<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence of the Researcher</th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Insufficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledged as a leader in terms of research excellence, accomplishments, and service.</td>
<td>Research excellence, accomplishments, and service are far superior to others.</td>
<td>Research excellence, accomplishments, and service are superior to others.</td>
<td>Research excellence, accomplishments, and service are significant.</td>
<td>Research excellence, accomplishments, and service are reasonable.</td>
<td>Research excellence, accomplishments, and service are below an acceptable level.</td>
<td>Research excellence, accomplishments, and service are not appropriate or not clearly defined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions presented in the application are of the highest level of quality.</td>
<td>Contributions presented in the application are of high quality.</td>
<td>Contributions presented in the application are of good quality.</td>
<td>Contributions presented in the application are of reasonable quality.</td>
<td>Contributions presented in the application are limited in quality.</td>
<td>Contributions presented in the application are not appropriate or not clearly defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact and importance of the work is clearly evident and groundbreaking.</td>
<td>Impact and importance of the work is clearly evident.</td>
<td>Impact and importance of the work is evident.</td>
<td>Impact and importance of the work is somewhat evident.</td>
<td>Impact and importance of the work is not clearly evident.</td>
<td>Impact and importance of the work is not appropriate or not clearly defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proposed research program is clearly presented, is extremely original and innovative and is likely to have impact by leading to groundbreaking advances in the area and/or leading to a technology or policy that addresses socio-economic or environmental needs.**

**Long-term vision and short-term objectives are clearly defined.**

The methodology is clearly defined and appropriate. The methodology is described and appropriate. The methodology is partially described and/or appropriate. The methodology is not clearly described and/or appropriate. The application does not clearly demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from those funded (or applied for) by other sources.

**Contributions presented in the application are of high quality.**

Impact and importance of the work is clearly evident. Contributions presented in the application are above average in quality.

Impact and importance of the work is clear. Contributions presented in the application are of good quality.

Impact and importance of the work is average. Contributions presented in the application are of acceptable quality.

Impact and importance of the work is modest. Contributions presented in the application are of limited quality.

Impact and importance of the work is not evident. Contributions presented in the application are not appropriate or not clearly defined.

**Past training of HQP**

- Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.
- Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Contributions presented in the application are of high quality.**

Impact and importance of the work is clearly evident. Contributions presented in the application are above average in quality.

Impact and importance of the work is clear. Contributions presented in the application are of good quality.

Impact and importance of the work is average. Contributions presented in the application are of acceptable quality.

Impact and importance of the work is modest. Contributions presented in the application are of limited quality.

Impact and importance of the work is not evident. Contributions presented in the application are not appropriate or not clearly defined.

**Past training is at the highest level in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

- Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.
- Training related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.
- Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Proposed research program is clearly presented, is highly original and innovative and is likely to have impact by leading to advancements and/or addressing socio-economic or environmental needs.**

**Long-term goals are clearly defined and short-term objectives are well planned.**

The methodology is clearly described and appropriate. The methodology is described and appropriate. The methodology is partially described and/or appropriate. The methodology is not clearly described and/or appropriate. The application does not clearly demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from those funded (or applied for) by other sources.

**Past training is superior to other applicants in terms of the research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are of the highest quality: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce top quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

**Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.**

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Proposed research program is clearly presented, is original and innovative and is likely to have impact and/or address socio-economic or environmental needs.**

**Long-term goals are defined and short-term objectives are planned.**

The methodology is clearly described and appropriate. The methodology is described and appropriate. The methodology is partially described and/or appropriate. The methodology is not clearly described and/or appropriate. The application does not clearly demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from those funded (or applied for) by other sources.

**Past training is at the highest level in terms of research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to highly impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Past training is superior to other applicants in terms of the research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Past training is at the highest level in terms of research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to highly impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Past training is superior to other applicants in terms of the research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Past training is superior to other applicants in terms of the research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Past training is superior to other applicants in terms of the research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.

**Past training is superior to other applicants in terms of the research training environment provided and HQP contributions to research.**

Most HQP move on to impactful positions that require skills gained through the training received.

**Training philosophy and research training plans are superior: highly appropriate, clearly defined, and expected to produce high quality results in terms of the overall approach and specific projects for HQP.**

Challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion specific to the institution and field of research are clearly described.

Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse group of HQP and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.