2015 Competition Statistics
Discovery Grants (DG) and Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) Programs

This report includes tables and figures that provide summary information on the 2015 Discovery Grants and Research Tool and Instruments Competitions. More detailed statistics are also included in this document.

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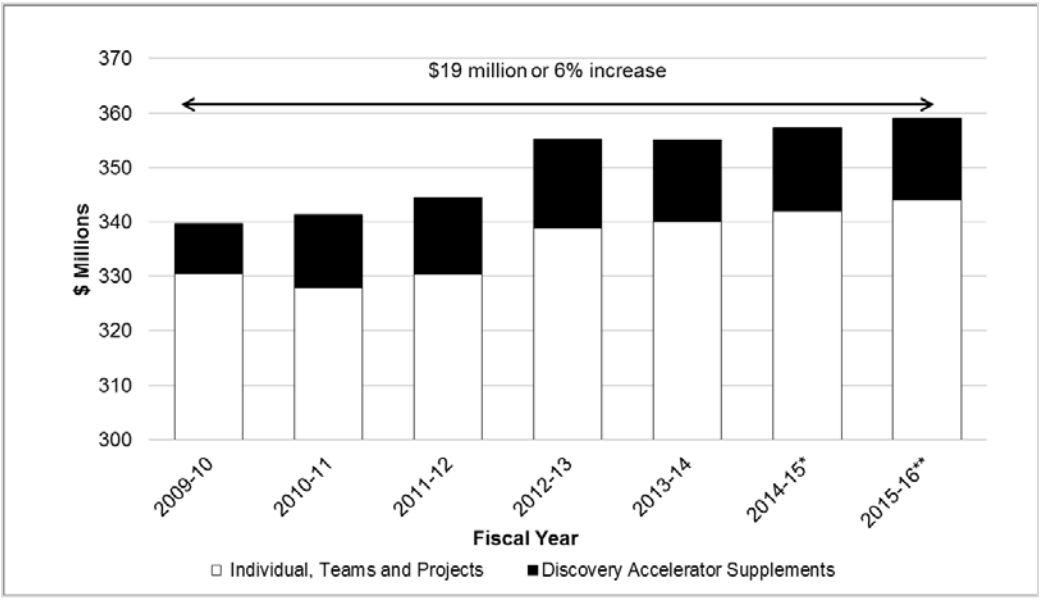
SECTION 1 – FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS

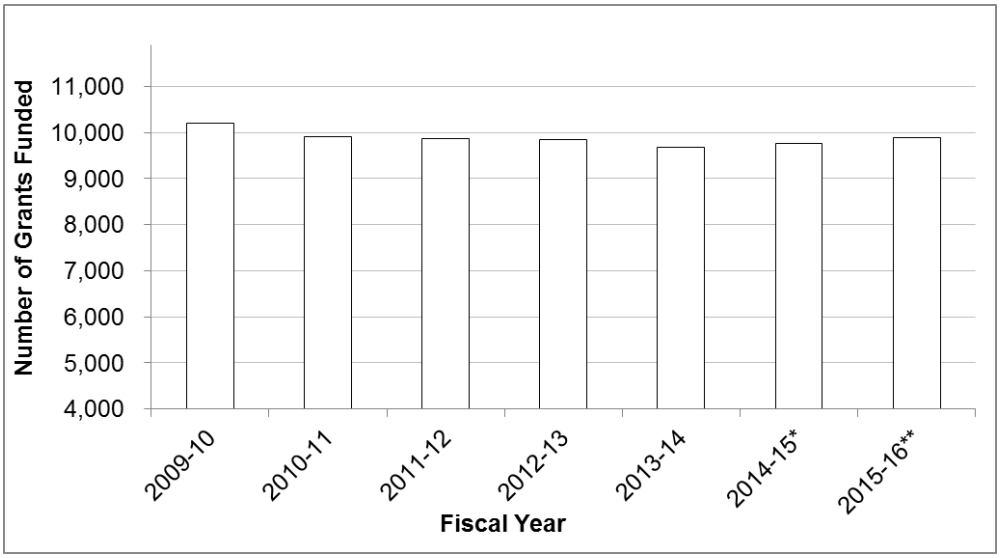
This section presents data on a fiscal year basis and is inclusive of ongoing installments.

Figure 1 Expenditures in the Discovery Grants Program Elements, 2009-10 to 2015-16**



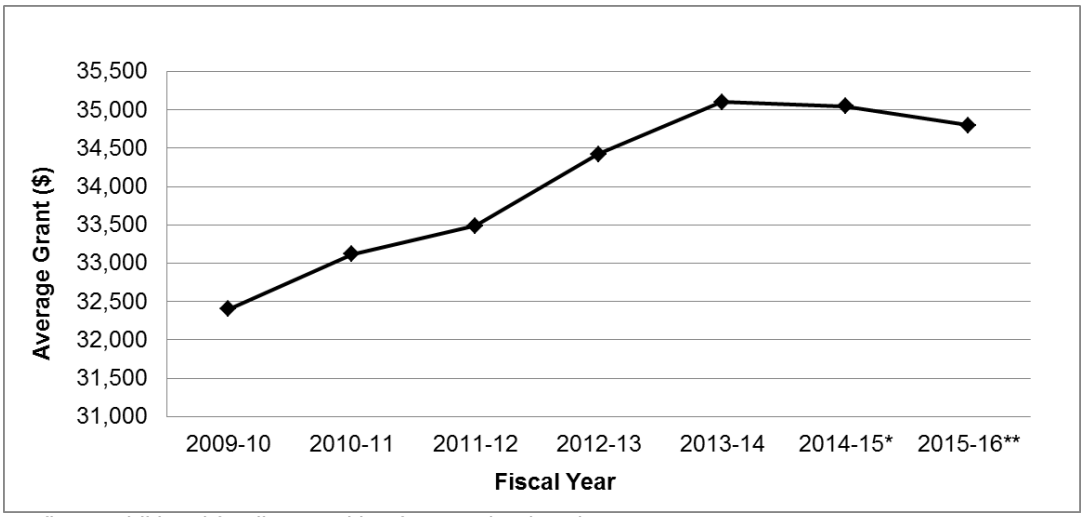
*Includes additional funding received resulting from Federal Budget 2014
**Projected Expenditures for 2015-16

Figure 2 Number of Grants Funded through Individual and Team Discovery Grants (including those in Subatomic Physics) and Subatomic Physics Projects, 2009-10 to 2015-16**



*Reflects additional funding resulting from Federal Budget 2014
**Projected Numbers of Grants for 2015-16

Figure 3 **Average Grant for Individual and Team Discovery Grants (including those in Subatomic Physics) and Subatomic Physics Projects, 2009-10 to 2015-16****



*Reflects additional funding resulting from Federal Budget 2014
**Projected Average for 2015-16

SECTION 2 – COMPETITION STATISTICS

For the 2015 DG competition, the total awarded amount for Discovery and Subatomic Physics (Individual and Team) Grants was $67.2 million. The number of DG applications in 2015 was 3,219. Going into the competition, there were 1,664 renewal applicants who held grants of, on average, $35,705; after the competition, there are 2,092 funded researchers, at an average grant level of $32,132.

NSERC continued to put a strong emphasis on giving early career researchers (ECR) a chance to demonstrate their potential and exceeded the minimum target success rate of 50 percent recommended in the International Review of the DG Program. In *Budget 2011*, NSERC was allocated additional funding "to support outstanding research in the natural sciences and engineering fields, such as the Strategy for Partnerships and Innovation (SPI)." NSERC is devoting half of this money to enhance the DGs of ECRs in the form of supplements to their grants. These supplements, of a value of up to $5,000 per year, are included in the awarded amount and reflected in the following statistics.

Table 1 Overall Comparative Statistics 2015 Discovery Grants Competition[1]

Data[1]	Success Rate	Average Grant ($)
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	65%	$26,191
Established Researchers (ER)		
Renewing their grant (ER-R)	82%	$35,109
Not Holding a Grant[2] (ER-NHG)	38%	$26,756

1. Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics (Individual and Team) Grants, but excludes the Subatomic Physics Projects. It cannot therefore be compared with data presented in Figure 3.
2. Includes returning established unfunded applicants and experienced researchers submitting a first application

Figure 4 Distribution of Grant Levels to Successful Applicants, 2015 Competition

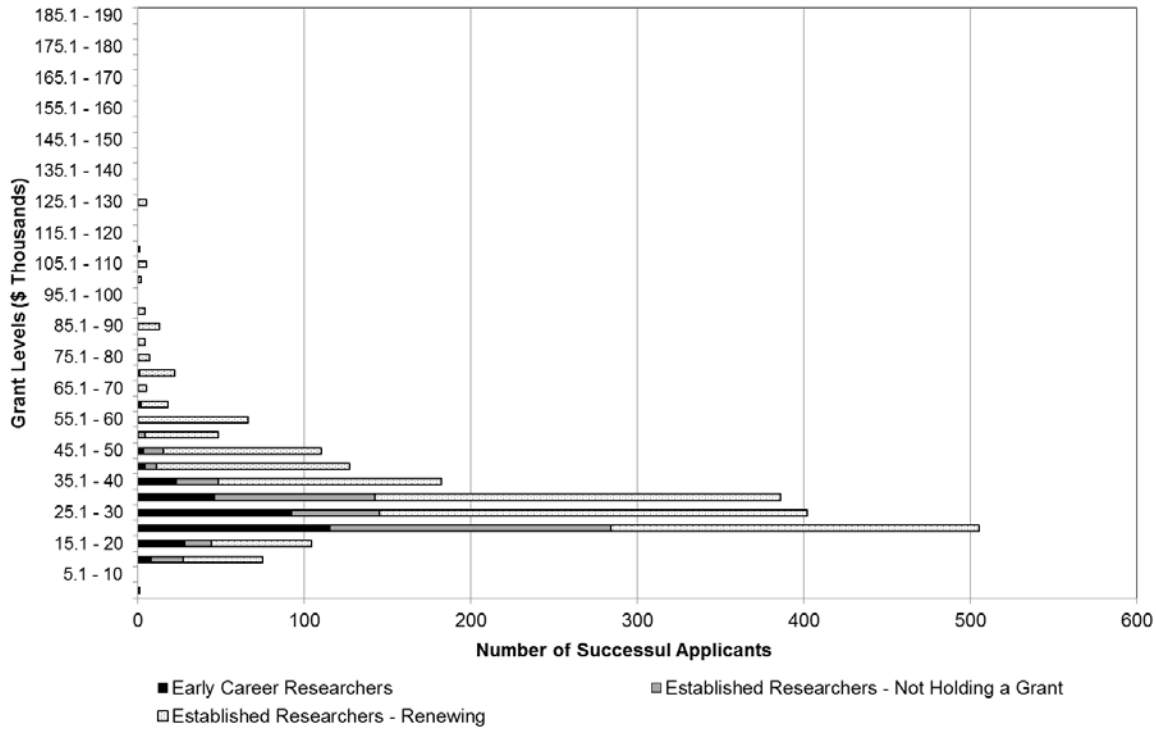
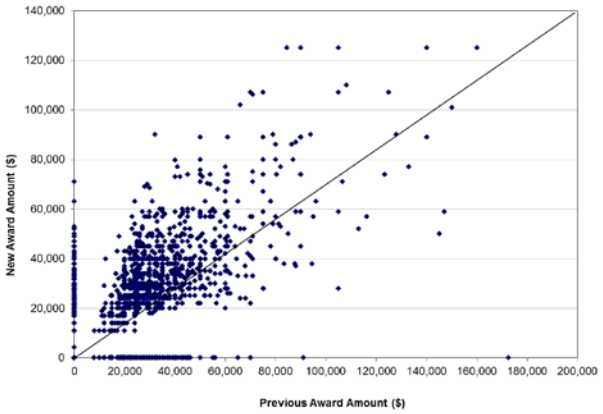


