



***COMPETITIVE SUPPORT FOR  
UNRATED RESEARCHERS***

**KNOWLEDGE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT  
Framework Document**

**JULY 2014**

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# 1 FUNDING INSTRUMENT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

## 1.1 Name

COMPETITIVE SUPPORT FOR UNRATED RESEARCHERS

## 1.2 Description of Funding Instrument

The Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers (CSUR) is a discipline-based funding instrument, which supports principally basic research as the foundation of knowledge production, in the disciplines of the Humanities, Social and Natural sciences.

As a competitive funding instrument, the CSUR provides support to researchers who do not hold an NRF rating at the time of submission.

Although the funding instrument ostensibly has a broad and non-directed theme and/or structure, proposals which are closely linked to and/or address similar problems through other National Research Foundation (NRF) funding instruments will not be prioritised as part of this funding instrument. Rather, the emphasis will be on basic and as appropriate, applied research in disciplinary fields, and will allow some scope for multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary enquiry along the basic-applied research continuum.

# 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NRF recognises that in order for South Africa to be internationally competitive and to meaningfully contribute to the global economy, the country must have the capability to understand the knowledge produced by others. This understanding can best be developed through performing research. Publicly funded basic and applied research is viewed as a source of new ideas, opportunities, methods, and most importantly, the means through which problem solvers can be trained.

The NRF views support for basic disciplinary research as an investment in the country's learning and knowledge production capabilities and capacities. The CSUR is a discipline-based and demand-driven funding instrument. It is open to persons who **do not currently hold NRF rating**. The cohort of unrated researchers is heterogeneous in its make-up and researchers are not rated for a variety of reasons, inter alia they –

- are unwilling to subject themselves to the rating experience;
- have allowed their rating to lapse by not applying for re-rating; or
- have not succeeded in receiving a rating upon re-evaluation by peer review.

The researchers in the categories above are thus beyond the development phase of their research careers. In a country that is striving to raise the bar for its research outputs including the supervision of postgraduate students, it is important to provide support for their efforts.

## 3 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The mandate of the NRF is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities in order to facilitate the creation of knowledge, and innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the Republic (NRF Act, 1998). In support of its purpose, the NRF launched Vision 2015 that aims to promote world-class research, and create a transformed society and sustainable environment.

### 3.1 Environmental scan

The CSUR resonates with the NRF mandate by being cognisant of the role that basic research and applied research<sup>1</sup> play in the innovation and commercialisation value chain, and hence the socio-economic development of the country.

While it is recognised that the innovation value chain requires basic, strategic and applied research, the emphasis in this programme will be on funding basic and discipline-based research. The rationale for this is based on the understanding that, “basic research is the foundation of all other knowledge – and the ultimate base of an innovative society” (Hoffman, 2006, cited in Knowledge@WPCarey). In order to participate in the international system of innovation, a nation needs the capability to understand the knowledge produced by others. Support for basic disciplinary research should be seen as an investment in a society’s learning capabilities (Salter and Martin, 2001).

At the same time, this funding instrument acknowledges that basic and applied research are a continuum and inter-dependent (ICSU, 2004) and that increasingly, the notion of “frontier research” is gaining purchase internationally, as it transcends the distinction of basic and applied research and refers to leading edge research which is risky and often multidisciplinary [and transdisciplinary] (Schneider, 2007).

### 3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the funding instrument are:

- To contribute to the development of a sound fundamental basis to science and scholarly endeavour in South Africa, in the Humanities, Natural and Social Science disciplines;
- To contribute to knowledge production across the research spectrum and innovation value chain;
- To achieve world-class research and the development of the associated human capacity;
- To advance or develop paradigms, theories and methodological innovation across the research spectrum; and
- To increase the number of rated researchers.

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<sup>1</sup> The Frascati Manual (OECD, 2002) defines **Basic research** as experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view. It further defines **Applied research** as also original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective.

