

Insights as a Reviewer for the Old & New Grant Review Process

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Goal

- Share **insights** as a reviewer for the old and new process
- Describe **key differences**
- Identify **opportunities** to apply this information to improve your grant

Understanding the review process will help to inform how you approach your grant

Old process versus new process

Key differences related to

- Review structure
- Adjudication process

Review structure

| Old process | New process |
|--|---|
| Same reviewers for entire process | Two separate sets of reviewers |
| All reviewers attend in-person meeting | Only Final Assessment Stage reviewers attend in-person meeting Two stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stage 1 review is electronic• Final Assessment Stage is both electronic and in-person |
| 3 reviewers <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Primary- Secondary- Reader | 10 reviewers (approx) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 5 in Stage 1- 5 in Final Assessment Stage |

Adjudication process

New process

Stage 1: Grants are rated (poor–outstanding) on 4 sub-criteria:

Concept (50%)

- Quality of Idea (25%)
- Importance of Idea (25%)

Feasibility (50%)

- Approach (25%)
- Expertise, Experience, Resources (25%)

Written comments to justify rating

Grants ranked by reviewer

Rating scale used in Stage 1

| Descriptor | Abbreviation | Definition |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| Outstanding | O++ | For this sub-criterion, the application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short-comings are minimal. |
| | O+ | |
| | O | |
| Excellent | E++ | For this sub-criterion, the application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible. |
| | E+ | |
| | E | |
| Good | G | For this sub-criterion, the application excels in some relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Some improvements are necessary. |
| Fair | F | For this sub-criterion, the application broadly addresses all relevant aspects. Major revisions are required. |
| Poor | P | For this sub-criterion, the application fails to provide convincing information and/or has serious inherent flaws or gaps. |

Adjudication process – cont'd

Final Assessment Stage – pre-meeting activities

| Old process | New process |
|--|---|
| <p data-bbox="69 529 716 572">Comprehensive written review</p> <p data-bbox="69 644 877 686">Global assessment of grant, rated 1-5</p> | <p data-bbox="996 529 1870 572">Final Assessment Stage, pre-meeting:</p> <p data-bbox="996 586 1812 686">Reviewers have access to information from Stage 1:</p> <ul data-bbox="1064 701 1412 915" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1064 701 1228 743">Ratings<li data-bbox="1064 758 1296 801">Comments<li data-bbox="1064 815 1180 858">Rank<li data-bbox="1064 872 1412 915">Full applications <p data-bbox="996 986 1881 1086">They assign grants to “yes”/”no” bins with comments on why.</p> |

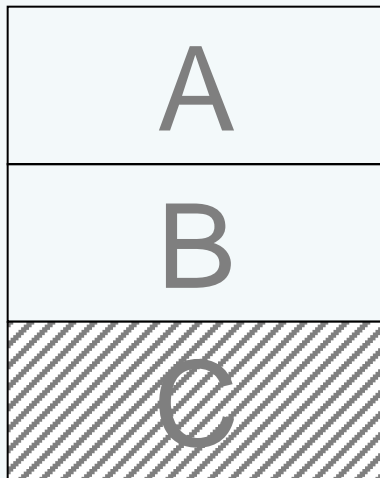
Adjudication process – cont'd

Final Assessment Stage – in-person meeting

Old process

Chair and Scientific Officer

Un-fundable grants are triaged

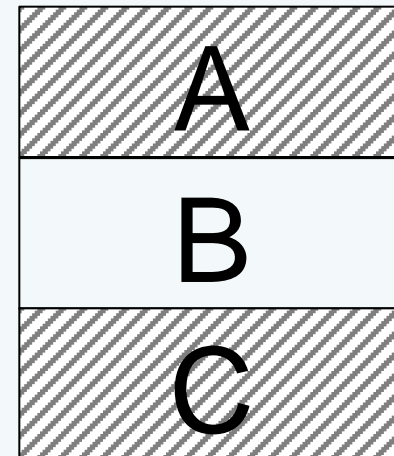


Primary reviewer presents, secondary reviewer presents, reader comments

New process

Chair and Scientific Officer

Excellent and un-fundable grants are triaged



“Yes” and “no” reviewers present

| | Pre-Stage 2 Rank Order | Stage 1 Consolidated Rank Order | # of Yes Votes | Applicant | Total Amount Requested | Cumulative Total |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------|
| Group A | 1/40 | 1/80 | 5/5 | A Smith | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| | 2/40 | 2/80 | 5/5 | D Smith | 100,000 | 200,000 |
| | 3/40 | 4/80 | 5/5 | G Smith | 50,000 | 250,000 |
| | 4/40 | 7/80 | 5/5 | B Smith | 100,000 | 350,000 |
| | 5/40 | 3/80 | 4/5 | C Smith | 90,000 | 440,000 |
| Group B | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 15/40 | 10/80 | 3/5 | P Smith | 50,000 | 850,000 |
| | 16/40 | 15/80 | 3/5 | J Smith | 100,000 | 950,000 |
| | 17/40 | 16/80 | 3/5 | O Smith | 90,000 | 1,040,000 |
| | 18/40 | 18/80 | 3/5 | R Smith | 100,000 | 1,140,000 |
| | 19/40 | 17/80 | 2/5 | T Smith | 80,000 | 1,220,000 |
| Group C | 20/40 | 20/80 | 2/5 | Q Smith | 90,000 | 1,310,000 |
| | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 30/40 | 29/80 | 1/5 | S Smith | 100,000 | 2,100,000 |
| | 31/40 | 30/80 | 1/5 | N Smith | 100,000 | 2,200,000 |
| | 32/40 | 32/80 | 1/5 | Y Smith | 80,000 | 2,280,000 |
| | 33/40 | 33/80 | 1/5 | M Smith | 90,000 | 2,370,000 |
| | 34/40 | 37/80 | 1/5 | E Smith | 100,000 | 2,470,000 |
| 35/40 | 36/80 | 0/5 | L Smith | 50,000 | 2,520,000 | |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |

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Funding Cut-Off Line

Adjudication process – cont'd

Final Assessment Stage – in-person meeting

| Old process | New process |
|---|---|
| <p>Group Scoring</p> <p>Scientific Officer Note</p> | <p>Scientific Officer Note</p> <p>Panel members take individual notes</p> <p>After all grants reviewed panel members vote “yes” or “no” for each discussed grant</p> <p>Final rank order produced</p> |

Opportunities

Points to consider:

- **Pay attention to criteria**—Stage 1 is not a global assessment, need to rate high on each sub-criterion individually
- **Pay attention to the rating scale for each sub-criterion**
- Need to rank high in Stage 1 to increase chances of being selected for funding in the Final Assessment Stage
- Reviewers change between stages

Keeping these points in mind when developing your grant will increase your chances of success under the new process

Thank You