Figure 5 Change in Grant Level, 2015 Competition

a) All Established Researchers



b) Established Researchers – First Renewal

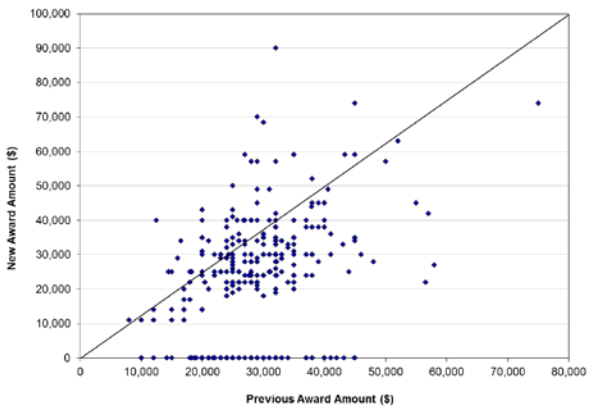


Figure 6 **Percentage Change in Grant Level for Established Researchers Renewing a Grant, 2015 Competition**

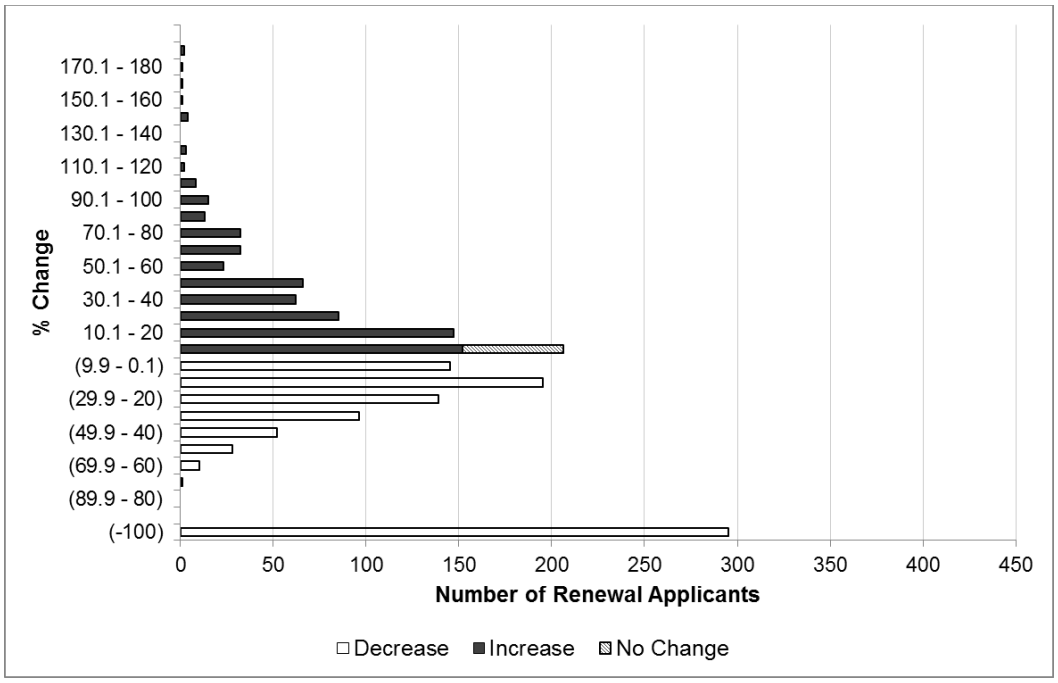
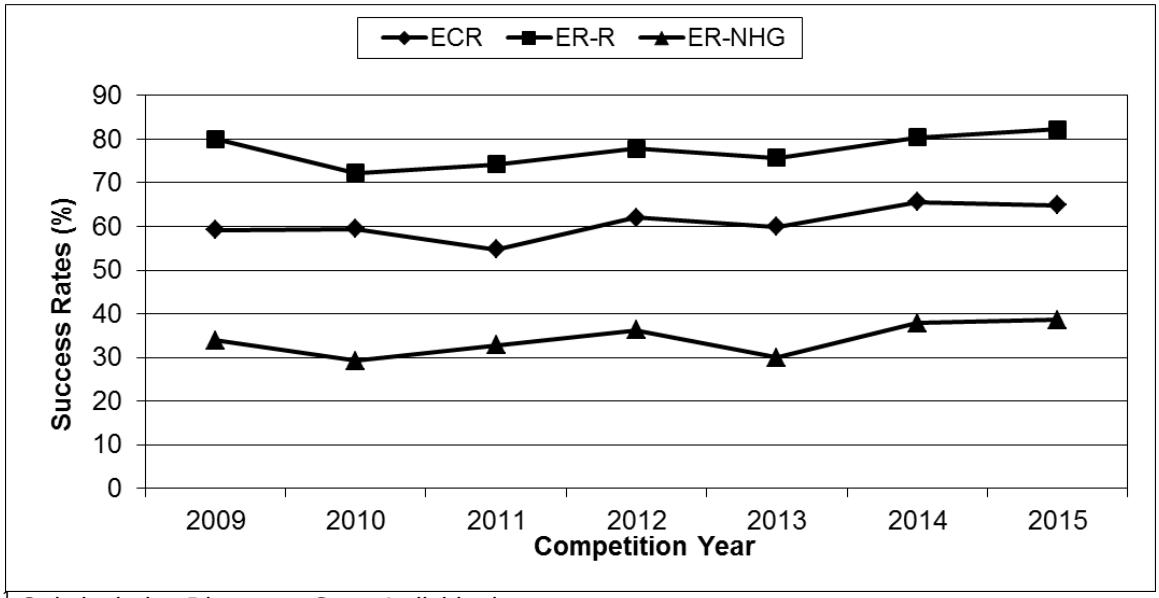


Figure 7 **Success Rate[1] by Category of Individual Applicants, Competition Years 2009-15**



[1] Only includes Discovery Grant Individual

Note: Success rate for 2014 has not been adjusted to reflect additional funding resulting from Federal Budget.

Table 2 Number of Applications and Awards by Category of Applicants, 2009-15

Competition Year	Number of Applications[1]				Number of Awards[1]			
	ECR	*ER-R*	*ER-NHG*	*Total*	*ECR*	*ER-R*	*ER-NHG*	*Total*
2009	503	1,850	819	3,172	298	1,481	278	2,057
2010	513	1,864	902	3,279	305	1,348	264	1,917
2011	457	1,835	1,137	3,429	250	1,363	373	1,986
2012	480	1,848	1,102	3,430	298	1,438	399	2,135
2013	474	1,853	1,128	3,455	284	1,404	338	2,026
2014	427	1,647	1,060	3,134	280	1,324	401	2,005
2015	489	1,632	1,038	3,159	317	1,342	400	2,059

[1] Only includes Discovery Grant Individual

Note: Number of award for 2014 has not been adjusted to reflect additional funding resulting from Federal Budget.

Table 3 Discovery Grants[1] Competition Results by University (including Affiliated University Research Centers), 2015 Competition