### **3.3 NRF Perspective**

The CSUR is a discipline-based, demand-driven funding instrument that focuses on basic disciplinary research, while allowing (where appropriate) for the “continuum of knowledge” approach alluded to above. This is in line with the NRF’s view that support for basic disciplinary research is an investment in South Africa’s learning capabilities. The CSUR addresses the NRF Vision 2015, which envisages the following for South Africa:

- World-class research;
- Transformed society; and
- Sustainable environment.

The CSUR directly addresses the following strategic goals of the NRF Vision 2015:

- The promotion of internationally competitive research as the basis for a knowledge economy;
- The growth of a representative science and technology workforce in South Africa; and
- The contribution to a vibrant national innovation system.

### **3.4 Institutional structure**

The funding instrument is hosted in the Knowledge Fields Development (KFD) Directorate, the Reviews and Evaluation Directorate is responsible for the review processes up to the award of grants. The Grant Management and Systems Administration Directorate’s responsibilities include disbursement of grant funds and ensuring adherence to the conditions of the grant.

### **3.5 Financing support**

The CSUR is made possible through the NRF’s Parliamentary Core Funding.

### **3.6 Key stakeholders**

The key stakeholders involved in the CSUR are unrated persons based at public research institutions that are recognised by directive of the Minister of Science and Technology that include mainly, Universities, Museums and Science Councils.

### **3.7 Information sources**

Basic research by Universities is critical to US Innovation 2006. *Knowledge@WPCarey*, accessed 10/12/2009

<<http://knowledge.wpcarey.asu.edu/article.cfm?articleid=1207>>

International Council for Science (ICSU) 2004. The value of basic scientific research, Accessed 10/12/2009

<[http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU\\_DOC\\_DOWNLOAD/549\\_DD\\_FILE\\_Basic\\_Sciences\\_1\\_2.04.pdf](http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/549_DD_FILE_Basic_Sciences_1_2.04.pdf)>

National Research Foundation 2008. *NRF Vision 2015: Strategic Plan of the National Research Foundation*, accessed 10/12/2009  
< [http://www.nrf.ac.za/doc/nrf\\_vision\\_2015.pdf](http://www.nrf.ac.za/doc/nrf_vision_2015.pdf)>

OECD 2002. *Frascati Manual: Proposed standard practice for surveys on Research and Experimental Development*. Paris, OECD.

Salter, A.J. & Martin, B. R. 2001. The economic benefits of publicly funded basic research: a critical review. *Research Policy*, 30(3), 509–532.

Schneider, R. 2007. Science Impact: Rethinking the impact of basic research on society and the economy. *Bridges*, 14, accessed 10/12/2009  
<[http://www.ostina.org/index2.php?option=com\\_content&do\\_pdf=1&id+2324](http://www.ostina.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id+2324)>

The Department of Science and Technology, 2013. *The ministerial guidelines for improving equity in the distribution of DST/NRF bursaries and fellowships*.

## 4 MODUS OPERANDI

### 4.1 Call for proposals

All application materials must be submitted electronically via the NRF's Submission system at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>

All applications must be endorsed by the research office of the principal applicant before submission to the NRF. It is the responsibility of each applicant to familiarise themselves with the internal closing date, set by their institution in order to meet the NRF closing date.

**Incomplete OR late submissions will not be accepted.**

All outputs entered onto the NRF Online system were migrated to the current NRF Submission System. When logging on to the NRF Submission system, researchers are requested to verify their outputs on the Landing Page by selecting the type of output under the heading "To be Reviewed" and verifying each output individually until there are none left to be reviewed. These Curriculum Vitae inputs **will be used in all the detailed assessment processes**.

**Call opens:** 10 July 2014  
**Call closes:** 14 August 2014

**Outcome and awards:** 10 December 2014

### 4.2 Eligibility

- Applications are invited from researchers who do not hold an NRF rating and do not receive support from the Thuthuka Programme.

