



PÔLE MONTRÉALAIS
D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR
EN INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIELLE

> SUPPORT FOR NEW COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS FROM PIA
CEGEPS AND UNIVERSITIES 2023-2025

ACCESSIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND
HARMONIOUS TRANSITIONS

PROPOSAL PRESENTATION GUIDE

December 2022

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Pôle montréalais d'enseignement supérieur en intelligence artificielle (PIA) is, in the beginning, an initiative of the CEGEPs and universities of Montreal supported by the Ministry de Higher Education with a view to providing a concerted response to the training challenges represented by developments in artificial intelligence. The PIA brings together the higher education institutions of Montreal, 12 CEGEPs and 7 universities.

Originally, the Pole aims to increase the capacity of CEGEPs and universities in Montreal to rapidly develop and adapt the training offer related to AI in collaboration with interested partners. However, in the fall 2021, the Ministry of Higher Education asks each "pole regional" to refocus activities based on ministerial objectives for success in higher education:

1. Promote accessibility for people in higher education, especially underrepresented groups (Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, first-generation students, people from disadvantaged backgrounds, immigrants, etc.).
2. Improve the fluidity of training courses and smooth, quality transitions in higher education.
3. Deploy practices and measures adapted to the needs of the student community in order to support it in its diversity.
4. Respond to national and regional training employment matching needs.
5. Promote the rapprochement of CEGEPs and universities with secondary education in order to attract young people, especially girls, to study programs related to information technologies.

The PIA retains, among other priorities, the first two objectives. It invites ecosystem players to develop projects lasting a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years in connection with these. **Proposals do not need to be linked to artificial intelligence.**

The PIA wishes to support five collaborative CEGEP / university projects to which it can allocate up to 80 000\$ per project at the rate of 40 000\$ paid respectively in May 2023 and May 2024.

WHO CAN SUBMIT A PROJECT?

A project must be submitted, in collaboration, by a team from at least one CEGEP and one university, both members of the PIA (the list of member institutions is in appendix 1).

The team proposing the project may also involve organizations external to the pole, other establishments, or companies. There is no limit to the number of partners.

Each project must have obtained the support of the management of the partner institutions, as outlined in the proposal presentation form and specified in the rest of this guide.

THEMES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The objective of this call for projects is the implementation of concerted inter-order projects combining CEGEPs and universities either in the form of an innovative initiative or the consolidation of existing activities to enrich them or create new collaborations. These projects will consist of either promoting accessibility to higher education or improving transitions from one level of education to another.

Accessibility to higher education refers to the fact of being admitted and starting studies at CEGEP or university. In its *Action Plan for Success in Higher Education 2021-2026*, the Ministry of Higher Education recognizes both the diversity of the student community and the under-representation of certain groups or social categories.

Once engaged in their studies at a new level of education, the student must adjust to their environment in its multiple dimensions. If this represents a challenge for him or her, it is also a challenge that engages the various actors in educational circles.

The projects that the PIA wishes to support must fall under one of these two themes.

THEMES	OBJECTIVES	ISSUES
Accessibility in higher education	Promote accessibility for people in higher education, especially underrepresented groups (Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, first-generation students, people from disadvantaged backgrounds, immigrants, etc.).	For many years, research has shown that certain social categories of people have difficulty accessing higher education, thus reinforcing inequality of opportunity. For example, gaps in CEGEP and university graduation rates persist between non-natives and First Nations; young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to lack support to navigate through the prerequisites and demands of higher education; young people with disabilities in their first college semester have more difficulty knowing whether they want to continue their education.
Harmonious transitions	Improve the fluidity of training courses and smooth, quality transitions in higher education.	Students who experience a positive integration into their educational institution are more likely to succeed in their first term of college or first semester of university, a period known to promote long-term perseverance.

The Ministry also identifies outcome indicators for the activities implemented for the objectives of accessibility in higher education and harmonious transitions:

- The number of students from secondary schools affected.
- The number of college and/or university students affected.
- The number of participants concerned (other than students)
- The number of high schools reached or engaged.
- The number of organizations other than schools reached or engaged.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Projects must be submitted using a form provided for this purpose.