	Early Career Researchers			Established Researchers - Renewing			Established Researchers - Not Holding a Grant		
Universities	**Success Rate (%)**	**Total Awarded ($)**	**Average Grant ($)**	**Success Rate (%)**	**Total Awarded ($)**	**Average Grant ($)**	**Success Rate (%)**	**Total Awarded ($)**	**Average Grant ($)**
Acadia University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Algoma University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Athabasca University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bishop's University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Brandon University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
British Columbia Institute of Technology	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Brock University	*	*	*	83%	277,000	27,700	38%	70,000	23,333
Cape Breton University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carleton University	67%	206,000	25,750	83%	708,400	28,336	28%	103,000	20,600
Centre de recherche informatique de Montréal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Centre for Cold Ocean Resources Engineering	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Concordia University	89%	221,000	27,625	76%	906,868	25,911	35%	126,000	21,000
Dalhousie University	54%	193,700	27,671	75%	1,023,000	31,000	48%	358,000	25,571
École de technologie supérieure	67%	137,000	22,833	70%	245,000	35,000	22%	101,000	25,250
École Polytechnique de Montréal	*	*	*	79%	1,082,000	32,788	43%	70,000	23,333
Grant MacEwan University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
HEC Montréal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Institut national de la recherche scientifique	*	*	*	100%	466,000	35,846	67%	120,000	30,000
Lakehead University	67%	92,000	23,000	38%	156,000	52,000	14%	62,000	31,000
Laurentian University	*	*	*	50%	96,000	32,000	20%	65,000	21,667
McGill University	80%	564,000	28,200	82%	3,174,000	38,707	41%	528,000	29,333
McMaster University	33%	76,000	25,333	88%	2,121,500	40,028	54%	401,000	28,643
Memorial University of Newfoundland	81%	312,000	24,000	67%	471,000	26,167	36%	222,000	22,200
Mount Allison University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mount Royal University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mount Saint Vincent University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nipissing University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
OCAD University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Queen's University	70%	201,000	28,714	85%	1,309,000	37,400	20%	88,000	29,333
Royal Military College of Canada	*	*	*	*	*	*	15%	42,000	21,000
Royal Roads University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ryerson University	67%	107,000	26,750	68%	618,000	26,870	27%	166,000	23,714
Saint Mary's University	*	*	*	63%	181,470	36,294	17%	20,000	20,000
Simon Fraser University	88%	196,000	28,000	84%	1,528,000	40,211	19%	69,000	23,000
St. Francis Xavier University	*	*	*	*	*	*	50%	70,000	23,333
Télé-université	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
The King's University College (Edmonton)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
The University of British Columbia	69%	295,000	26,818	90%	3,502,000	38,911	53%	841,000	30,036
The University of Western Ontario	61%	317,000	28,818	89%	1,913,540	34,170	49%	519,000	30,529
The University of Winnipeg	*	*	*	88%	199,000	28,429	0%	0	N/A
Thompson Rivers University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trent University	*	*	*	67%	130,000	32,500	*	*	*
Trinity Western University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TRIUMF	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Université de Moncton	*	*	*	*	*	*	0%	0	N/A
Université de Montréal	44%	195,080	24,385	84%	1,917,753	37,603	50%	459,172	24,167
Université de Sherbrooke	*	*	*	82%	1,035,500	36,982	50%	319,000	26,583
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	*	*	*	71%	126,000	25,200	0%	0	N/A
Université du Québec à Montréal	*	*	*	78%	411,000	29,357	25%	44,000	22,000
Université du Québec à Rimouski	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	57%	103,000	25,750	67%	112,000	28,000	27%	81,000	27,000
Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Université du Québec en Outaouais	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Université Laval	63%	463,000	27,235	88%	2,138,000	36,862	25%	303,000	33,667
University of Alberta	70%	348,000	24,857	85%	3,043,557	34,983	44%	693,000	28,875
University of Calgary	70%	477,000	25,105	80%	1,976,000	35,927	40%	524,000	27,579
University of Guelph	71%	141,000	28,200	85%	1,465,170	35,736	37%	274,600	27,460
University of Lethbridge	*	*	*	79%	406,000	36,909	67%	126,000	21,000
University of Manitoba	73%	368,000	23,000	81%	1,202,000	30,821	26%	198,000	22,000
University of New Brunswick	*	*	*	64%	458,000	28,625	38%	133,000	22,167
University of Northern British Columbia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
University of Ontario Institute of Technology	*	*	*	67%	211,000	26,375	21%	82,000	20,500
University of Ottawa	68%	375,850	25,057	78%	1,229,000	31,513	34%	275,000	25,000
University of Prince Edward Island	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
University of Regina	50%	69,780	23,260	63%	156,000	31,200	27%	77,000	19,250
University of Saskatchewan	18%	64,000	32,000	72%	850,312	30,368	50%	431,714	28,781
University of the Fraser Valley	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
University of Toronto	78%	943,000	30,419	88%	5,020,580	42,911	56%	1,395,000	29,681
University of Victoria	*	*	*	86%	888,000	37,000	44%	91,000	22,750
University of Waterloo	88%	535,000	25,476	93%	2,876,525	33,841	52%	419,000	26,188
University of Windsor	*	*	*	61%	390,000	35,455	25%	121,000	30,250
Vancouver Island University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wilfrid Laurier University	*	*	*	92%	279,000	23,250	29%	42,000	21,000
York University	73%	193,000	24,125	92%	714,000	32,455	38%	227,000	28,375
Grand Total	**65%**	**8,381,084**	**26,191**	**82%**	**48,028,975**	**35,109**	**38%**	**10,809,486**	**26,756**

[1] Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics Individuals and Team Grants but, excludes Subatomic Physics Projects

* Less than five applications.

Table 4 Statistics by University Size, 2015 Competition

Category of Applicants	Data	University Size		
		Large	Medium	Small
Early Career Researchers	Success Rate	67%	76%	47%
	Total Amount	$5,841,630	$1,561,000	$978,454
	Average Grant	$26,796	$25,177	$24,461
Established Researchers - Renewing	Success Rate	85%	75%	72%
	Total Amount	$39,295,437	$5,426,268	$3,307,270
	Average Grant	$36,656	$29,331	$29,795
Established Researchers - Not Holding a Grant	Success Rate	44%	32%	24%
	Total Amount	$8,256,486	$1,363,000	$1,190,000
	Average Grant	$27,988	$24,339	$22,453

* Updated April 29, 2015

Table 5 Success Rate by Category of Applicants and University Size, 2011-15

	Large					Medium					Small				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Early Career Researchers	59%	66%	64%	70%	67%	57%	64%	58%	62%	76%	34%	48%	43%	48%	47%
Established Researchers - Renewing	78%	81%	80%	83%	85%	52%	72%	69%	74%	75%	55%	63%	57%	63%	72%
Established Researchers - Not Holding a Grant	38%	42%	34%	42%	44%	36%	33%	24%	37%	32%	19%	19%	21%	23%	24%

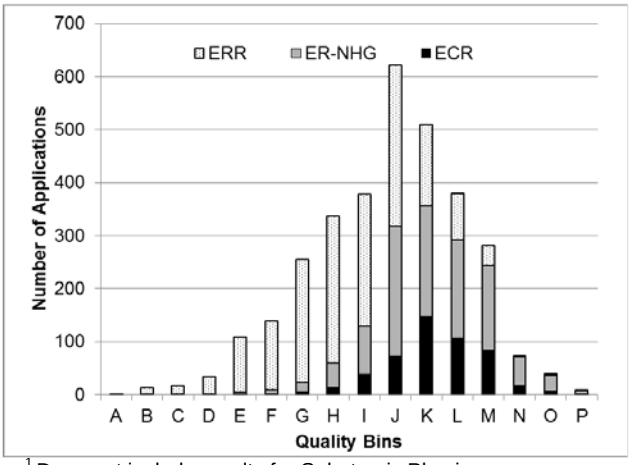
* Updated April 29, 2015

Note: Success rate for 2014 has not been adjusted to reflect additional funding resulting from Federal Budget.

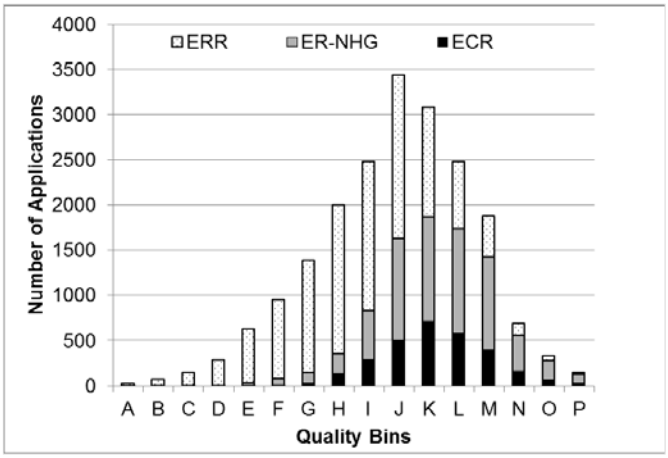
As a result of peer review, applications are placed in 16 “quality bins” based on their merit against the three selection criteria using a six point scale – Excellence of Researcher (EoR), Merit of Proposal (MoP), and Contribution to the Training of High Quality Personnel (HQP). Figure 8 shows the distribution of applications for Early Career Researchers (ECR), Established Researchers Renewing their grant (ER-R), and Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG) at the time of application between 2010 and 2014, and the same distribution for the 2015 competition. Budget permitting, NSERC aims to support Established Researchers to Bin J (which corresponds to ratings of Strong on three criteria or equivalent) and ECR to Bin K or Bin L.

Figure 8 Distribution of Applications[1] by Quality Bin

a) 2015 Competition



b) 2010-2014 Competitions



[1] Does not include results for Subatomic Physics

Note: Distribution of Applications for b) has not been adjusted to reflect additional funding resulting from Federal Budget in 2014.

Table 6 Number of applications[1] by Quality Bins by University Size, 2015 Competition

