



## 2011 Competition Statistics Discovery Grants Program

(Updated May 6, 2011)

This report includes tables and figures that provide summary information on the 2011 Discovery Grants competition. More detailed statistics will follow in subsequent releases of this document.

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## SECTION 1 – GENERAL STATISTICS

The number of applications was higher, relative to 2009 and 2010, reaching 3,482, reflecting an increasing number of returning unfunded applicants.

Going into the competition, there were 1,863 renewal applicants who held grants of, on average, \$30,999; after the competition, there are 2,002 funded researchers at an average grant level of \$32,186.

NSERC continued to put a strong emphasis on giving early-career researchers a chance to demonstrate their potential and exceeded the minimum target success rate of fifty percent recommended in the [International Review](#) of the NSERC Discovery Grants Program.

**Table 1. Overall Comparative Statistics – 2011 Discovery Grants Competition<sup>1</sup>**

| <b>Data</b>                                            | <b>Success rate (%)</b> | <b>Average Grant</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Early-career researchers (ECR)                         | <b>54</b>               | <b>\$22,481</b>      |
| Established researchers (ER)                           |                         |                      |
| applicants who held a grant                            | <b>74</b>               | <b>\$35,045</b>      |
| applicants not previously holding a grant <sup>2</sup> | <b>33</b>               | <b>\$28,082</b>      |

1. Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics (Individual and Team) grants.

2. Includes returning unfunded applicants and experienced researchers submitting a first application.

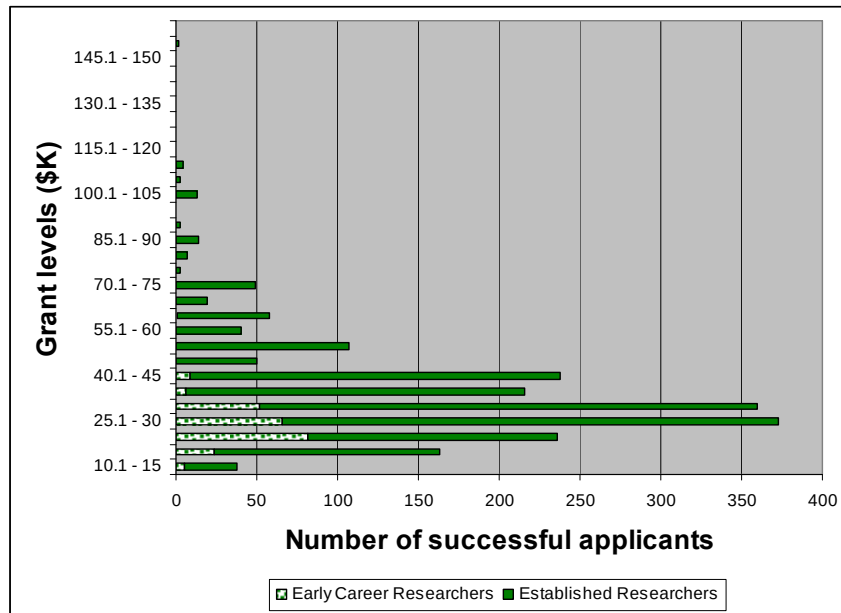
**Table 2. Discovery Grants<sup>1</sup> Competition Results by University – 2011 Competition**