- CSUR grantholders may only hold ONE CSUR grant at a time. CSUR grantholders with current grant awards that run beyond the end of 2014 are ineligible for funding in this round. CSUR grantholders with current grant awards that run to the end of 2014 are eligible for funding in this round. Funding in this round will support successful applications for a maximum period of 3 years, from 2015 – 2017.
- Each new Principal Investigator may only submit ONE CSUR application to this call. Second or third applications will not be considered.
- Full time employees at an NRF recognized research institution in South Africa, who are eligible to apply, are invited to apply.
- Unrated part-time employees on contract at an NRF recognized research institution (as defined above) in South Africa who do not currently hold a CSUR grant may apply, but on condition that their appointment at the South African institution is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission. The length of the contract should be stated in the application form. Salaries must be paid by the research institution and the primary employment of the individual concerned must be at that institution. A contract researcher appointed at a research institution on behalf of a third party to fulfill a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.
- Successful unrated applicants will be eligible for funding for the duration of their awarded grant, to a maximum of 3 years. In the event that a researcher is awarded his/her NRF rating during the funding period, the grant allocation will be allowed run the duration of the award. Upon completion of their CSUR grant, such newly rated researchers will be invited to apply in the Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers funding instrument.
- Retired academics/researchers, provided that they meet all set criteria as stipulated below:
  - are resident in SA;
  - are formally affiliated to a South African Higher Education Institution (e.g., appointed as an emeritus professor, honorary research associate/professor, supernumerary/contract employee);
  - are active researchers with a distinguished track record in research and postgraduate student supervision;
  - are actively mentoring/training postgraduate students/young research staff and
  - the institution ensures that a minimum of reasonable time (6 months minimum) is spent at the facility for the purpose of research and research capacity development.

### 4.3 Application assessment

The assessment of applications will be guided by a Panel Assessment Scorecard (**see Annexure 1**), and scored according to the Proposal Grading (**see Annexure 2**). Application assessment will occur by way of a two-tiered process:

- **Remote [Postal]-peer review**  
The remote -peer reviewers will be specialists in the ambit of the respective proposals. Requests for written reviews will be solicited electronically, or through appropriate media / means from peers located at remote locations from the NRF.

- **Panel-peer review**

Panels will be broadly constituted to include specialists in such areas as Social Sciences, Law and Humanities; Natural Sciences and Engineering. Panel members will be selected based on their broad overview of the respective knowledge field and their research standing. Panel meetings will be held at central locations or by way of tele- or video-conferencing. Panel members will deliberate on submitted written reviews and will be expected to offer their own expert opinions.

## **4.4 Rules of participation**

### **4.4.1 Principal Investigator**

Only researchers based at NRF recognized research institutions in South Africa (as defined above) are eligible to apply as principal investigators in this funding instrument.

The principal investigator (i.e., the applicant) must be an active researcher who takes intellectual responsibility for the project, its conception, any strategic decisions called for in its pursuit, and the communication of results. The principal investigator must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the project and cannot assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be placed in the hands of others. S/he will take responsibility for the management and administration of resources allocated to the grant award. S/he will also take responsibility for meeting reporting requirements.

The principal investigator (i.e. the applicant) may not hold a current CSUR grant.

The principal investigator may submit only one CSUR application to this call for proposals..

**The research team may also include:**

### **4.4.2 Co-investigators**

A co-investigator is an active researcher who provides significant commitment, intellectual input and relevant expertise into the design and implementation of the research application. S/he will be involved in all or at least some well-defined research activities within the scope of the application. South African-based co-investigators are eligible to receive NRF funds from the grant if the team's application is successful.

**Postdoctoral fellows, students, technical and support staff should NOT be listed as co-investigators**

**The project may also include:**

### **4.4.3 Research Associates / Collaborators**

These are individuals or groups who are anticipated to make a relatively small, but meaningful contribution to the research endeavours outlined in the application, but who have not actively participated in the research design. They are not considered a part of the core research team, and are not eligible to receive NRF funds from the grant if the team's application is successful.



## 4.5 Timelines

The CSUR grants will be awarded for a period of no more than three years (2015 – 2017). Successful applicants who wish to apply for further funding upon completion of a three-year funding cycle must submit new applications. All applications will be assessed on a competitive basis.

## 4.6 Management of funding instrument

The KFD Directorate of the NRF– Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) manages the CSUR and is primarily responsible for:

- Strategic oversight and management of the funding instrument;
- Conceptualizing and developing the funding instrument;
- Coordinating and facilitating activities of the funding instrument;
- Compiling funding instrument research and evaluation reports;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Ensuring that the funding instrument delivers on its intended goal(s).