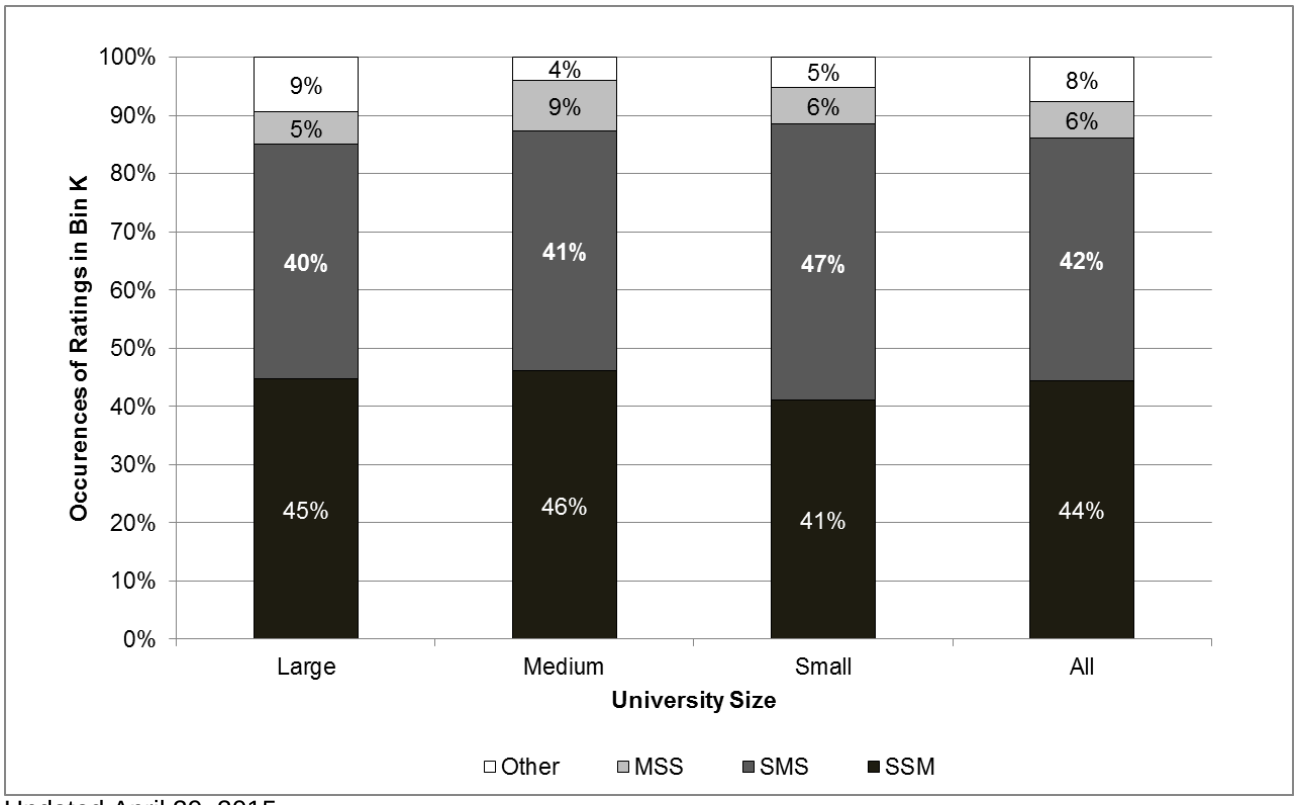
	University Size					
	Large		Medium		Small	
Bin	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
A	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
B	13	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
C	14	0.6%	1	0.2%	2	0.4%
D	33	1.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
E	101	4.5%	7	1.4%	1	0.2%
F	122	5.4%	13	2.6%	4	0.9%
G	209	9.3%	29	5.8%	17	3.8%
H	263	11.7%	48	9.6%	25	5.5%
I	283	12.6%	62	12.4%	33	7.3%
J	430	19.2%	99	19.8%	92	20.3%
K	329	14.7%	102	20.4%	78	17.2%
L	218	9.7%	71	14.2%	90	19.9%
M	158	7.1%	48	9.6%	75	16.6%
N	43	1.9%	13	2.6%	18	4.0%
O	19	0.8%	7	1.4%	13	2.9%
P	5	0.2%	0	0.0%	4	0.9%
Total	2241	100.0%	500	100.0%	453	100.0%

[1]Does not include results from Subatomic Physics

* Updated April 29, 2015

The rating pattern of applications in Bin K, which usually is the first bin not funded for Established Researchers is presented in Figure 9. Bin K generally corresponds to receiving two ratings of Strong and one Moderate. Other combinations – such as a Very Strong, a Strong, and an Insufficient; or two ratings of Moderate and a Very Strong – make up the rest of the cases.

Figure 9 Percentage of Occurrences of Various Combinations of Ratings[1] in Bin K by University Size



Updated April 29, 2015

[1]MSS: Moderate for EoR, Strong for MoP, Strong for HQP
SMS: Strong for EoR, Moderate for MoP, Strong for HQP
SSM: Strong for EoR, Strong for MoP, Moderate for HQP

SECTION 3 – STATISTICS BY EVALUATION GROUP

Table 7 Success Rate, Average Grant and Total Amount Awarded by Category of Applicant for Each Evaluation Group, 2015 Competition

1501 - Genes, Cells and Molecules	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	56%	74%	43%
Average Grant	$34,502	$38,196	$33,329
Total Amount Awarded	$1,518,080	$5,996,753	$3,432,886

1502 - Biological Systems and Functions	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	56%	89%	38%
Average Grant	$30,095	$37,478	$26,494
Total Amount Awarded	$1,595,054	$7,757,900	$1,748,600

1503 - Evolution and Ecology	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	50%	90%	45%
Average Grant	$25,693	$35,732	$25,304
Total Amount Awarded	$359,700	$2,965,760	$582,000

1504 - Chemistry	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	64%	94%	46%
Average Grant	$22,929	$53,383	$24,087
Total Amount Awarded	$321,000	$5,712,000	$554,000

1505 - Physics*	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	76%	88%	42%
Average Grant	$28,227	$43,865	$30,737
Total Amount Awarded	$621,000	$4,211,043	$584,000

*Includes Subatomic Physics Discovery Individual and Group, but not Projects

1506 - Geosciences	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	66%	78%	34%
Average Grant	$22,930	$32,067	$25,200
Total Amount Awarded	$573,250	$2,437,094	$756,000

1507 - Computer Science	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	64%	75%	24%
Average Grant	$23,778	$31,696	$24,471
Total Amount Awarded	$642,000	$4,025,400	$416,000

1508 - Mathematics and Statistics	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	59%	85%	45%
Average Grant	$17,000	$19,570	$14,840
Total Amount Awarded	$408,000	$2,368,000	$371,000

1509 - Civil, industrial and Systems Engineering	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	72%	85%	38%
Average Grant	$23,941	$29,157	$21,536
Total Amount Awarded	$814,000	$3,061,525	$603,000

1510 - Electrical and Computer Engineering	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	88%	82%	37%
Average Grant	$24,357	$32,633	$24,367
Total Amount Awarded	$341,000	$3,687,500	$731,000

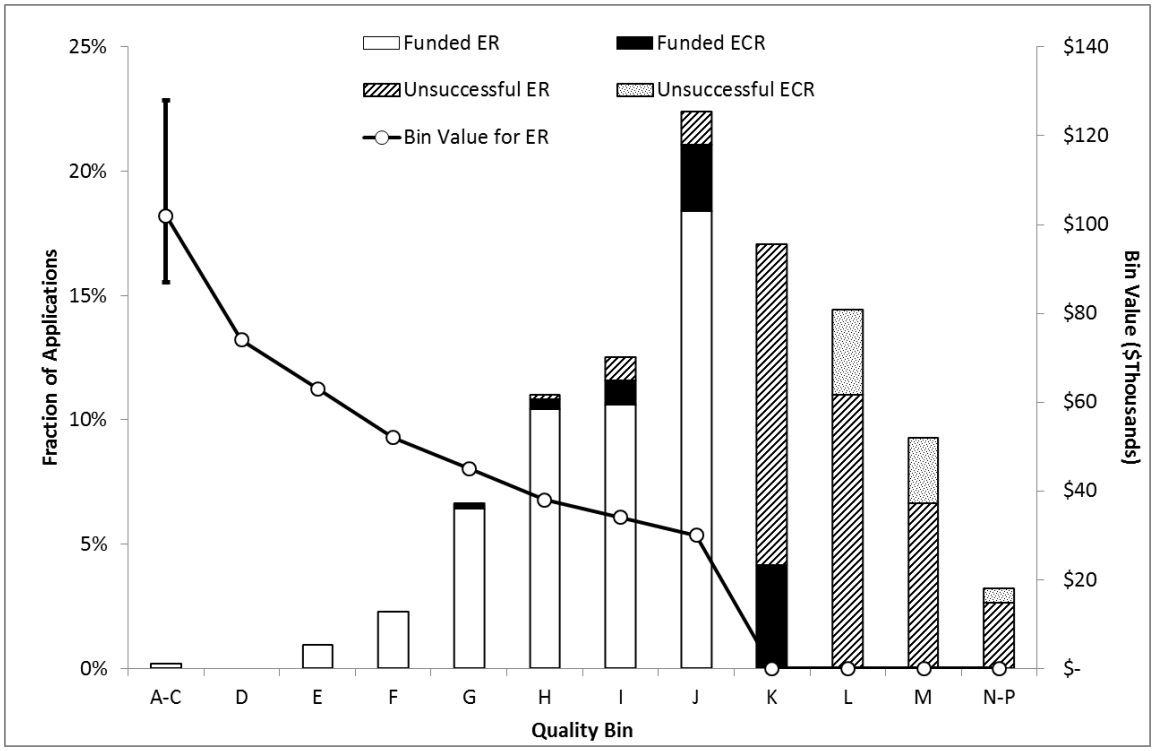
1511 - Materials and Chemical Engineering	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	88%	75%	28%
Average Grant	$25,810	$36,824	$27,813
Total Amount Awarded	$542,000	$3,130,000	$445,000

1512 - Mechanical Engineering	Early Career Researchers	Established Researchers	
		Renewing	Not Holding a Grant
Success Rate	88%	75%	32%
Average Grant	$23,071	$29,407	$24,417
Total Amount Awarded	$646,000	$2,676,000	$586,000

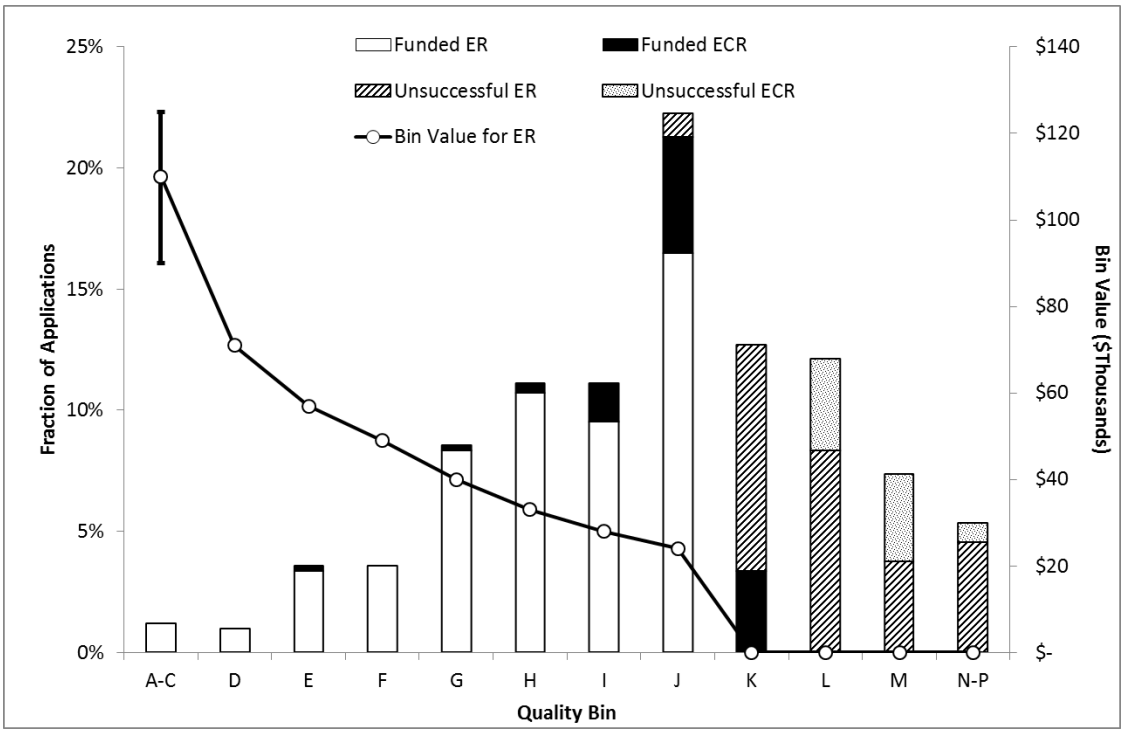
The distribution of applications by quality bins is presented in Figure 9 for each Evaluation Group (EG). The bin value illustrated represents the value of the bin for the normal cost of research for Establish Researchers (ER). For EGs marked with a star (*), a differential for the cost of research was used and, as a result, individual grant values within a bin may be lower or higher than indicated.