To be eligible, the proposal must meet the following conditions:

- ◇ Involve members of at least one CEGEP and one university that is part of the Pôle montréalais d'enseignement supérieur en intelligence artificielle (PIA).
- ◇ Designate a project manager institution.
- ◇ Have the support of the management of each partner educational institution in the project.
- ◇ Submit an allocation formula for the project that does not require a financial contribution of more than \$ 80,000 from the PIA.
- ◇ Have a minimum duration of one year and a maximum of two years between the month of May 2023 and the end of June 2025.
- ◇ Register under one of the two themes presented in the previous section.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Any project proposal meeting the eligibility requirements described in the previous section will be subject to the evaluation of an independent jury and evaluated according to the following criteria:

RELEVANCE — 30%

- ◇ The needs, issues and innovative aspects of the project are clearly defined.
- ◇ The project contributes to consolidating the regional ecosystem of success in higher education.
- ◇ Results expected and the way to measure them are clearly described and take into consideration the outcome indicators as defined by the Ministry.
- ◇ The contribution of the project to the strengthening of equity, diversity and inclusion is clearly demonstrated.
- ◇ The project promotes concertation and collaboration between CEGEPs and universities.

QUALITY OF THE PROJECT — 40%

- ◇ The proposal is based on educational, scientific, or technological knowledge mastered by the members of the project team.
- ◇ Depending on the topic to deal with, the chosen approach is based on recognized practices or methods.
- ◇ The roles and responsibilities of the project team members and the project management methodology are well defined.
- ◇ If the project includes external collaborations, the contribution of these partners is well described, and a letter of commitment is appended to the file.
- ◇ The deliverables are verifiable, and the implementation schedule demonstrates the quality of the project planning.

PROJECT BENEFITS — 30%

- ◇ The benefits of the project for the partner establishments are clearly demonstrated.
- ◇ The proposal shows the benefits of success in higher education in Montreal.
- ◇ The proposal provides for a plan for the promotion, intervention, or dissemination of the deliverables in the networks of PIA establishments and beyond when relevant.

The jury will be made up of people appointed by the PIA steering committee. It will recommend the best projects to the PIA steering committee, which makes the final decision.

FUNDING

The PIA provides for a maximum funding of \$ 80,000 per project. Proposals must present an allocation formula that does not require a financial contribution greater than this amount for a period from spring 2023 to June 2025 at the latest.

An amount of \$ 40,000 will be paid to each of the projects accepted in the spring of 2023 for the purposes of starting the project. A second instalment of up to \$ 40,000 will be issued in May 2024.

PROJECT PRESENTATION

To submit a project, proposers must use a dedicated form downloadable from the PIA website: www.poleia.quebec.

TIMELINE

Step	Dates	Actions or content
1.	Week of December 5 th	<i>Launch of the Call for Projects</i> ◇ <i>Publication of the Proposal Presentation Guide and Form.</i>
2.	February 28, 2023, at midnight	<i>Deadline for Submitting Projects</i> ◇ <i>Projects are addressed to bpage@poleia.quebec</i>
3.	March 6 to 24	<i>Project evaluation and recommendations from jury</i>
4.	Week of March 27 th	<i>Granting of collaborative CEGEP-university projects</i>
5.	Week of April 3 ^d	<i>Sending rejection and acceptance letters</i> ◇ <i>Followed by the public announcement of the projects selected, of the institutions having obtained financial assistance and the other partners associated with each of the projects.</i>
6.	May 2023	<i>Issuance of the first instalment of the project start-up (\$ 40,000)</i>
7.	May 2024	<i>Submission of a progress report, and payment of the balance of the grant (\$ 40,000 maximum)</i>
8.	June 2025	<i>Submission of the final account statement (financial report and activity report).</i>

INFORMATION REQUEST

For any request for information, contact Lilian Lopez, development advisor at llopez@rcm.quebec or Benoit Pagé, director of PIA at bpage@poleia.quebec.

APPENDIX 1 — LIST OF MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF THE PIA

The PIA brings together nineteen higher education institutions on the Island of Montreal.

CÉGÉPS	UNIVERSITÉS
Collège Ahuntsic	Concordia University
Cégep André-Laurendeau	École des Hautes études commerciales Montréal
Collège de Bois-de-Boulogne	École Polytechnique Montréal
Dawson College	École de technologie supérieure
Cégep Gérald-Godin	McGill University
John-Abbott College	Université de Montréal
Cégep de Maisonneuve	Université du Québec à Montréal
Cégep Marie-Victorin	
Cégep de Rosemont	
Cégep de Saint-Laurent	
Vanier College	
Cégep du Vieux Montréal	

APPENDIX 2 — DEFINITIONS

These definitions refer to certain terms used in the entry form.

MANAGER INSTITUTION	<i>The institution managing the project is the trustee of the PIA grant.</i>
CONTRIBUTORS	<i>Contributors shall be the individuals who carry out the project. They shall also take part in a community of practice activities and agree to present findings at an official PIA activity or event designated by PIA.</i>
EXTERNAL PARTNERS	<i>External partners shall be representatives from organizations and companies other than PIA's 19 member institutions (12 colleges and 7 universities).</i>