| Institution                                | Early Career Researchers |               | Established Researchers - Renewals |               | Established Researchers - not previously holding a grant |               |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                            | Success Rate             | Average Grant | Success Rate                       | Average Grant | Success Rate                                             | Average Grant |
| Acadia                                     | *                        | *             | *                                  | *             | 0%                                                       | 0             |
| Alberta                                    | 58%                      | 20,133        | 82%                                | 36,488        | 48%                                                      | 29,500        |
| Athabasca                                  | *                        | *             |                                    |               | 0%                                                       | 0             |
| British Columbia                           | 57%                      | 23,231        | 91%                                | 40,127        | 49%                                                      | 26,714        |
| Brock                                      | *                        | *             | 50%                                | 23,500        | 23%                                                      | 20,667        |
| Calgary                                    | 64%                      | 25,286        | 62%                                | 33,070        | 33%                                                      | 32,513        |
| Cape Breton                                | *                        | *             | *                                  | *             | *                                                        | *             |
| Carleton                                   | 77%                      | 24,100        | 71%                                | 28,556        | 24%                                                      | 18,333        |
| Concordia                                  | 64%                      | 22,714        | 71%                                | 28,921        | 33%                                                      | 21,286        |
| Dalhousie                                  | 57%                      | 22,000        | 73%                                | 34,132        | 34%                                                      | 22,800        |
| École de technologie supérieure            | 67%                      | 17,667        | 67%                                | 28,700        | 38%                                                      | 19,200        |
| École Polytechnique                        | *                        | *             | 82%                                | 30,417        | 57%                                                      | 22,155        |
| Guelph                                     | 44%                      | 23,500        | 76%                                | 34,729        | 16%                                                      | 36,600        |
| HEC Montréal                               |                          |               | *                                  | *             | *                                                        | *             |
| INRS                                       | 60%                      | 25,667        | 73%                                | 37,636        | 50%                                                      | 38,250        |
| Lakehead                                   | *                        | *             | 40%                                | 19,500        | 0%                                                       | 0             |
| Laurentian                                 | *                        | *             | 57%                                | 27,250        | 16%                                                      | 17,588        |
| Laval                                      | 45%                      | 26,600        | 72%                                | 34,250        | 32%                                                      | 33,671        |
| Lethbridge                                 | *                        | *             | 80%                                | 31,000        | 43%                                                      | 23,667        |
| Manitoba                                   | 56%                      | 15,600        | 61%                                | 32,871        | 37%                                                      | 26,176        |
| McGill                                     | 63%                      | 22,684        | 77%                                | 39,463        | 50%                                                      | 35,533        |
| McMaster                                   | 36%                      | 17,500        | 81%                                | 38,193        | 25%                                                      | 33,200        |
| Memorial Univ. of Newfoundland             | 27%                      | 22,750        | 59%                                | 29,700        | 15%                                                      | 25,500        |
| Moncton                                    | 17%                      | 27,000        | 57%                                | 24,250        | 8%                                                       | 20,000        |
| Montréal                                   | 38%                      | 29,667        | 80%                                | 39,023        | 28%                                                      | 32,538        |
| Mount Allison                              | *                        | *             | *                                  | *             | *                                                        | *             |
| New Brunswick                              | *                        | *             | 74%                                | 31,900        | 26%                                                      | 18,400        |
| Nipissing                                  | *                        | *             | *                                  | *             | 29%                                                      | 14,000        |
| Northern British Columbia                  | *                        | *             | 54%                                | 24,857        | *                                                        | *             |
| Ontario Institute of Technology            | 33%                      | 19,000        | 100%                               | 27,125        | 36%                                                      | 24,750        |
| Ottawa                                     | 67%                      | 20,250        | 75%                                | 33,309        | 31%                                                      | 26,364        |
| Prince Edward Island                       | *                        | *             | 90%                                | 23,661        | *                                                        | *             |
| Québec à Chicoutimi                        | *                        | *             | *                                  | *             | *                                                        | *             |
| Québec à Montréal                          | 60%                      | 17,000        | 87%                                | 31,900        | 20%                                                      | 31,333        |
| Québec à Rimouski                          | *                        | *             | 60%                                | 39,333        | 20%                                                      | 24,000        |
| Québec à Trois-Rivières                    | 71%                      | 24,600        | 25%                                | 23,500        | 20%                                                      | 22,333        |
| Québec en Abitibi Témiscamingue            | *                        | *             | *                                  | *             | *                                                        | *             |
| Québec en Outaouais                        | *                        | *             | 50%                                | 26,667        | *                                                        | *             |
| Queen's                                    | 50%                      | 22,250        | 77%                                | 43,847        | 59%                                                      | 27,868        |
| Regina                                     | *                        | *             | 50%                                | 24,125        | 33%                                                      | 20,250        |
| Royal Military College of Canada           | 42%                      | 22,000        | 71%                                | 27,800        | 6%                                                       | 20,000        |
| Ryerson                                    | *                        | *             | 67%                                | 24,500        | 24%                                                      | 18,143        |
| Saint Mary's                               | *                        | *             | 80%                                | 48,000        | 40%                                                      | 15,000        |
| Saskatchewan                               | 60%                      | 19,444        | 74%                                | 32,148        | 15%                                                      | 25,286        |
| Sherbrooke                                 | 77%                      | 22,000        | 78%                                | 33,440        | 33%                                                      | 27,571        |
| Simon Fraser                               | 67%                      | 28,500        | 72%                                | 35,139        | 52%                                                      | 21,571        |
| St. Francis Xavier                         | *                        | *             | 33%                                | 37,667        | *                                                        | *             |
| Thomson Rivers                             |                          |               | *                                  | *             | *                                                        | *             |
| Toronto                                    | 65%                      | 28,308        | 86%                                | 40,951        | 45%                                                      | 33,329        |
| Trent                                      |                          |               | 55%                                | 40,000        | 20%                                                      | 11,000        |
| TRIUMF                                     |                          |               | *                                  | *             | *                                                        | *             |
| Victoria                                   | 50%                      | 29,667        | 84%                                | 32,105        | 50%                                                      | 21,402        |
| Waterloo                                   | 86%                      | 20,389        | 76%                                | 33,341        | 39%                                                      | 30,083        |
| Western Ontario                            | 33%                      | 20,333        | 74%                                | 34,928        | 44%                                                      | 31,211        |
| Wilfrid Laurier                            | *                        | *             | 38%                                | 26,000        | 40%                                                      | 28,250        |
| Windsor                                    | *                        | *             | 63%                                | 34,765        | 33%                                                      | 22,857        |
| Winnipeg                                   | *                        | *             | *                                  | *             | 0%                                                       | 0             |
| York                                       | *                        | *             | 70%                                | 37,565        | 25%                                                      | 29,667        |
| Institutions with less than 5 applications | 15%                      | 18,000        | 44%                                | 28,750        | 19%                                                      | 16,333        |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                         | <b>54%</b>               | <b>22,481</b> | <b>74%</b>                         | <b>35,045</b> | <b>33%</b>                                               | <b>28,082</b> |

1. Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics Individual and Team grants, but excludes Subatomic Physics Discovery Grants Projects.

