

Panel Scoring System

When deciding your score please consider the score indicators, below;

- A very high score (8-10): The project merits a high rating across all criteria and score indicators.
- Medium score (5-7): The project has strong and weaker aspects.
- Low score (below 5): Has more weak than strong aspects.

Whilst not meant to be prescriptive or exhaustive, the following considerations should be included in assessment alongside anything else you feel is relevant:

- Development of **new** research collaborations and the extent to which this will promote excellence. Some aspects of the proposed research collaborations may be more speculative and exploratory than is expected for NERC Standard Grants. Consideration of excellence will take into account both the duration of the grant and the potential to achieve further excellence in the longer term.
- The level of unique or complementary contribution and expertise of the UK team and the international partners, i.e. why the proposed project objectives require collaboration between the UK and international partners.
- The potential for long-term sustainability of the collaboration, including routes for further collaboration beyond the duration of the seedcorn fund grant.
- The level of the contribution made to this award from other sources including the UK institutions and international potential partners.
- The balance between partnership building activities and direct research activities is appropriate to achieve the objectives of the grant.
- Number of international project partners is not a primary consideration, but rather the quality and value of the partnership being developed as well as the likelihood of developing a successful partnership (long term). One partner can be just as valuable as multiple individuals/networks.

Score

Excellent quality proposal

- 10 The proposed work is outstanding and represents world-leading standards in terms of quality, significance and scientific impact.

Outstanding alignment with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

Applicants are collaborating with world leading international researchers in areas of very high potential. The partnership may bring together highly complementary and unique combinations of skills and expertise not achievable by working within the UK community alone. There are clearly identified and actionable routes for the partnership to grow and a high chance for it to be maintained in the future.

- 9 The proposed work is excellent and represents world-class standards in terms of quality, significance and scientific impact.

Excellent alignment with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The collaboration is with world-class researchers in areas of significant potential. Partners bring together complimentary and



potentially unique sets of skills not achievable within the UK alone. There are clear routes for future collaboration and plans to maintain and build the partnership after the grant ends.

8 The proposed work is very good, contains aspects of excellence, and represents high standards in terms of quality, significance and scientific impact.

Excellent alignment with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The applicants are working with excellent researchers who bring together complementary expertise not found within the UK. There is the clear potential for future collaboration beyond the life of the grant demonstrated within the application.

Good quality proposal

7 The proposed work is of a good quality, internationally competitive, at the forefront of the research area and has potential for high scientific impact.

Very good alignment with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The collaboration brings together researchers with the potential for internationally competitive work. There is the clear potential for future collaboration beyond the life of the grant demonstrated within the application.

6 The proposed work is of a good quality, and has a good level of scientific impact.

Good alignment with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The partnership is between researchers who bring together complementary skills and expertise with the potential for internationally competitive outcomes. Some consideration has been made for future collaboration and there is the potential for the partnerships to be maintained beyond the life of the grant.

5 The proposed work is of a good quality and has some scientific merit but is not at the forefront of the area

Adequately aligned with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

Partnerships are between researchers who bring together complementary expertise but could be achieved within the UK community. There is some potential for maintaining and developing the partnership in the future.

Adequate proposal

4 The proposed work has some scientific merit, but has a number of weaknesses.



Limited alignment with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The collaboration isn't particularly original and doesn't require international partners to achieve. There is limited potential for future collaboration, which isn't well defined or identified within the application.

3 The proposed work is adequate. It would provide some new knowledge, but fails to provide reasonable evidence and justification for the proposal.

Limited alignment with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The collaboration doesn't require international partners to achieve. There is limited potential for future collaboration, which isn't defined or identified within the application.

Poor proposal

2 The proposed work is weak in terms of quality, significance and scientific impact, and has only a few strengths.

Not aligned with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The focus of the application is not on the partnership aspects of the work and there is no potential for future working together beyond the life of the grant.

1 The proposed work is of an unsatisfactory quality and unlikely to advance the field.

Not aligned with the Programme's objectives and requirements as outlined in the Announcement of Opportunity.

There is no significance to the partnership work and the research could be achieved individually. There is no intention to build the partnership for the future.

0 For special cases, e.g. flawed in scientific approach, subject to serious technical difficulties, does not address operational risks, sufficiently unclearly written that it cannot be properly assessed, success depends on the project student, or is duplicative of other research.