

Research Grants Grading Descriptors

Score	Description	Definition
6	Exceptional Should be funded as a matter of the very highest priority	Work that is at the leading edge internationally, in all of the assessment criteria – scholarship, originality, quality and significance, and meets the majority of them to an exceptional level. Likely to have a significant impact on the field. The proposal’s evidence and justification are fully and consistently provided and management arrangements are clear and convincing.
5	Excellent Should be funded as a matter of priority	Work that is internationally excellent in all of the assessment criteria – scholarship, originality, quality and significance, and meets them to an excellent level. Will answer important questions in the field. The proposal’s evidence and justification are fully and consistently provided and management arrangements are clear and convincing.
4	Very Good Worthy of consideration for funding	Work that demonstrates high international standards of scholarship, originality, quality and significance. Will advance the field of research. It meets all assessment criteria. The proposal’s evidence and justification are good and management arrangements are clear and sound.
3	Satisfactory In a competitive context, the proposal is not considered of sufficient priority to recommend for funding	Work that is satisfactory in terms of scholarship and quality but lacking in international competitiveness. It is limited in terms of originality, innovation and significance and its contribution to the research field. It meets minimum requirements in terms of the assessment criteria and the proposal’s evidence and justification are adequate overall.
2	Not Competitive Not recommended for funding	Work that is of inconsistent quality with some strengths, innovative ideas and good components, but has significant weaknesses or flaws in its conceptualisation, design, methodology and management. Unlikely to advance the field significantly. It does not meet all scheme assessment criteria.
1	Unfundable Not suitable for funding	A proposal that has an unsatisfactory level of originality, quality and significance. Has limited potential to advance research within the field and may be unconvincing in terms of its management arrangements or capacity to deliver proposed activities, especially for the amount of funding being sought. Unlikely to advance the field. It falls short of meeting the assessment criteria for the scheme

Leadership Fellows grading descriptors

Grade	Description	Definition
6	<p>Exceptional Should be funded as a matter of the very highest priority</p>	<p>An outstanding proposal that is world-leading in all of the following: scholarship, originality, quality and significance. It fully meets all the assessment criteria for the scheme and excels in many or all of these. It provides full and consistent evidence and justification for the proposal and management arrangements are clear and convincing. A convincing case is made that the proposed Fellowship has outstanding leadership and transformational potential, commensurate with the applicant's career stage. A proposal will only be scored at this level if both the research and leadership elements of the proposal are considered to be at this level.</p>
5	<p>Excellent Should be funded as a matter of priority</p>	<p>A proposal that is internationally excellent in all of the following: scholarship, originality, quality and significance. It fully meets or surpasses all the assessment criteria for the scheme. It provides full and consistent evidence and justification for the proposal, demonstrates strong institutional support and management arrangements are clear and convincing. A convincing case is made that the proposed Fellowship has excellent leadership and transformational potential, commensurate with the applicant's career stage. A proposal will only be scored at this level if both the research and leadership elements of the proposal are considered to be at this level.</p>
4	<p>Very Good Worthy of consideration for funding</p>	<p>A very good proposal demonstrating high international standards of scholarship, originality, quality and significance. It meets all the assessment criteria for the scheme. It provides good evidence and justification for the proposal and management arrangements are clear and sound. A convincing case is made that the proposed Fellowship has leadership and transformational potential, commensurate with the applicant's career stage. A proposal will only be scored at this level if both the research and leadership elements of the proposal are considered to be at this level.</p>
3	<p>Satisfactory In a competitive context, the proposal is not considered of sufficient priority to recommend for funding</p>	<p>A satisfactory proposal in terms of the overall standard of scholarship and quality, but which is not internationally competitive and/or does not make a fully convincing case that the proposed Fellowship has significant leadership and/or transformational potential, commensurate with the applicant's career stage and/or which is more limited in terms of originality/innovation, significance and/or its contribution to the research field. It satisfies at least minimum requirements in relation to the assessment criteria for the scheme, provides reasonable evidence and justification for the proposal and management arrangements are adequate overall.</p>
2	<p>Not Competitive Not recommended for funding</p>	<p>A proposal of inconsistent quality which has some strengths, innovative ideas and/or good components or dimensions, but also has significant weaknesses or flaws in one or more of the following: conceptualisation, design, methodology, management, leadership and transformational potential, collaborative activities and/or institutional support. As a result of the flaws or weaknesses identified, the proposal is not considered to be of fundable quality. A proposal would also be graded 2 if it does not meet all the assessment criteria for the scheme.</p>

1	Unfundable Not suitable for funding	A proposal which falls into one or more of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has unsatisfactory levels of originality, quality and/or significance• falls significantly short of meeting the assessment criteria for the scheme• contains insufficient evidence and justification for the proposal• displays limited potential to advance the field of research• potential outcomes or outputs that do not merit the levels of funding sought• is unconvincing in terms of its management arrangements or capacity to deliver the proposed activities.• displays inadequate institutional support• does not make a convincing case that the proposed Fellowship has leadership and transformational potential commensurate with the applicant's career stage• contains insufficient proposals for relevant collaborative activities
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Follow-on Fund for Impact and Engagement grading descriptors

Score	Description	Definition
6	Exceptional Should be funded as a matter of the very highest priority	An exceptional and innovative proposal meeting the highest quality and standards of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement, which targets new audiences, leading to significant impact. All assessment criteria are fully met with full and consistent evidence and justification provided for the proposal in terms of concept, design, methodology and management.
5	Excellent Should be funded as a matter of priority	An excellent and innovative proposal meeting the highest quality and standards of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement, which targets new audiences and is likely to lead to significant impact. All assessment criteria are fully met with full and consistent evidence and justification provided for the proposal in terms of concept, design, methodology and management.
4	Very Good Worthy of consideration for funding	A good proposal meeting a high quality and standard of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement and is likely to lead to impact. All assessment criteria are fully met with full and consistent evidence and justification provided for the proposal in terms of concept, design, methodology and management.
3	Satisfactory Not recommended for funding	A satisfactory proposal in terms of the overall quality and standard knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement and likely to lead to some impact. Assessment criteria for the scheme are met and reasonable evidence and justification for the proposal are provided in terms of concept, design, methodology and management, but which in a competitive context is not a priority.
2	Not Competitive Not suitable for funding	A proposal of inconsistent quality and standard of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement which is unlikely to lead to any significant impact. Has some strengths, but also contains a number of major weaknesses or flaws in its concept, design, methodology and/or management. Does not meet all the assessment criteria for the scheme.
1	Unsatisfactory Not suitable for funding	A proposal of an unsatisfactory quality and standard of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement with no significant impact. Does not meet the assessment criteria for the scheme and offers no satisfactory evidence and justification for the proposal.