

## **ANNEX: FAQs for Category D – Research Chairs**

### **Why is the Dedicated Service Channel being offered for research chairs?**

The Dedicated Service Channel (DSC) has been set up as service to help attract and facilitate significant investment in Canada. IRCC recognizes that ‘significant investment’ can come from academia as well as from commercial and monetary investment, which is why Category D (Research Chairs) was included.

### **What does ‘significant investment’ mean in the context of academic research chairs?**

In this context, ‘significant investment’ means the recruitment of international academic talent through research chair programs that support Canadian universities in their efforts to build on Canada’s growing reputation as a global leader in research and innovation.

### **Which academic institutions are eligible for the Dedicated Service Channel?**

Universities that support publically-funded research chair holders coming to Canada are eligible to be referred to the DSC by a designated referral partner.

### **What type of research chairs must universities be dealing with to be eligible for the DSC?**

The research chair must be at a Canadian university, nominated for research excellence, and partially or wholly funded by federal or provincial governments.

### **Can universities and research chair holders directly access the Dedicated Service Channel?**

No, universities must be referred to the DSC by a designated referral partner. The DSC will then liaise with the university to be put in contact with the foreign national/research chair holder to help them navigate immigration options.

### **Who actually gets the service? Is it the university or the research chair holder?**

For Category D referrals (i.e. research chairs), the service will be offered to the university rather than the foreign national. Once initial contact between the DSC and the university has been made, the university will serve as the interlocutor between the DSC and the foreign national.

## **What pieces of information must referral partners give to the Dedicated Service when making a referral?**

This will be stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the referral partners and the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. In general, the pieces of information required are:

- the name of the University being referred, with contact information,
- the type of research chair (e.g. Canada Excellence Research Chair, Canada 150 Research Chair, etc.), and
- a brief (c. 1 paragraph) description of how the chair-holder meets the criteria of 'research excellence' and how their research chair will build on Canada's growing reputation as a global leader in research and innovation.

Please note that these pieces of information shouldn't include personal information about the chair holder.

## **Why does the DSC ask that referral partners not provide personal information about the research chair-holder when making a referral to the DSC?**

This is to prevent our referral partners having to share potentially private data. The Dedicated Service Channel team can engage directly with the university and the foreign national to discuss the particulars.

## **Can referral partners proactively tell universities that, in some instances, the Dedicated Service Channel may be available to them?**

Yes. Referral Partners are encouraged to promote potential access to the Dedicated Service Channel when engaging with universities.

## **Can any Dedicated Service Channel referral partner refer research chair-holders under category D?**

No. The only referral partners who are able to refer research chair-holders are those who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that includes 'Category D – Research Chairs' in Annex A. A regularly updated list of DSC referral partners can be found here:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/employers/gss.asp>.