Figure 10 Distribution of the Fraction of Applications by Quality Bin for Each Evaluation Group, 2015 Competition

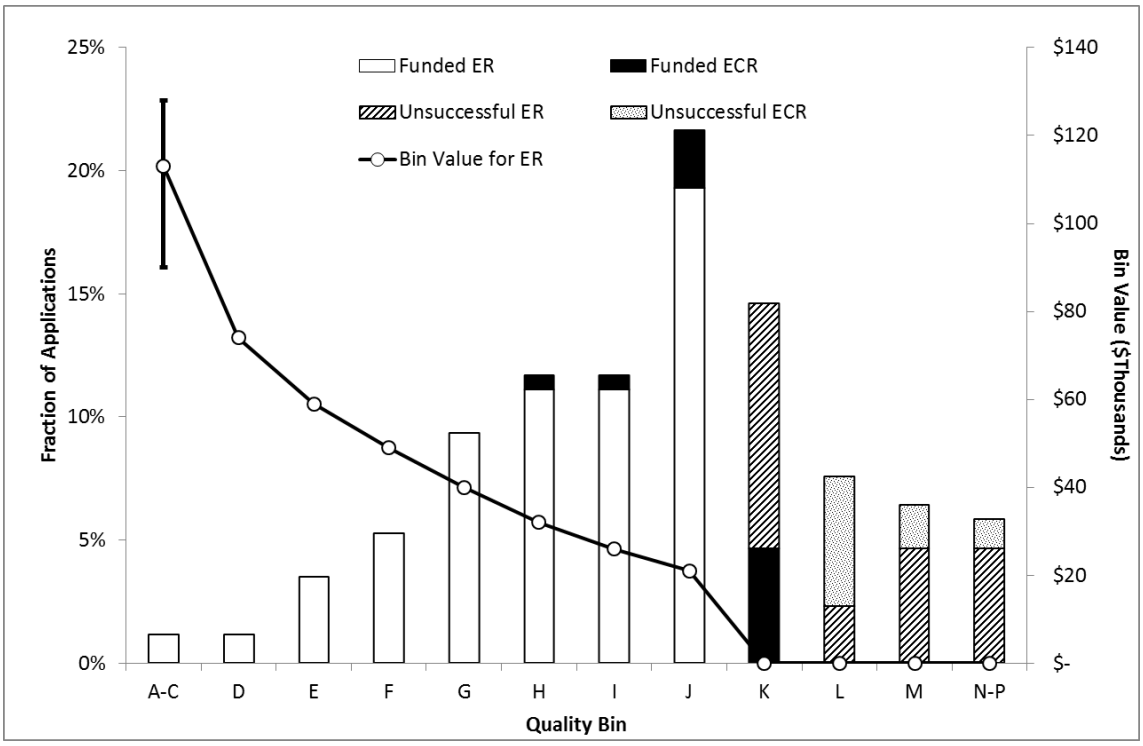
Gene, Cells and Molecules*



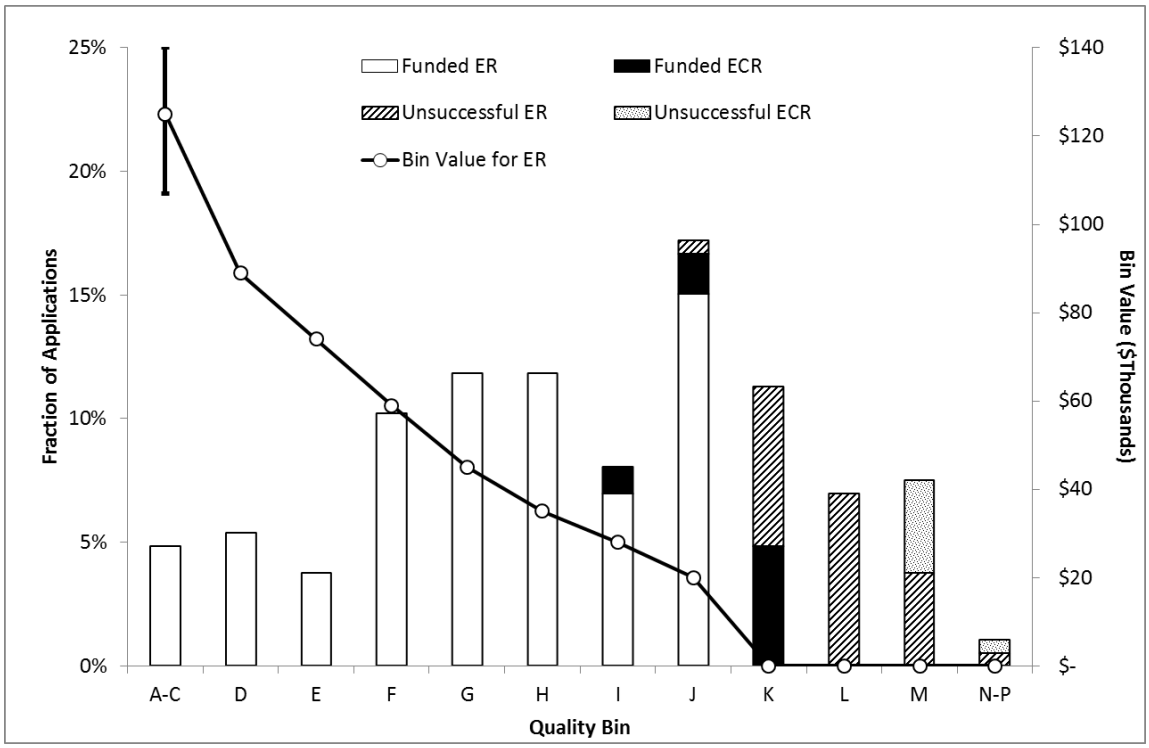
Biological Systems and Functions*



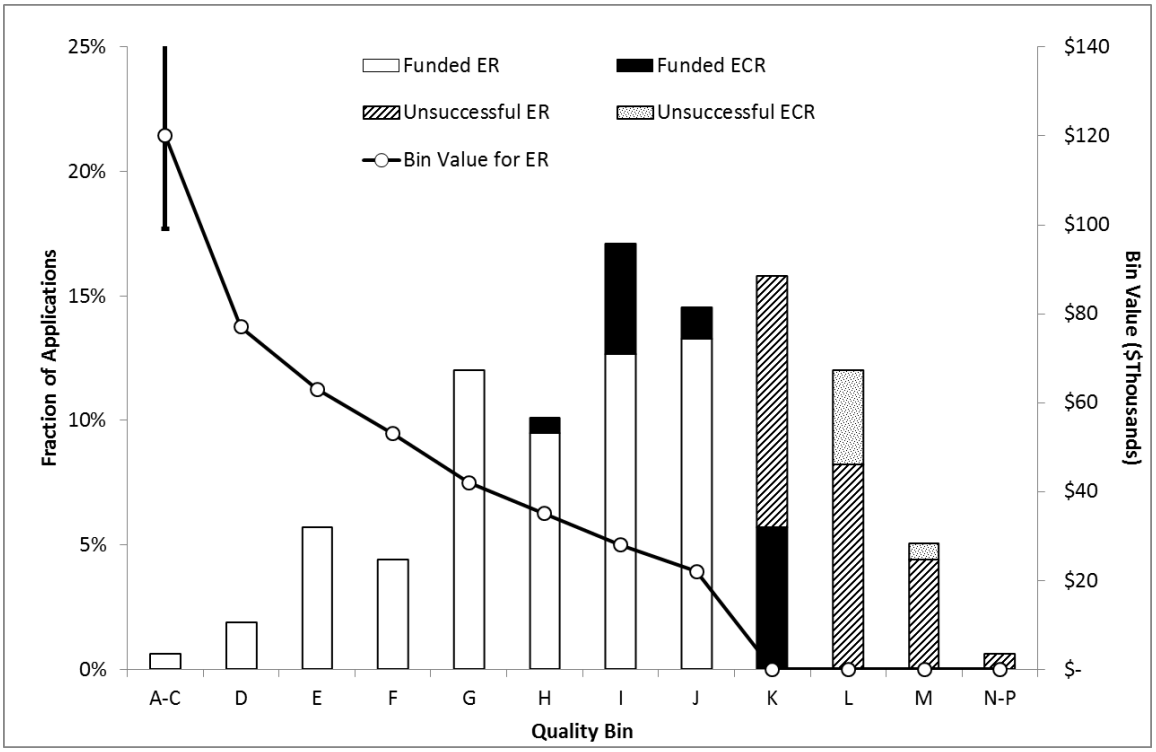
Evolution and Ecology*



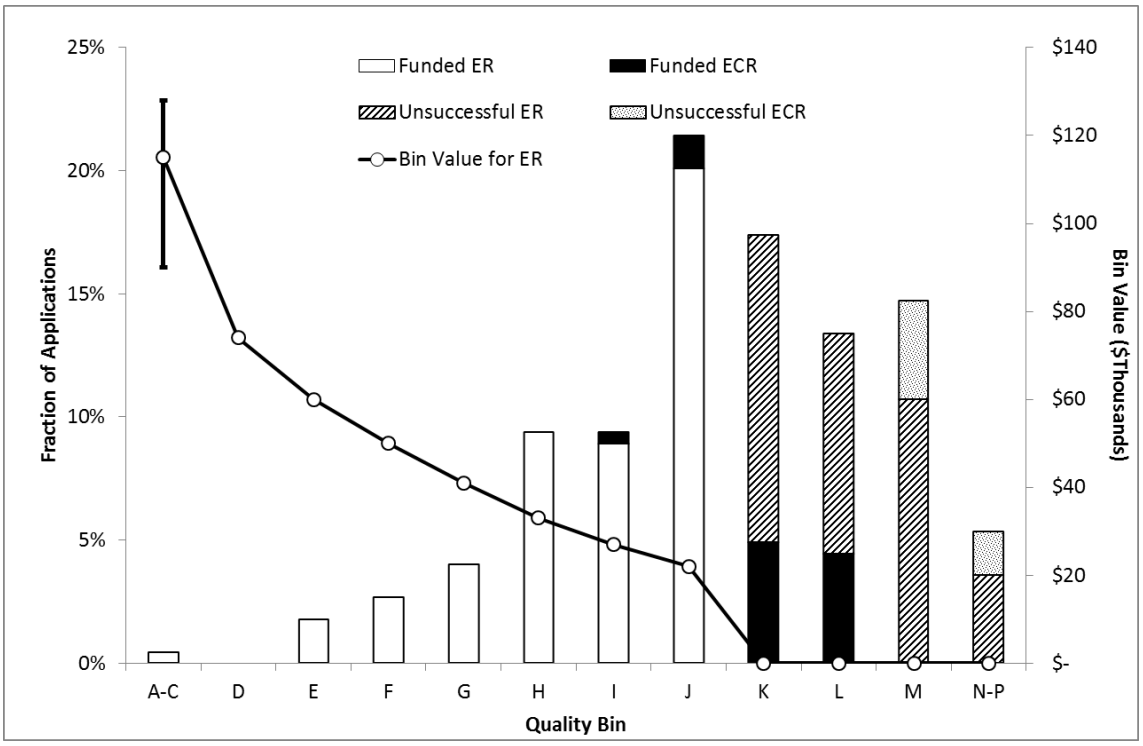
Chemistry



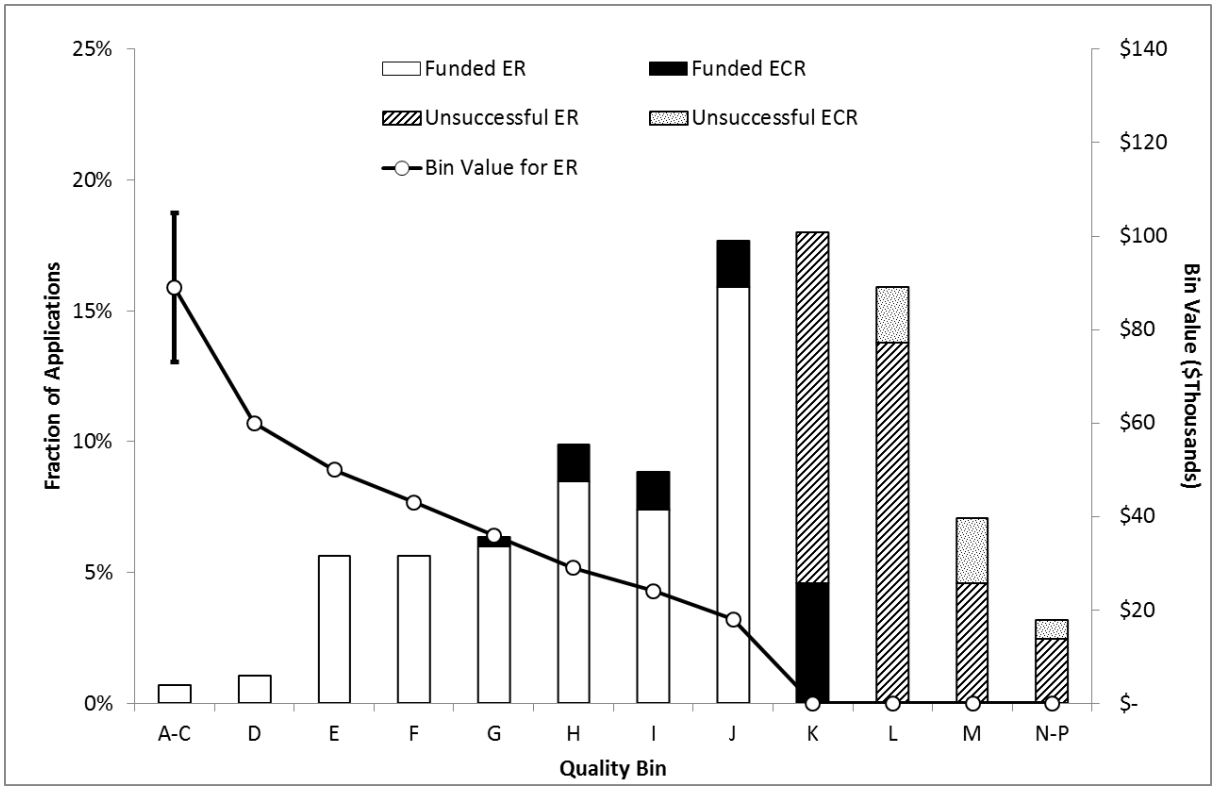
Physics* (excluding Subatomic Physics)



