

1. Partnership

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
1.1 Partner organizations' roles in the project and value of their involvement and any other in-kind contributions	All partner organizations have clear roles, and they are integrally engaged in the project. Their involvement and any other in-kind contributions are highly valuable to the project and/or its intended outcomes.	All partner organizations have clear roles, and they are highly engaged in the project. Their involvement and any other in-kind contributions are valuable to the project and/or its intended outcomes.	All partner organizations have clear roles, and they are actively engaged in the project. Their involvement and any other in-kind contributions are relevant to the project and/or its intended outcomes.	The roles of the partner organizations in the project are not clear; or it does not appear that all the partner organizations are involved or engaged in the project; or the partner organizations' involvement or any other in-kind contributions are not clear or are not relevant to the project and/or its intended outcomes.
1.2 Relevance of the partnership and capacity of the partner organizations to translate, mobilize and/or apply the research results	The partner organizations' activities are highly relevant to the project. The partner organizations demonstrate full capacity to translate, mobilize and/or apply the research results to achieve the intended outcomes. The project brings together a highly synergistic combination of partner organizations to achieve a greater impact.	The partner organizations' activities are relevant to the project. The partner organizations demonstrate strong capacity to translate, mobilize and/or apply the research results to achieve the intended outcomes. Where relevant, the project brings together a complementary combination of partners to achieve a greater impact.	The partner organizations' activities are related to the project. The partner organizations demonstrate sufficient capacity to translate, mobilize and/or apply the research results to achieve the intended outcomes.	The relevance of the partner organizations to the project is not clear; or the partnership does not involve organizations needed to achieve the intended outcomes; or the partner organizations' capacity to translate, mobilize and/or apply the research results to achieve the intended outcomes is not convincingly demonstrated.

2. Research plan and team

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
<p>2.1 Clarity of the research objectives and expected results, appropriateness of the research plan, and suitability of the budget</p>	<p>The research objectives and expected results are clearly defined and comprehensive, and the planned activities are clear, well-developed and effective to achieve them. Expenditures are well justified, and the budget is suitable for the planned activities.</p>	<p>The research objectives and expected results are clearly defined, and the planned activities are clear and appropriate to achieve them. Expenditures are well justified, and the budget is suitable for the planned activities.</p>	<p>The research objectives and expected results are adequately defined, and the planned activities are reasonably clear and appropriate to achieve them. Expenditures are adequately justified, and the budget is acceptable for the planned activities.</p>	<p>The research objectives and expected results are not defined; or the planned activities are not clear or appropriate; or there are expenditures that are not adequately justified; or the budget is not suitable for the planned activities.</p>
<p>2.2 Appropriateness of the expertise of the team (academic and partner organization participants) for carrying out the planned research activities, as well as for managing the project and providing training</p>	<p>The team has the highest levels of relevant and complementary expertise needed to successfully conduct the proposed research and achieve the intended outcomes. The team has very strong capabilities to successfully manage the proposed project and to provide highly valuable training and mentorship to the project's trainees.</p>	<p>The team has appropriate expertise to successfully conduct the proposed research and achieve the intended outcomes. The team has the capabilities to successfully manage the proposed project and to provide valuable training and mentorship to the project's trainees.</p>	<p>The team has sufficient expertise to conduct the proposed research and achieve the intended outcomes. The team has sufficient capabilities to appropriately manage the proposed project and to provide relevant training and mentorship to the project's trainees.</p>	<p>The application does not adequately demonstrate that the team has sufficient expertise to conduct the proposed research and achieve the intended outcomes; or sufficient capabilities to manage the proposed project or to provide training and mentorship to the project's trainees.</p>

3. Training

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
<p>3.1 Opportunities for enriched learning experiences for research trainees (undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) to develop relevant research skills, as well as professional skills (e.g., leadership, communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship)</p>	<p>The project's training plan is exemplary. It is comprehensive and includes valuable learning experiences and interactions with the partner organizations that go beyond a traditional university training environment. An appropriate number of trainees of suitable levels for the project will develop high-quality, transferable research and professional skills that will best prepare them for success in their future careers.</p>	<p>The project's training plan includes valuable learning experiences and interactions with the partner organizations that go beyond a traditional university training environment. An appropriate number of trainees of suitable levels for the project will develop good-quality, transferable research and professional skills that will better prepare them for their future careers.</p>	<p>The project's training plan includes suitable learning experiences and some interactions with the partner organizations. An appropriate number of trainees of suitable levels for the project will develop relevant research and professional skills.</p>	<p>The project's training plan does not include sufficient learning experiences at the appropriate levels for the project; or it does not include interactions with the partner organizations; or the value of the experience provided to the trainees is not clear; or the opportunities to develop relevant research and professional skills are not sufficiently described.</p>
<p>3.2 Consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion in the project's training plan</p>	<p>The training plan identifies context-specific challenges to equity, diversity and inclusion within the project's training environment and includes specific, concrete and evidence-based practices to address these challenges across multiple aspects of the training plan (e.g., training philosophy, recruitment, training environment, development opportunities for and skills gained by trainees). Methods to monitor and adapt the plan based on non-demographic indicators of success are included.</p>	<p>The training plan identifies context-specific challenges to equity, diversity and inclusion within the project's training environment and includes specific and concrete practices to address these challenges across multiple aspects of the training plan (e.g., training philosophy, recruitment, training environment, development opportunities for and skills gained by trainees).</p>	<p>The training plan includes specific and concrete practices to advance equity, diversity and inclusion within the project's training environment.</p>	<p>The training plan does not adequately outline specific and concrete practices to advance equity, diversity and inclusion in the project training environment.</p>

4. Impact and benefits to Canada

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
4.1 Innovativeness of the proposed research and its potential to lead to advancements or new knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering disciplines	The project will overcome important knowledge gaps in the natural sciences or engineering disciplines or contribute to a scientific / technological breakthrough .	The project addresses knowledge gaps through the generation of impactful new knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering disciplines or the development / advancement of new technologies.	The project contributes to addressing knowledge gaps through the generation of new knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering disciplines or the development / advancement of new technologies.	The proposal does not convincingly demonstrate how the project will contribute to addressing knowledge gaps, generate new knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering disciplines, or develop / advance new technologies.
4.2 Significance of the outcomes and of the economic, environmental and/or other societal benefits for Canada and Canadians	The project will lead to extremely important new or improved technologies, products, processes, services, policies, standards or regulations in Canada, and its outcomes will produce the highest benefits for Canadians.	The project will lead to very important new or improved technologies, products, processes, services, policies, standards or regulations in Canada, and its outcomes will substantially benefit Canadians.	The project will lead to useful new or improved technologies, products, processes, services, policies, standards or regulations in Canada, and its outcomes will benefit Canadians.	The proposal does not convincingly demonstrate how the project will lead to new or improved technologies, products, processes, services, policies, standards or regulations in Canada, or how its outcomes will benefit Canadians.