\* Less than 5 applications

**Figure 1. Distribution of Grant Levels to Successful Applicants – 2011 Competition**



## Renewal Applicants

**Figure 2. Change in Grant Level for All Established Researchers – 2011 Competition**

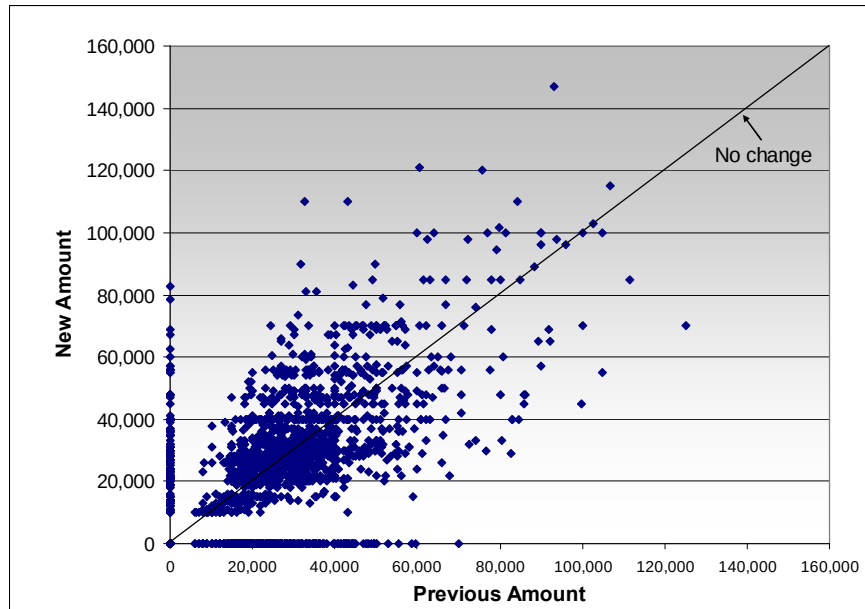
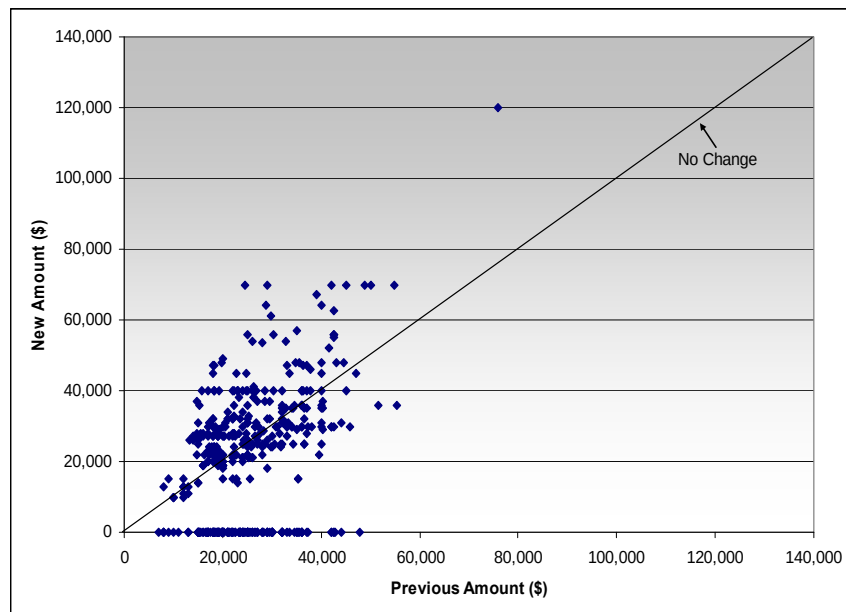


Figure 3 presents the changes in grant level for the subset of established researchers who submitted an application for the 1<sup>st</sup> renewal of their Discovery Grant.