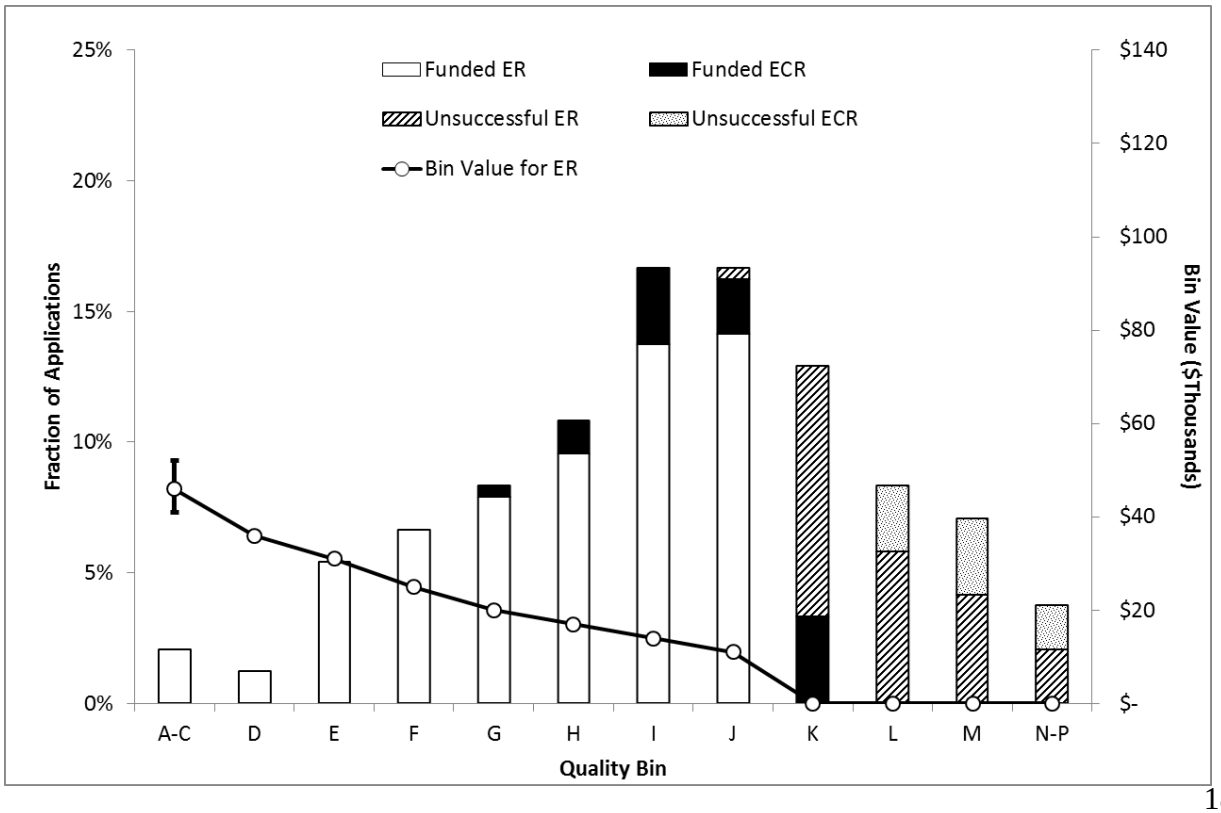
Geoscience*



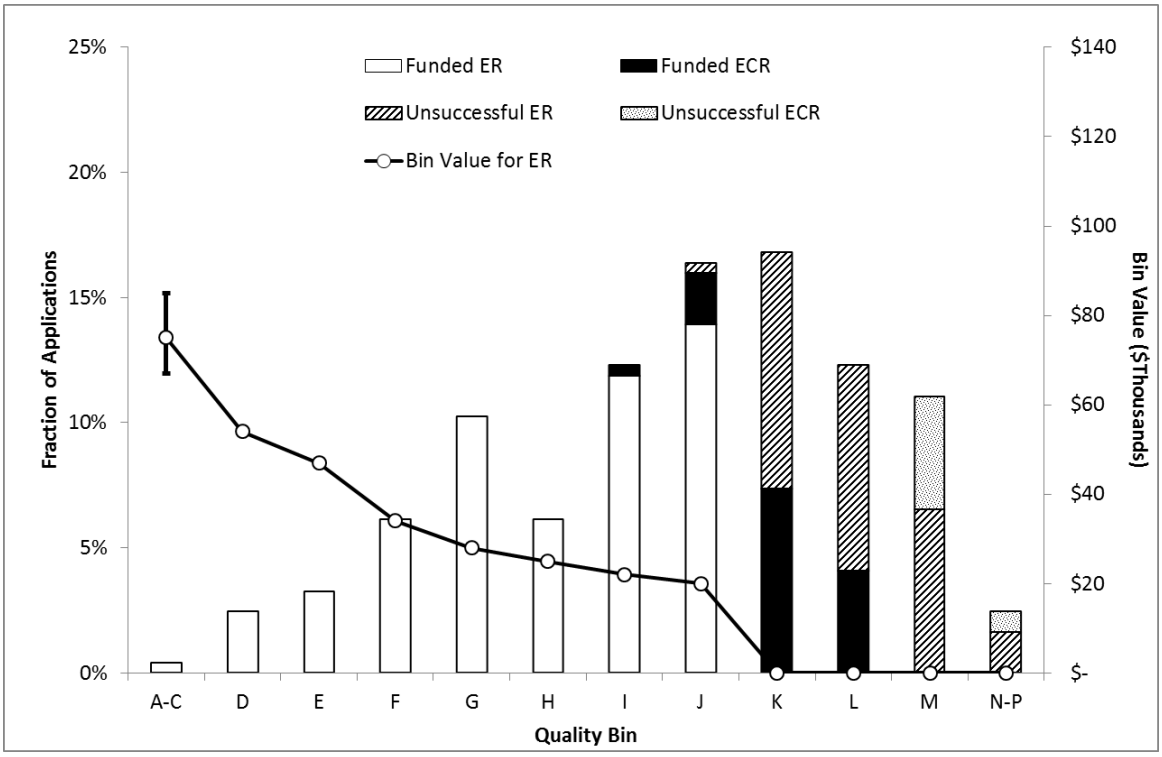
Computer Science



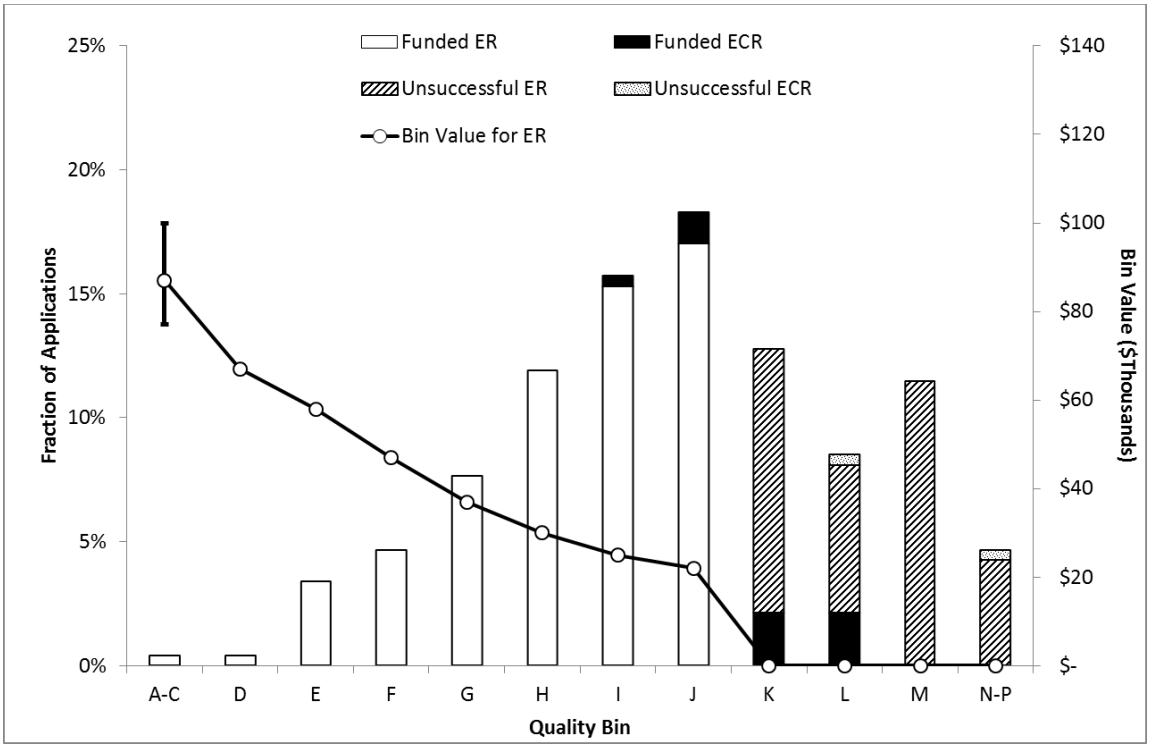
Mathematics and Statistics



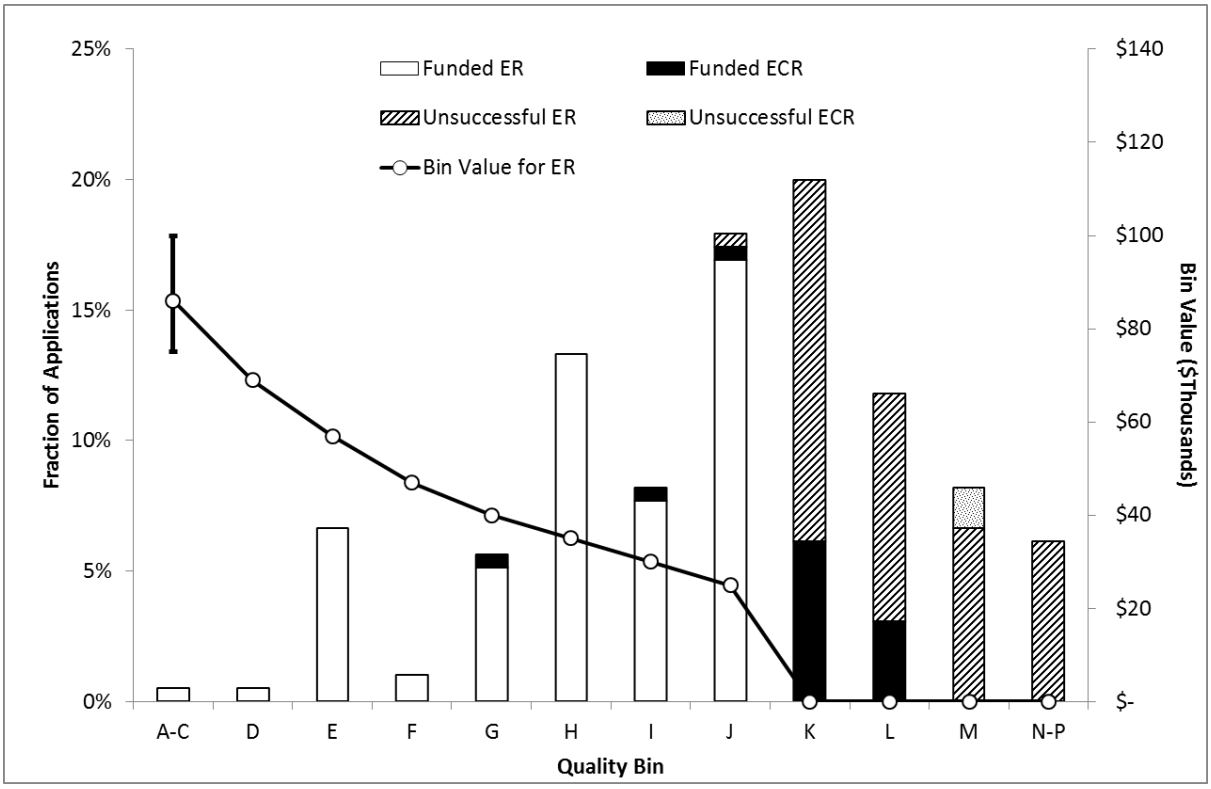
Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering*



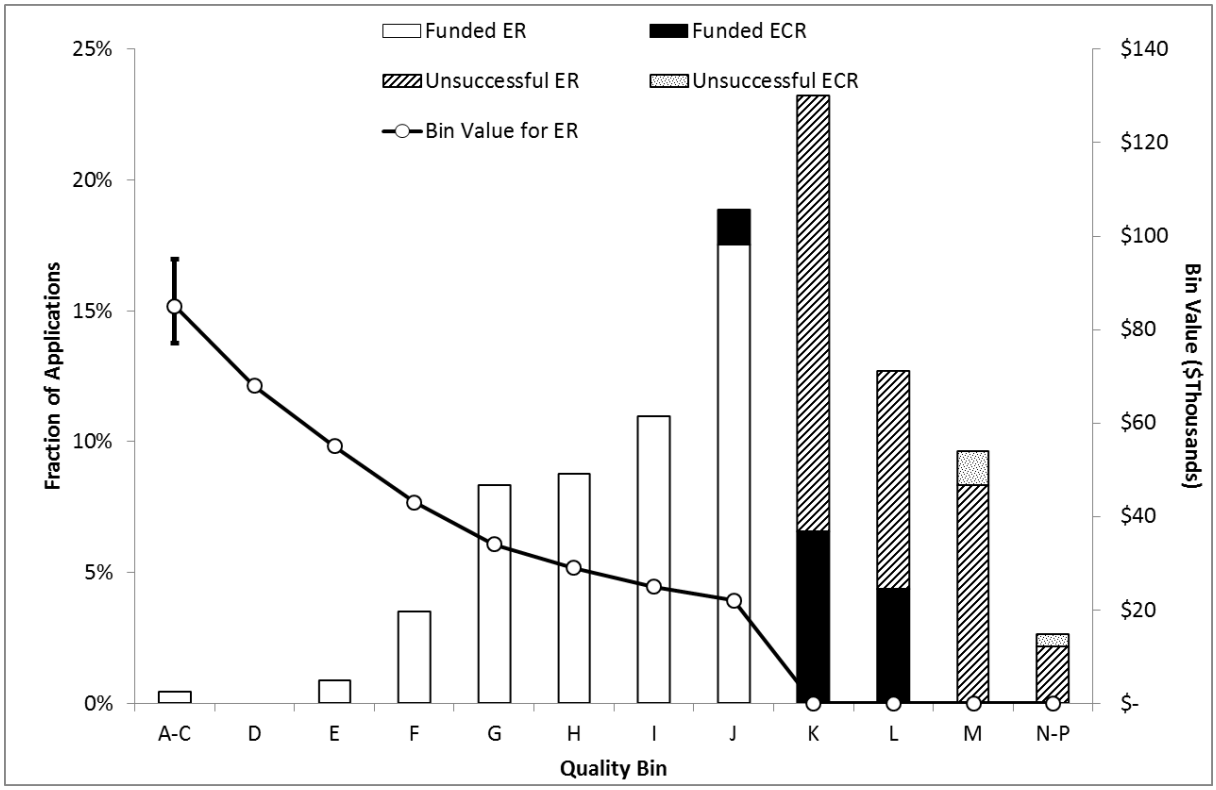
Electrical and Computer Engineering



Materials and Chemical Engineering*



Mechanical Engineering



SECTION 4 – STATISTICS BY GENDER

As part of NSERC's commitment to gender equality, processes and competitions are monitored to ensure that no potential bias affects the evaluation of any submission. Data has been pooled over four competitions to ensure sufficient numbers in each category. Regular analysis of the outcomes of the Discovery Grants competitions reveals that male and female applicants have relatively similar success rates (63 percent for males, 59 percent for females); and average grants ($33,086 for males; $31,314 for females). The difference in average grant is largely attributable to the career stage of applicants, with a larger proportion of female applicants who are assistant or associate professors as compared to male applicants (Table 8). Note: All figures and tables in this section have not been adjusted to reflect additional funding resulting from Federal Budget 2014.

