

Evaluating Research Proposals: The Three Criteria



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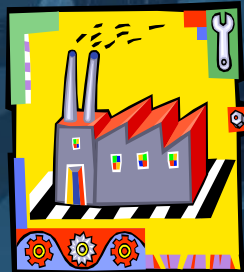
Criterion I: Intellectual Merit (Service to Science ~ 30%)

- * What does science owe to this contribution? How significant and central is it? What is this contribution to be known for by the research community? What is the claim to fame here?
- * Does this contribution introduce and explore novel, original, creative or transformative (i.e. disruptive and/or enabling) research questions, methodologies (i.e. ideas, concepts, hypotheses, theories, models, experiments, tests etc) and/or answers?
- * Are there any significant contributions to advancement of discovery, insight, understanding and new knowledge in one or more disciplinary scientific areas, or across different fields?
- * Does this contribution open new areas and new pathways for further disciplinary and interdisciplinary research? Are the problems and solutions addressed of vital interest to the research community?
- * Does this subscribe to the principles of responsible research conduct? Does it follow the international academic integrity and ethics standards with respect to authenticity of materials, attribution of intellectual contribution, ownership of intellectual property, confidentiality and transparency, and conflict of interest?



Criterion II: Broader Impacts (Service to Humanity ~ 30%)

- * Does this contribution develop human resources, capital and capacity, including diversity, underrepresented and socially vulnerable groups, e.g. via research training and research-integrated teaching and learning? Are new professional jobs and careers expected as a result?
- * Does this work broaden participation via outreach to unconventional audiences and beneficiaries, non-traditional education and scientific literacy of the broader public?
- * Are there any important implementation or application benefits to industry, economy and the society, including environmental, health and safety, and/or ethical, legal and security safeguarding?
- * Does this research promote development and innovation, technology transfer, entrepreneurship and commercialization of new or improved products and services? Is this likely to nucleate and grow small/medium businesses and enterprises?
- * Does this work establish or improve local, regional and/or global physical infrastructure, such as research instrumentation and facilities, or virtual connectivity via networks and partnerships nationally or internationally?



Criterion III: Institutional Value (Service to University Goals ~ 40%)



- * *External Leveraging:* Does the project involve preliminary research that will produce methods and data, on which a major subsequent proposal will be based to lead to sustained research and claim significant external funding?
- * *Interdisciplinary Partnerships:* Does this work include inter-/multi-disciplinary collaboration of different University Schools/Departments/Institutes? Does it promote meaningful, sustainable joint work with quality inter/national partners?
- * *Team Building:* Will this project develop research mentoring of junior/starting researchers by senior/experienced investigators on a long-term basis?
- * *University Image:* Will the outcomes of the project enhance the University image as a research institution through publications, presentations, citations, new intellectual property, awards and other recognitions?

Rating	Strengths	Weaknesses
Excellent (E)	Dominant	Insignificant
Very good (V)	Major	Minor
Good (G)	Significant	Some
Fair (F)	Some	Significant
Poor (P)	Insignificant	Dominant

* *Other Considerations:*

- Reliability of methodology?
- Quality of researcher team?
- Availability of infrastructure?
- Justification of budget, timeline?
- Internal support and/or external endorsement?