**Figure 3. Change in Grant Level for Established Researchers 1<sup>st</sup> Renewal – 2011 Competition**

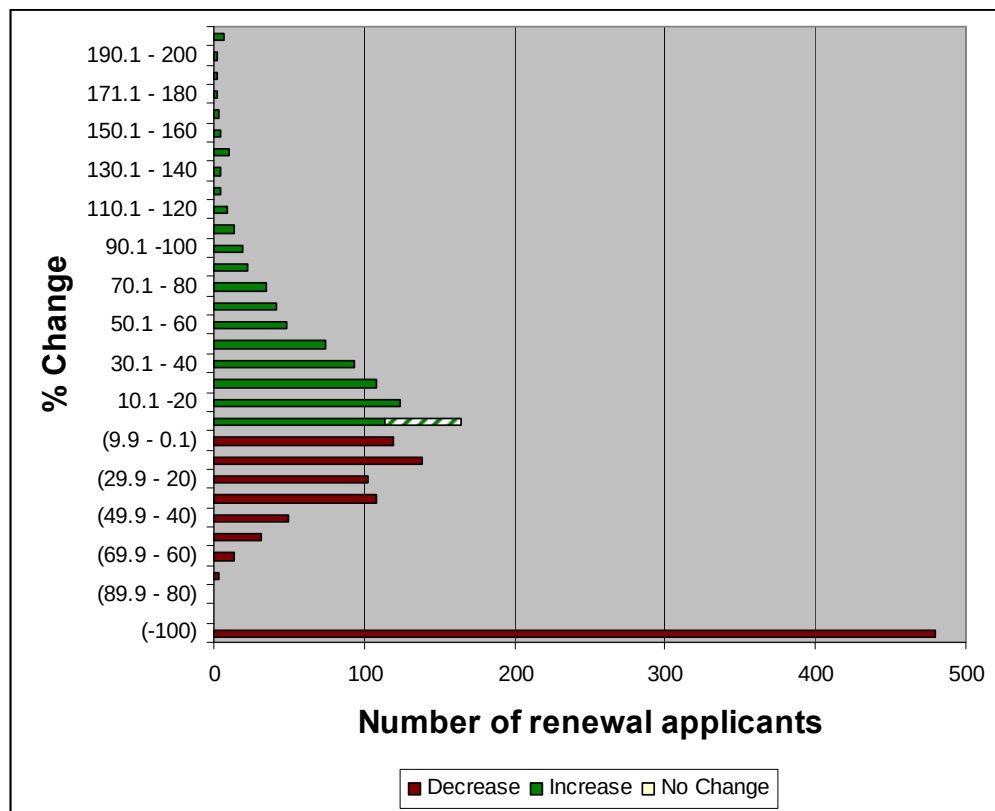


## Renewal Applicants

Figure 4 shows the dynamic distribution of funds in 2011.

In 2011, 74 percent of renewal applicants received a grant; 483 of these Established Researchers were not successful.

**Figure 4. Percentage Change in Grant Level – 2011 Competition**



## SECTION 2 – STATISTICS BY EVALUATION GROUP (EG)

**Table 3. Evaluation Group Statistics – 2011 Competition**

| <b>Genes, Cells and Molecules</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                   |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other <sup>1</sup></b> |
| Success Rate                      | 53%                             | 65%                            | 43%                       |
| Average Grant                     | 30,606                          | 40,719                         | 38,025                    |

| <b>Biological Systems and Functions</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                                         |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate                            | 33%                             | 77%                            | 29%          |
| Average Grant                           | 26,810                          | 39,965                         | 28,406       |

| <b>Evolution and Ecology</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                              |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate                 | 50%                             | 74%                            | 12%          |
| Average Grant                | 24,000                          | 39,583                         | 27,833       |

| <b>Chemistry</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                  |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate     | 75%                             | 65%                            | 16%          |
| Average Grant    | 24,333                          | 58,401                         | 38,259       |

| <b>Physics*</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                 |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate    | 64%                             | 81%                            | 48%          |
| Average Grant   | 30,381                          | 37,722                         | 31,332       |

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

| <b>Geosciences</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                    |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate       | 45%                             | 74%                            | 31%          |
| Average Grant      | 21,071                          | 32,621                         | 23,994       |

| <b>Computer Science</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                         |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate            | 81%                             | 84%                            | 37%          |
| Average Grant           | 20,960                          | 28,571                         | 15,944       |

1. This group includes previously unsuccessful established researchers and established researchers submitting a first application.

| <b>Mathematics and Statistics</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                                   |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate                      | 68%                             | 79%                            | 38%          |
| Average Grant                     | 11,368                          | 18,331                         | 13,600       |