Table 8 Proportion of Applicants by Gender and Career Stage, 2012-15 Competitions

	Gender		
	Male	Female	Not Indicated
Assistant Professor	22%	34%	22%
Associate Professor	30%	34%	33%
Professor	41%	26%	40%
Adjunct, Emeriti & Other	8%	5%	6%

Similar results are observed for both males and females for applicants at equivalent career stages (Figure 11) and of the same applicant status (Figure 12). Success rates vary between the disciplines (Figure 13).

Figure 11 Discovery Grant Success Rate and Average Awarded Amount by Career Stage and Gender, 2012-15 Competitions

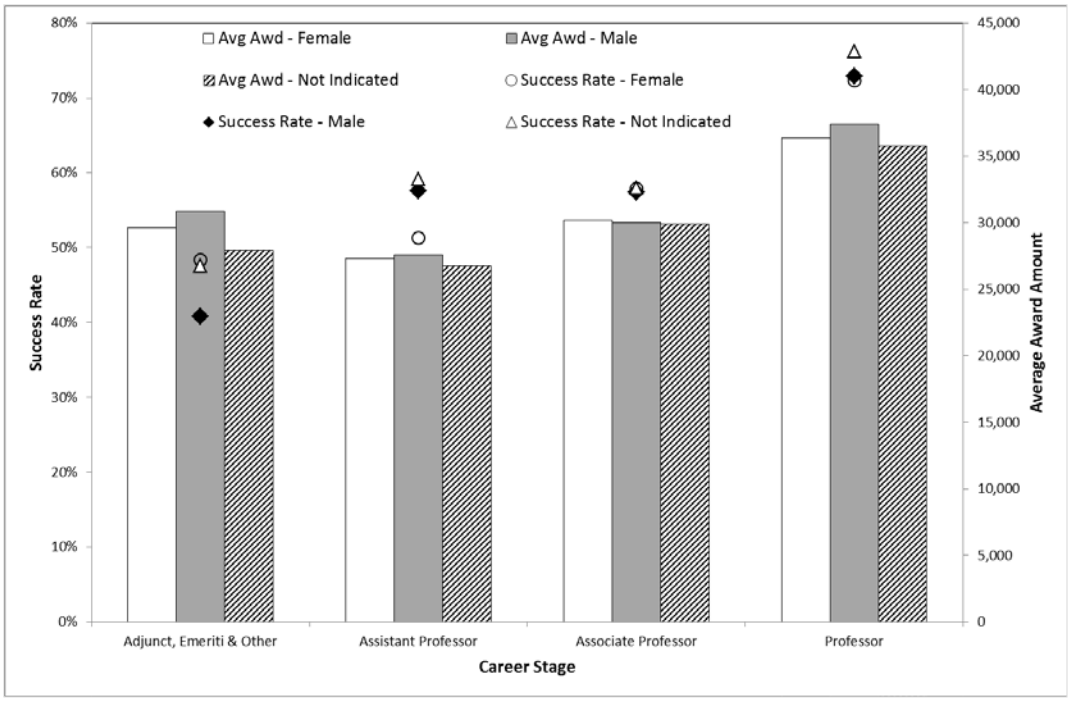


Figure 12 Discovery Grant Success Rate and Average Grant by Applicant Status and Gender, 2012-15 Competitions

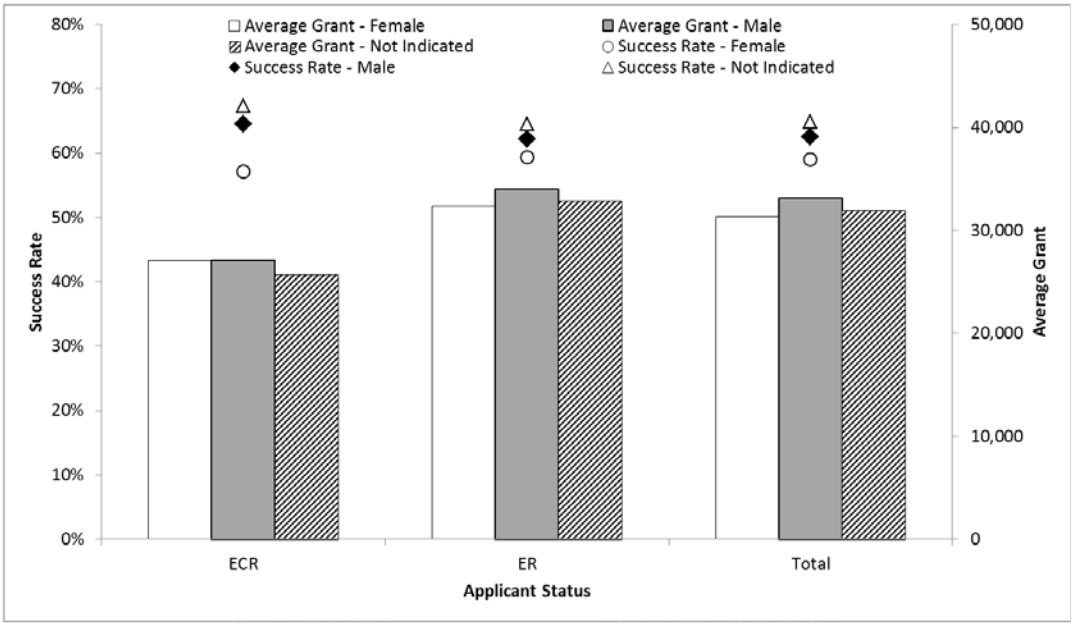
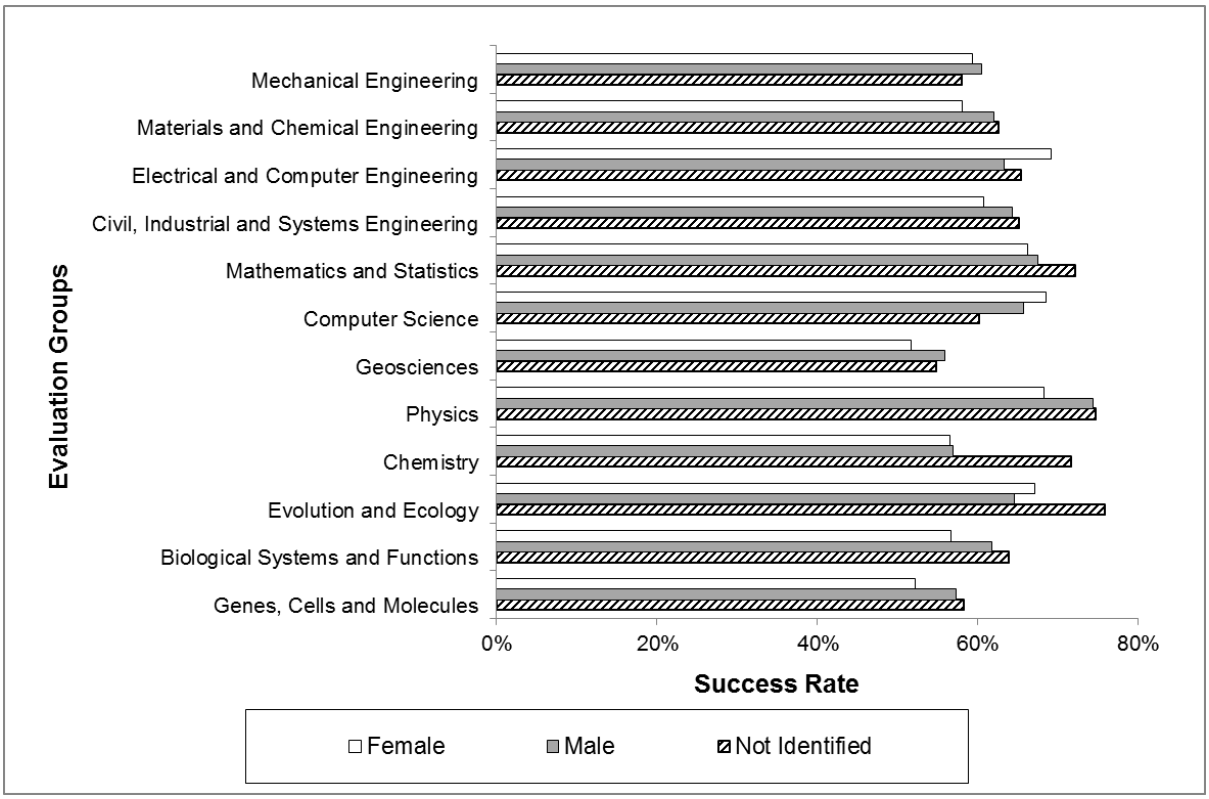


Figure 13 Discovery Grant Success Rate by Gender and Evaluation Group, 2012-15 Competitions



SECTION 5 – RESEARCH TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS

Table 9 Overall Comparative Statistics, 2013-2015 Research Tools and Instruments Competitions

	2013	2014*	2015
Requested Amount	$101,958,582	$51,330,842	$73,990,321
Awarded Amount	$24,343,810	$19,542,330	$25,207,106
Funding Rate	24%	38%	34%
Number of Applications	1,262	468	666
Number of Awarded Applications	295	176	218
Success Rate	23%	38%	33%

* Includes additional funding received resulting from Federal Budget 2014