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MRC Fellowship Panels Scoring Matrix

**Score Indicators**

**10. Exceptional – Considerable potential to become an internationally competitive research leader**

**Highest priority for funding**

- **Personal Achievement**
  - Exceptionally high achiever at the appropriate level for the fellowship
  - Clearly demonstrates necessary expertise and skills set
  - Identifies and proactively seeks opportunities for career advancement
- **Project and Training**
  - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap
  - Innovative methodology and design
  - Excellent training plans, with well justified placements and collaborations
  - Excellent value for money
- **Environment**
  - Environment well justified with high scientific impact in chosen field
  - Demonstrable commitment from supervisors, mentors, and host institution
  - Career development actively supported with appropriate placements and collaborations identified and encouraged.

**9. Excellent – Significant potential to become an internationally competitive research leader**

**Very high priority for funding**

- **Personal Achievement**
  - Very high achiever at the appropriate level for the fellowship
  - Demonstrates necessary expertise and skills set
  - Identifies and proactively seeks opportunities for career advancement
- **Project and Training**
  - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap
  - Innovative methodology and design
  - Very good training plans, with well justified placements and collaborations
  - Excellent value for money
- **Environment**
  - Environment well justified with high scientific impact in chosen field
  - Demonstrable commitment from supervisors, mentors, and host institution
  - Career development actively supported with appropriate placements and collaborations identified and encouraged

**8. Very High Quality – Potential to become an internationally competitive research leader**

**High priority for funding**

- **Personal Achievement**
  - High achiever at the appropriate level for the fellowship
  - Demonstrates necessary expertise and skills set
  - Identifies and highlights opportunities for career advancement
- **Project and Training**
  - Key scientific question or knowledge gap
  - Robust methodology and design (innovative in parts)
  - Good training plans, with well justified placements and collaborations
  - Very good value for money

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- **Environment**
  - Environment well justified with high scientific impact in chosen field
  - Demonstrable commitment from supervisors, mentors, and host-institution
  - Career development actively supported with appropriate placements and collaborations identified and encouraged

**7. High Quality – Significant potential to become a leading edge, nationally competitive research leader**

**Fundable**

- **Personal Achievement**
  - High achiever at the appropriate level for the fellowship
  - Demonstrates majority of skills and expertise required
  - Identifies and highlights opportunities for career advancement
- **Project and Training**
  - Worthwhile scientific question or knowledge gap
  - Robust methodology and design
  - Robust training plans, with well justified placements and collaborations
  - Very good value for money
- **Environment**
  - Environment well justified with good scientific impact in chosen field
  - Demonstrable commitment from supervisors, mentors, and host-institution
  - Career development actively supported with appropriate placements and collaborations identified and encouraged.

**6. High Quality – Potential to become a leading edge, nationally competitive research leader**

**Fundable**

- **Personal Achievement**
  - Potentially a high achiever at the appropriate level for the fellowship
  - Demonstrates most skills and expertise required
  - Identifies some opportunities for career advancement
- **Project and Training**
  - Worthwhile scientific question or knowledge gap
  - Sound methodology and design
  - Appropriate training plans, with well justified placements and collaborations
  - Good value for money
- **Environment**
  - Environment well justified with high scientific impact in chosen field
  - Some evidence of commitment from supervisors, mentors, and host-institution
  - Career development supported with appropriate placements and collaborations identified

**5. Good quality – Some potential but not yet fully demonstrated**

**Unfundable**

- **Personal Achievement**
  - Candidate does not demonstrate the appropriate level of experience for the fellowship
  - Demonstrates some skills and expertise required
  - Limited opportunities for career advancement
- **Project and Training**
  - Worthwhile scientific question or knowledge gap
  - Methodologically flawed study
  - Appropriate training plans, with justified placements and collaborations
  - Adequate value for money

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- **Environment**
  - Environment poorly justified with low scientific impact in chosen field
  - Commitment from supervisors, mentors, and host-institution
  - Career development supported with appropriate placements and collaborations identified

**4. Potentially useful - with several weaknesses**

**Unfundable**

- **Personal Achievement**
  - Candidate does not demonstrate the appropriate level of experience for the fellowship
  - Demonstrates some skills and expertise required
- **Project and Training**
  - Scientific question potentially useful but requires major revision
  - Methodologically flawed study
  - Adequate training has not been identified
  - Poor value for money
- **Environment**
  - Environment not adequately justified, or inadequate evidence of scientific impact
  - Weak commitment from supervisor, mentor and/or host institution

**3. Potentially useful - with major weaknesses**

**Unfundable**

- **Personal Achievement & Goals**
  - Candidate does not demonstrate the appropriate level of experience for the fellowship
  - Demonstrates few of the skills required
- **Project and Training**
  - Scientific question poorly defined and methodologically flawed
  - Adequate training has not been identified
- **Environment**
  - Inappropriate host environment or supervisor
  - Poor supporting statements from supervisor, mentor and/or host institution

**2. Poor quality fellowship, bordering on unacceptable**

**Unfundable**

- Candidate is not at the appropriate level of experience for the fellowship
- Poor quality project proposal, inappropriate training plans, and/or host environment
- Weak commitment from supervisor, mentor and/or host institution

**1. Unacceptable quality or has serious ethical concern**

**0. Ineligible for funding**