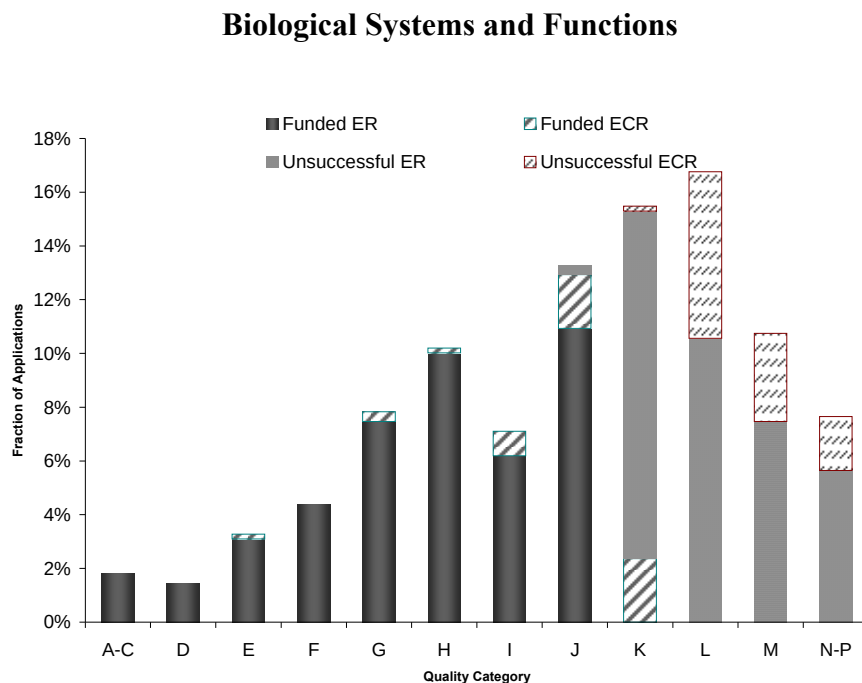
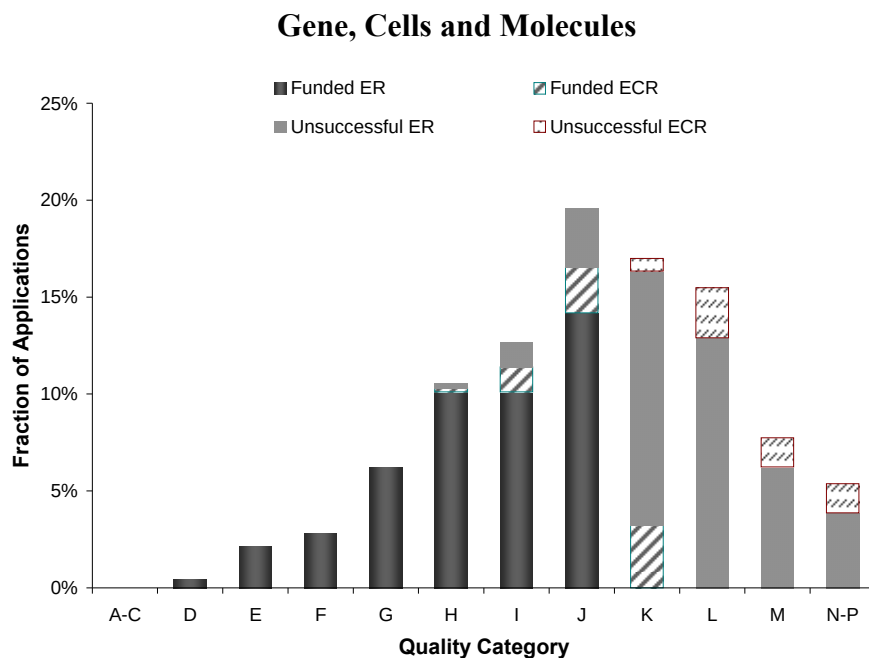
| <b>Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                                                  |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate                                     | 53%                             | 75%                            | 38%          |
| Average Grant                                    | 19,412                          | 28,579                         | 20,160       |

| <b>Electrical and Computer Engineering</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                                            |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate                               | 71%                             | 69%                            | 21%          |
| Average Grant                              | 23,733                          | 36,738                         | 27,325       |

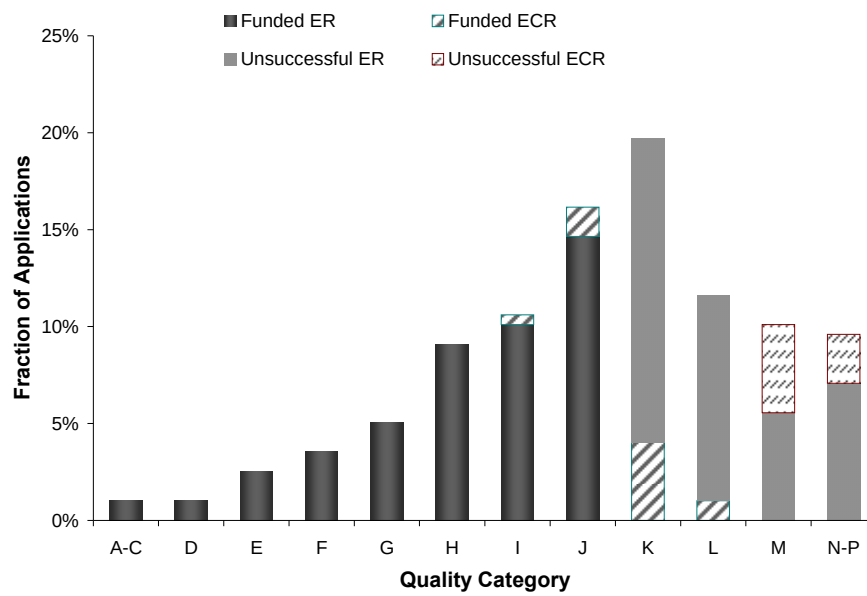
| <b>Materials and Chemical Engineering</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                                           |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate                              | 67%                             | 74%                            | 24%          |
| Average Grant                             | 21,063                          | 36,667                         | 23,077       |

