



STIMULUS GRANTS EVALUATION CRITERIA

Scoring Guidance

The purpose of the Stimulus Grants is to increase research capacity and support for clinicians and for junior academics who wish to undertake: (a) Small, self-contained studies without other funding; (b) Pilot studies towards the pursuit of more comprehensive initiatives and/or grant applications. The maximum duration of grant support is 24 months and the maximum budget allocated to each project is \$20,000.

Applications are scored in 4 domains: (1) Quality of the Applicant; (2) Project Significance; (3) Project Methodology; (4) Project Feasibility. Reviewers are asked to judge the quality of the application based only on the information provided.

Scoring Guidance for All Domains		
Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance
1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with few minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also multiple weaknesses
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	Some strengths but also multiple major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and multiple major weaknesses

Criteria Considered:

Applicant
<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The track record and scientific ability of the applicant, as reflected in their applicationb. Experience relevant to the topic of the applicationc. Confidence that they will carry out the proposed research project successfully.d. Additional criteria for applicants in the academic stream: (i) publication and grants relative to career stage; (ii) showing early leadership.



Project Significance

- a. Does the project address an interesting topic for which there is limited available information?
- b. Based on the available literature, is this project redundant or of minor incremental value?
- c. Will the results contribute significantly to our understanding of mental disorders OR to the improvement of clinical care?
- d. If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved?
- e. For academic stream only: (i) is this project likely to assist the applicant's career development? (ii) is the project likely to provide data for a grant application to external agencies?

Project Methodology

- a. Are there ethical issues, and if so have these been adequately addressed?
- b. Is the methodology clearly described?
- c. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate?
- d. Is the study sufficiently powered to achieve the stated aims?

Project Feasibility

- a. Are the aims achievable within the timeframe proposed?
- b. Is there evidence of the feasibility of participant recruitment (if appropriate)?
- c. Is the proposed research project achievable with the infrastructure and other resources as detailed by the applicant?
- d. Are the listed collaborators appropriate in terms of their expertise?