

Criteria	Excellent	Average	Poor
Appropriate Match	The purposes for the grant and the proposed research are closely aligned.	The proposed research supports the goals of the grant.	The actual purpose of the research is not the focus of the grant (ie. commercialization of product vs. theoretical research).
	The proposal clearly explains how the research will address the grant's focus areas.	The proposed research will address one or more of the grant's focus areas.	The proposed research will not address the grant's focus areas.
	The proposed research would be enhanced by inclusion in the grant program.	The proposed research meets the eligibility requirements for the grant.	The proposed research should be funded by researcher's institution.
Outcomes	The main research questions and supporting specific questions are clearly stated.	The main research questions are described.	The main research questions are ill-defined.
	Research contributes to a new area of human knowledge.	Research extends or adds value to an area of human knowledge.	Research results will have little impact or use.
	Outcomes are clearly and fully described.	Outcomes are defined.	Outcomes are vaguely mentioned.
	The need or benefits deriving from this research are clearly defined with supporting evidence.	The need or benefits deriving from this research are clearly defined.	The need or benefits from this research is unclear.
Background/ Literature Review	Summary of related research is comprehensive and provides a balanced view of competing or rival ideas.	Summary of relevant related research is provided.	Summary of related research limited in focus and relies extensively on prospective researcher's own work.

	The link between the proposed research and the existing base of previous research is clearly described.	The link between the proposed research and the existing base of previous research is outlined.	Connections between the proposed research and previous research are not clearly provided.
--	---	--	---

Criteria	Excellent	Average	Poor
Research/ Development Methods	New or innovative techniques are proposed.	New or innovative uses for existing techniques are proposed.	Routine application of known techniques are proposed.
	Data collection methods are fully described.	Data collection methods are outlined.	Data collection is unclear or inadequate.
	Data analysis methods are fully described.	Data analysis methods are outlined.	Data analysis is unclear or inadequate.
	Proposed research, data collection, and data analysis methods are well chosen for the research objectives.	Proposed research, data collection, and data analysis methods are appropriate for the research objectives.	Proposed research, data collection, and data analysis methods are ill-suited for the research objectives.
	Expected results are described.	Expected results are outlined.	Expected results are vaguely referenced.
	Criteria for success and/or failure are described.	Criteria for evaluation are outlined.	Criteria for evaluation are imprecise or not included.
	The proposal clearly describes compliance with required research standards.	Compliance with required research standards is covered.	Compliance with required research standards is not adequately covered.
Budget	The budget is complete, accurate, and reflects a realistic and practical view of the resources required to complete the proposal's objectives.	The budget is complete and accurate.	The budget is incomplete or appears to under- or over-estimate the resources required for the proposed effort.
	Planned use of resources is prudent and frugal offering a efficient and effective use of grant funds.	The proposed budget is reasonable for the desired outcomes.	The proposed budget is excessive with respect to the proposed outcomes.

Criteria	Excellent	Average	Poor
Likelihood of Success	The research proposal includes a clear outline of the proposed work, preliminary results, and evidence on the validity of idea or approach.	The research proposal presents a clear plan for completing the work.	The research proposal presents an idea but not a clear plan of action.
	Researchers are known contributors in the field. The talents of the research team complement each other. A select list of relevant publications is provided. Additional supporting materials are provided in an appendix.	Research team has provided a list of relevant publications.	Research team does not include previously successful researchers. The list of publications provided are in a different intellectual domain.
	Technical details are clearly understood non-experts and can be easily evaluated by an expert referee.	Technical details are fully provided.	Insufficient technical details are provided to judge the feasibility of the planned work.
	The researchers have access to a wide range of technical sources, services, and resources through the host institution.	The host institution provides essential services to the researchers.	The institution has limited experience supporting funded research proposals.
General	The proposal summary is a complete, succinct, and covers each of the key or requested elements making it easy for readers to quickly grasp the scope of the proposed research.	The proposal summary covers each of the key or requested elements.	The proposal summary does not adequately cover the key or requested elements of the proposal.
	The proposal includes all of the required elements and provides supplemental information as needed in the appendix.	The proposal includes all of the required elements.	The proposal does not include all of the required elements.
	The proposal is formatted correctly and contains no errors.	The proposal is formatted correctly.	The proposal is not formatted correctly.