| <b>Mechanical Engineering</b> | <b>Early Career Researchers</b> | <b>Established Researchers</b> |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                               |                                 | <b>Renewals</b>                | <b>Other</b> |
| Success Rate                  | 58%                             | 68%                            | 27%          |
| Average Grant                 | 19,600                          | 30,876                         | 24,556       |

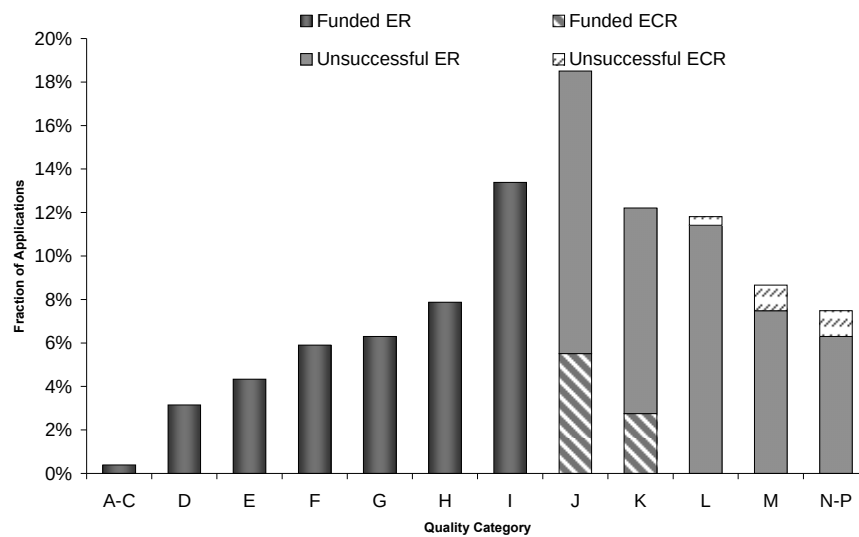
**Figures 5. Distribution of Applications by Quality Categories for each Evaluation Group – 2011 Competition**