The Reviews and Evaluation Directorate is responsible for managing the adjudication process including:

- Sourcing of reviewers both for remote reviews and panels;
- Managing peer review process;
- Organizing and managing the review panels as and where appropriate;
- Providing feed-back as appropriate; and
- Awarding of grants.

The GMSA Directorate is responsible for:

- Managing the call process, that is,
  - Posting the call;
  - Receiving and assessing applications eligibility;
- Coordinating and facilitating the granting processes;
- Managing the granting including the administration of awards;
- Administering grant payments; and
- Ensuring adherence to conditions of grants.

## 4.7 Line of authority

The funding instrument Director, in the KFD Directorate manages the CSUR with the assistance of a Professional Officer. Where and when appropriate, a Call may be managed by a specially appointed Project Leader supported by Project team of staff drawn from Reviews and Evaluation, GMSA, Knowledge Management and others. The Director responsible for this instrument reports to the Executive Director of the KFD Directorate. Directors from GMSA and Reviews and Evaluation will normally manage the granting and review processes, respectively with the assistance of Professional and Liaison Officers. The Directors in both the GMSA and the Reviews and Evaluation report to their respective Executive Directors.

## 5 FINANCIALS

### 5.1 Funding model

**CSUR is a small and highly competitive funding instrument. Particular care should be taken when budgeting for the various items in the proposal.**

The grants of this funding instrument are to be primarily used for **research purposes** and development of associated human resources under the auspices of the NRF standard grant and finance policies. The money is released upon acceptance of the conditions of grant, both by the applicant and his/her employing institution. These grants will fall under the NRF audit requirements of beneficiary institutions.

### 5.2 Funding ranges

The allocation of funds is demand driven, and as such there is no maximum or minimum proposal request. The number of applications that will be supported overall will depend on the availability of resources and the financial requirements of those successful applications. If successful applications have high financial requirements, fewer applications will be supported.

Successful applications will receive funding that accommodates the following budget items:

- a) Grantholder-linked student support
- b) Staff development grants
- c) Research-related operating costs, including:
  - Sabbaticals
  - Materials and Supplies
  - Travel and subsistence
  - Research / Technical / *Ad hoc* Assistants
  - Research Equipment

The application assessment process will consider proposed budget items in terms of cost, risk and reward ratios. Decisions relating to budget items will also be governed by the overall funding programme funds available for the period. Awards will be made in line with the NRF funding rules and guidelines as outlined in **Section 5.3**.

### 5.3 Funding support

The NRF funds the CSUR on an ongoing basis. Science councils, universities, museums and other NRF-recognized institutions are the primary beneficiaries of this funding instrument.

## **GRANT HOLDER-LINKED STUDENT SUPPORT**

Grantholder-linked student support will be awarded in accordance with eligibility criteria as detailed in the **Ministerial Guidelines for Improving Equity in the Distribution of DST/NRF Bursaries and Fellowships** (January 2013).

The equity distribution for these bursaries is targeted at the ratio:

- 80% Black
- 55% Female
- 4% Disabled

The awarding of postdoctoral fellowships will not be guided by, but not governed by, equity targets.

The citizenship distribution for these bursaries is targeted at the ratio:

- 87% South African (including permanent residents)
- 5% SADC
- 4% Rest of the African continent
- 4% Non-African

Postdoctoral fellowships will not be governed by citizenship targets, and remain open to all who undertake research in South Africa.

