gov.nl.ca by 11:59 p.m. NST on December 11, 2026.
Note: Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

RISE AWARDS

Essay

Essays should describe your preparedness for the enrichment program and potential interest in Research and Development. What in your background has prepared you to attend an enrichment program? (Maximum 500 word response). **Please note your name and school at the top of the essay.**

The following considerations are relevant and should be included:

- Previously completed enrichment programs
- Relevant work/volunteer experience
- Science Fair Participation
- Other relevant Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics activities
- Future study, career and research interests, and how those interests are relevant to Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Plans for after high school and beyond

Applications will be assessed based on academic achievement and essay. Academic achievement includes the overall average in Level I, grades in completed mathematics and science courses in Level I, and the level and number of mathematics and sciences courses to be completed by the end of Level II.

DISBURSEMENT

Following successful award notification by JGRD, RISE Award recipients will be required to apply directly to the BLI or U of T (DEEP/CREATE) enrichment programs they have been selected for, using the submission procedures and timelines required by the respective programs. The RSI successful applicant will require nomination by JGRD prior to applying for that program.

JGRD will disburse the registration fees for each program directly to RSI, U of T (DEEP/CREATE), or BLI, where applicable.

The travel/expenses stipend will be disbursed to the successful applicant. Prior to disbursement of the travel/expenses stipend, JGRD will require confirmation of acceptance in the enrichment program.

For more information about the RISE program or to submit an application, please contact:

RISE Awards
RiseAwards@gov.nl.ca
gov.nl.ca/riseawards