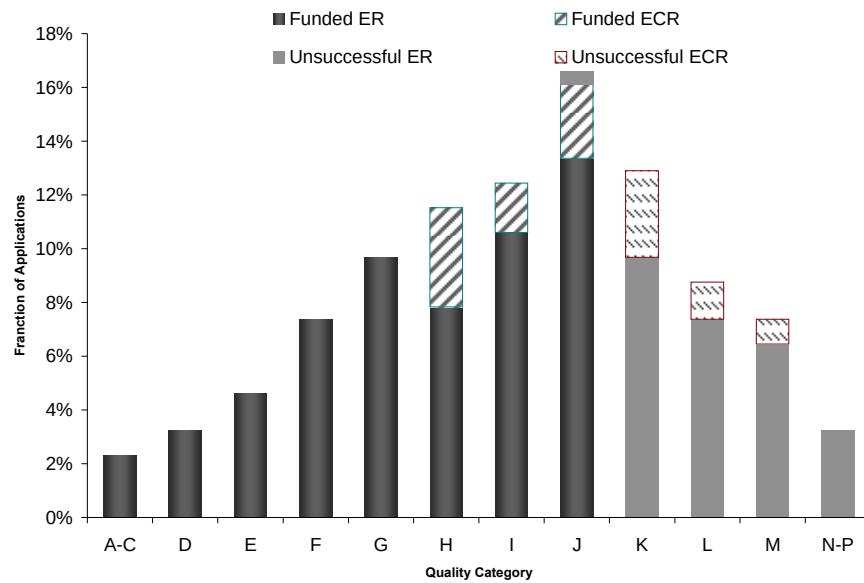
## Evolution and Ecology



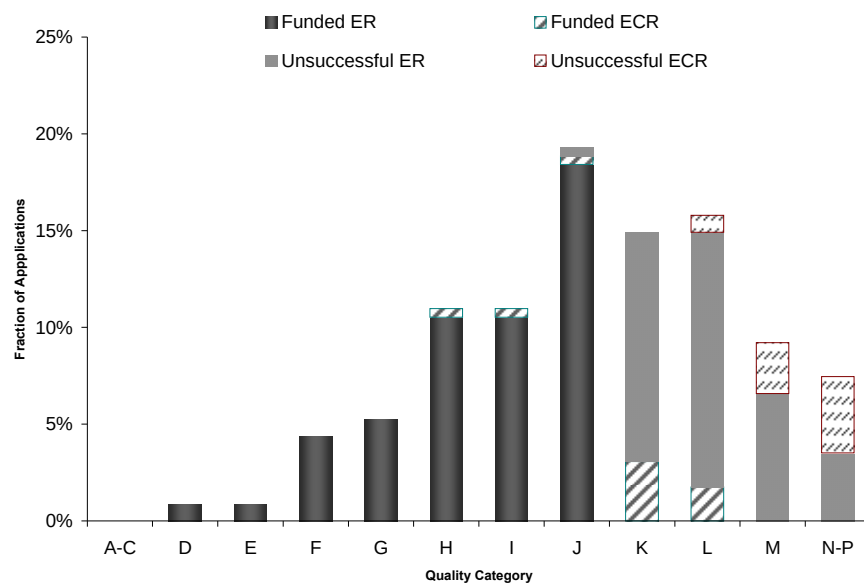
## Chemistry



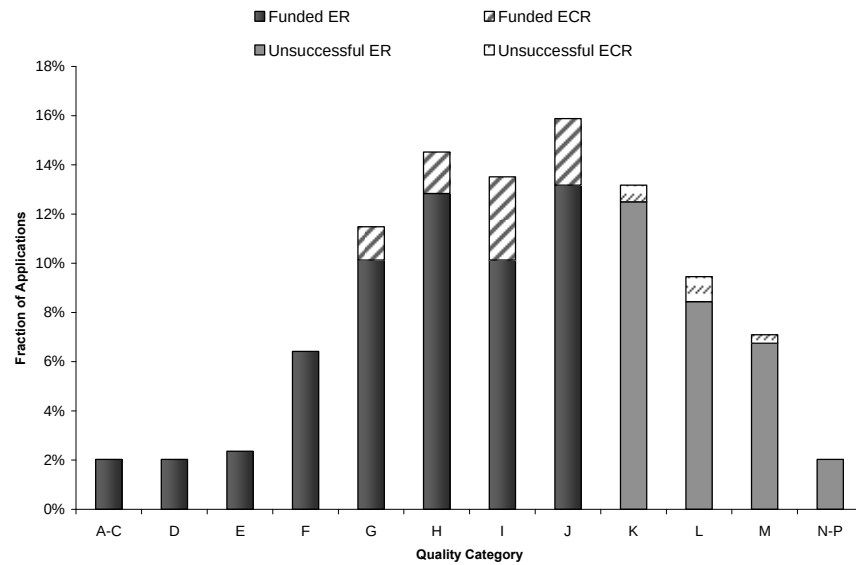
## Physics (excluding Subatomic Physics)