### **Values of Student Assistantships**

- Final year undergraduate (Full-time) R8 000 pa
- Honours / BTech (Full-time) R20 000 pa

### **Values of Bursaries & Fellowships**

- Masters degree (Full-time) R 40 000 pa
- Masters degree (Part-time) R 10 000 pa
- Doctoral degree (Full-time) R 60 000 pa
- Doctoral degree (Part-time) R 12 000 pa
- Postdoctoral (*pro rata* per month) R150 000 pa

## **RESEARCH-RELATED OPERATING COSTS**

These costs include: materials and supplies, travel (including conferences and subsistence), equipment, and research / technical / *ad hoc* assistance. Sabbaticals to other research organisations and institutions of higher learning may also be included within the context of the project proposals. These costs should be justified and commensurate with the planned outputs.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### Materials and Supplies

Generally, the NRF **does not** provide financial support for:

- Basic office equipment including computers and consumables unless the computer is required for the research itself or the applicant/team member is based at a museum.
- Basic office stationery, photocopying costs, printing costs unless these items form part of the research tools or the applicant/team member is based at a museum.
- Journal publication costs, journal subscription costs, book costs unless the applicant / team member is based at a museum.
- Telephone, fax and internet costs unless the applicant / team member is based at a museum.

### Travel and subsistence

- **International conference attendance:**  
Generally the NRF restricts this amount to R50, 000 per application per year for a team proposal, i.e., for principal investigators, co-investigators (local only) and local post-graduate students. This amount may be reduced proportionately if there is no team member and/or post-graduate student involvement.
- **International visits:**  
These will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such visits must be integral to the research plan and strong motivations should accompany these requests. Realistic funding allocations will be based on the requested activities. Both incoming and outgoing visits will be considered depending on the availability of funding.
- **Local conference attendance:**  
Generally the NRF restricts expenditure against this item to R5 000 per person (all costs). Support for local conference attendance could be requested for all listed co-investigators and post-graduate students. The applicant should motivate for:
  - The value of attending more than one local conference per annum if so requested
  - The number of people that should be funded to attend local conferences.
- **Local travel:**  
The NRF does not stipulate any rate for mileage as this will depend on the research institutions' rate, which varies per institution. Applicants are requested to provide details of this rate, as well as the estimated distance to be travelled within the given year.
- Local accommodation costs should not exceed a three-star rating establishment, per night per person.

### Research / Technical / *Ad hoc* Assistants

- The NRF will not pay for any salaries in this funding instrument.
- Requests for research / technical / *ad hoc* assistance should be treated judiciously. Generally the NRF would encourage applicants to engage students to undertake the research rather than employing research consultants. This guideline however does not apply when specific and / or highly specialized research / technical expertise is required. This should be CLEARLY motivated for in the proposal.
- **Administrative assistance does NOT qualify as technical assistance.**

## **Equipment**

Equipment requests exceeding R 200 000 per three-year cycle will not be considered.

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

Grantholders may apply for Staff Development grants for South African staff members, who are not grantholders in their own right, at their own or other institutions. These staff members **must** be registered for Masters or Doctoral degrees and supervised by the grant-holder or a team member. They must be directly involved in the NRF approved project.

These grants can be used to contribute towards the operating costs for research undertaken at the supervisor's facility, as well as the cost of travel and accommodation to enable staff members to meet with (co) / supervisors. These grants are awarded to a maximum of R30 000, depending on the nature of the research and the proximity of the student in relation to the supervisor. **Grant holders themselves are not eligible for Staff Development Grants.**

The maximum period of support is three years for a Masters degree and up to five years for a Doctorate from a valid grant.

## **FUNDING TO CATER FOR DISABILITIES**

Additional funding support to cater for disability will only be allocated to people with disabilities as specified in the Code of Good Practice on Employment of People with Disabilities as in the *Employment Equity Act No 55 of 1998*.

## **5.4 Funding instrument budget**

The budget for this funding instrument originates from the NRF's Parliamentary Core Funding.

## **5.5 Financial control and reporting**

Upon receipt of the signed Conditions of Grant letter, the NRF will release the awarded amount for the year. Grantholders will then be required to comply with the standard NRF financial management procedures, including the submission of an Annual Progress Report. These are to be submitted before the end of March of the following year, and are a prerequisite for the release of the subsequent year's funding. Failure to submit the Annual Progress Report will result in the cancellation of the grant award.

## **6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE FUNDING INSTRUMENT**

The NRF is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the CSUR.

## 6.1 Reporting

The funding instrument Director is responsible for reporting quarterly on the contribution of the CSUR to the KFD Directorate's Key Performance Indicators. In addition, the funding instrument Director is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the progress of the funding instrument.

## 6.2 Timeframes for funding instrument review

The will be evaluated by an appropriate external reviewer as appointed by the NRF. RISA will determine and set timeframes for the review, when deemed appropriate, or in line with existing guidelines.

## 6.3 Broad terms of reference for funding instrument review

The broad terms of reference for the programme review of the CPRR will be determined by RISA with preliminary input by the KFD Directorate, and in consultation with the Reviews and Evaluation Directorate.

## 6.4 Utilisation of funding instrument review findings and recommendations

The results of the evaluation will be used in line with the purposes set in the Terms of Reference for the evaluation. Evaluation results will also be used for funding instrument improvement and development.

### QUERIES

FOR QUERIES CONTACT	
Professional Officer:	Director:
Name: Ms Tracy Klarenbeek Telephone : 012 481 4177 e-Mail: <a href="mailto:tracy@nrf.ac.za">tracy@nrf.ac.za</a>	Name: Dr Kaluke Mawila Telephone: (012) 481 4025 e-mail address: <a href="mailto:Kaluke.mawila@nrf.ac.za">Kaluke.mawila@nrf.ac.za</a>

### LIST OF ACRONYMS

CSUR	Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers
DST	Department of Science and Technology
GMSA	Grant Management and Systems Administration
ICSU	International Council for Science
KFD	Knowledge Fields Development
NRF	National Research Foundation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
RISA	Research and Innovation Support and Advancement

## ANNEXURE 1: PANEL ASSESSMENT SCORECARD

Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers					
Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Details	Score / 4	Weight (Total 100%)	Weighted score (Total = 4)
<b>Ethics</b>	Ethical research	If relevant, have ethical considerations been addressed? <sup>2</sup>		0%	<b>Hurdle</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	Alignment with funding instrument	Does the proposal meet the objectives of the funding instrument?		0%	<b>Hurdle</b>
	Scientific merit and feasibility	Reflect on the rationale, approach and proposed methodology.		55%	0.00
<b>Track record of applicant</b>	Past students (graduated)	M and D degrees.		5%	0.00
	Past research	Publications, patents, designs, performances, etc.		8%	0.00
<b>Equity and redress</b>	Of applicant	Black, female, young (five years after obtaining a PhD) or disabled.		5%	0.00
	Of students supervised	M and D degrees.		5%	0.00
<b>Collaboration</b>	With other individuals (Do they add value?)	This will include collaborations at both an international and national level. Are the roles of these collaborators clearly indicated in the proposal?		2%	0.00
	Within a team (Is it appropriate?)	Are the roles of these team members clearly indicated in the proposal?		2%	0.00

<sup>2</sup> Ethical considerations and clearances for grant proposals are the responsibility of the research institute and/or institution of the applicant. Where such ethical considerations and clearances are required, grant applicants will be expected to submit to the NRF signed statements and/or copies of clearance certificates before any grant funds are released.

<b>Impacts</b>	Expected research outputs	Scientific products, e.g., publications, patents, etc. relevant in each case.		6%	0.00
	Impact on knowledge production/field	How does the research advance discovery and understanding in the field?		10%	0.00
	Plans for digital data storage, usage and/or dissemination	If relevant, are the proposed plans appropriate?		2%	0.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>100%</b>	<b>0.00</b>



## ANNEXURE 2: PROPOSAL GRADING

Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers		
Score	Meaning of score	Notes
4	Excellent	Application demonstrates evidence of outstanding performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
3	Above average	Above average performance across all criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
2	Average	Application demonstrates average performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
1	Below average	Below average performance across all the criteria, as determined by panel and relative to knowledge field
	Poor	There are major shortcomings or flaws within and across the stated criteria, with <b>particular emphasis</b> on the scientific/scholarly merit

**Context:**

Proposal grading is done with sensitivity to the context within which each application is submitted. The score of each criterion for each application will be contextualised to accommodate variability in such things as knowledge fields, institutional capacity, etc. Should a criterion not be applicable to a specific application (e.g. plans for digital data storage; collaborations; etc.), the weighting of that specific criteria will be made to equal zero, and the overall score normalised.