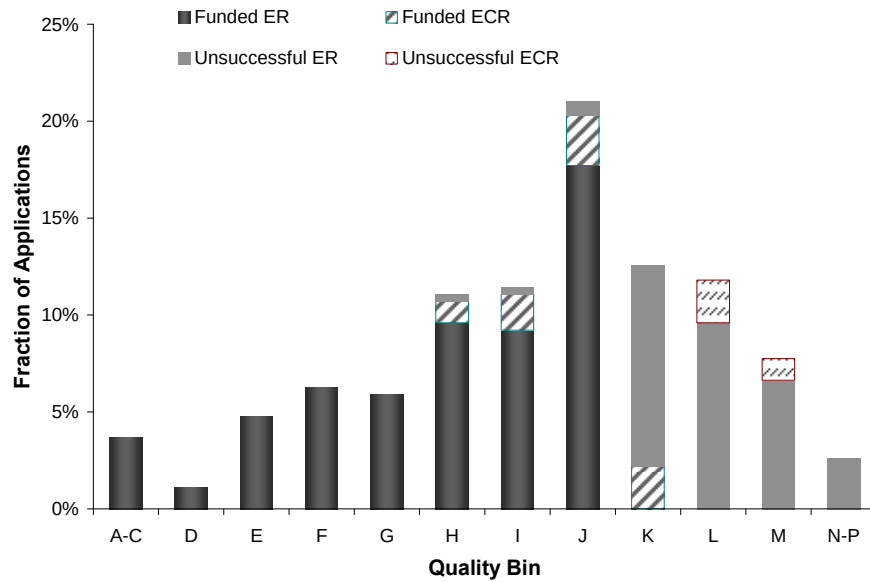
## Geoscience



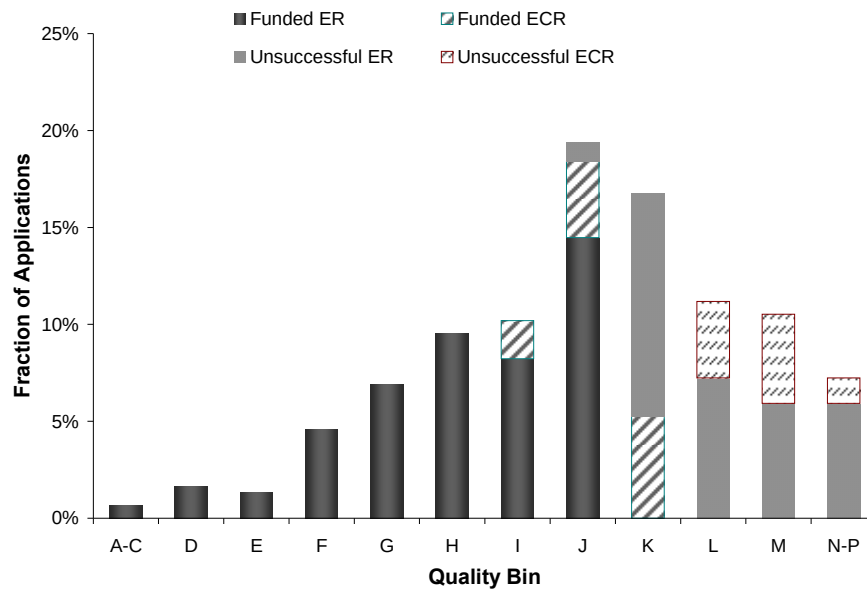
## Computer Science



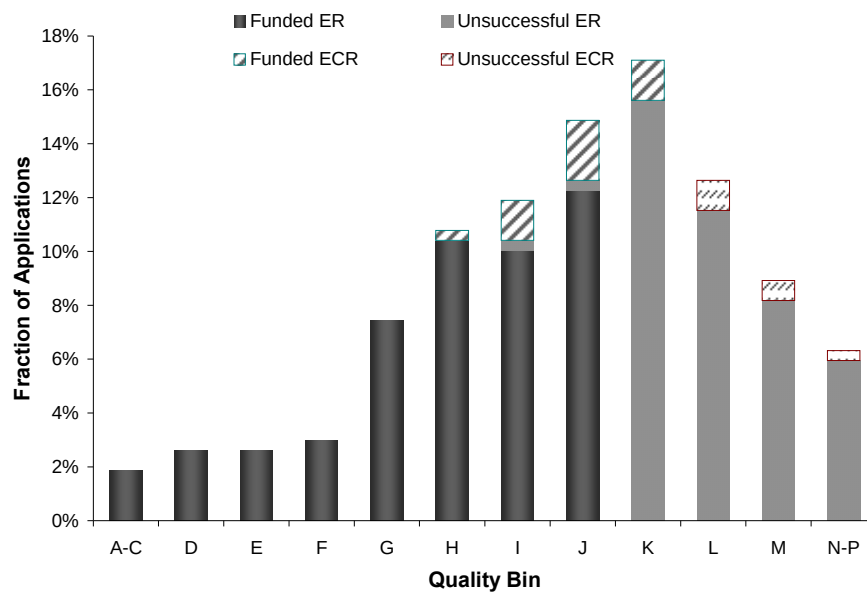
## Mathematics and Statistics



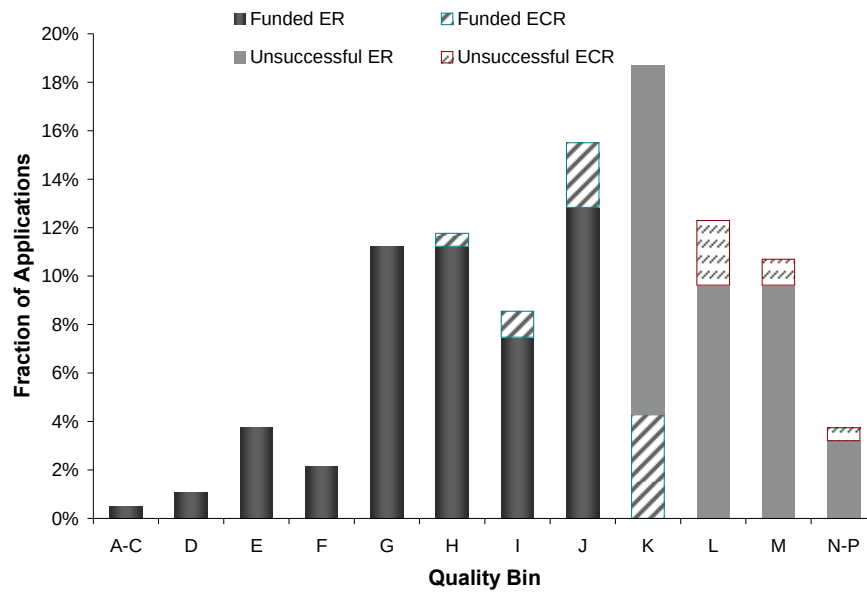
## Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering



## Electrical and Computer Engineering



## Materials and Chemical Engineering



## Mechanical Engineering

