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EPA Research Programme 2014 – 2020

Guidelines for Evaluators of Project-Based Awards & Research Fellowships

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EPA Research Programme 2014 – 2020

Guidelines for Evaluators of Project-Based Awards & Research Fellowships

Introduction

This document provides general guidance on the evaluation of Project-Based Award and Research Fellowship proposals submitted under EPA Research Calls. All evaluations must be completed online using the EPA's Grant Management and Application portal which can be accessed via the following link: https://epa.smartsimple.ie/s_Login.jsp.

Please read this document carefully prior to commencing an evaluation of a research proposal.

This document does not replace, but is complimentary to the:

1. EPA Research Call Technical Description Documents
2. EPA Research Terms and Conditions for Support of Grant Awards
3. EPA Research Guide for Applicants
4. EPA Research Guide for Grantees

The above documents are available to download from the EPA's Online Grant Management and Application Portal or from the Call Documents page on the EPA Website.

The following user guidance materials are also available to evaluators and can be downloaded from the EPA's Online Grant Management and Application Portal, or from the Grants Management page on the EPA Website:

1. EPA's Online Grant Management and Application Portal – Registration & General User Notes
2. EPA's Online Grant Management and Application Portal – User Guide for Evaluators & Reviewers
3. Video Tutorial – Introduction to the Evaluator & Reviewer Portal
4. Video Tutorial – Evaluators Guide to Completing a Project Evaluation Form

More Information

For further information or assistance please contact research@epa.ie.

Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained in this document, complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The Environmental Protection Agency does not accept any responsibility whatsoever for loss or damage occasioned or damages claimed to have been occasioned, in part or in full, as a consequence of any person acting, or refraining from acting, as a result of a matter contained in this document.

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Overview of the Evaluation Process

The purpose of the evaluation process is to ensure that all proposals are assessed in a fair and transparent manner, and that the best and most suitable proposals are selected for funding.

The evaluation is a two-step process resulting in list of proposals which have been recommended for funding and list of reserve proposals (a Reserve List[1]).

During the first step, proposals are assigned to evaluators following a preliminary general eligibility/suitability check carried out by the EPA Research Team and are evaluated on a range of predefined criteria including their scientific and technical quality, and relevance to environmental research needs and priorities.

In the second step, proposals are reviewed by National Overview Committees who make recommendations to the EPA and agree on the final ranking.

The funding decisions are made by the EPA Board of Directors based on the outcomes of the evaluation process.

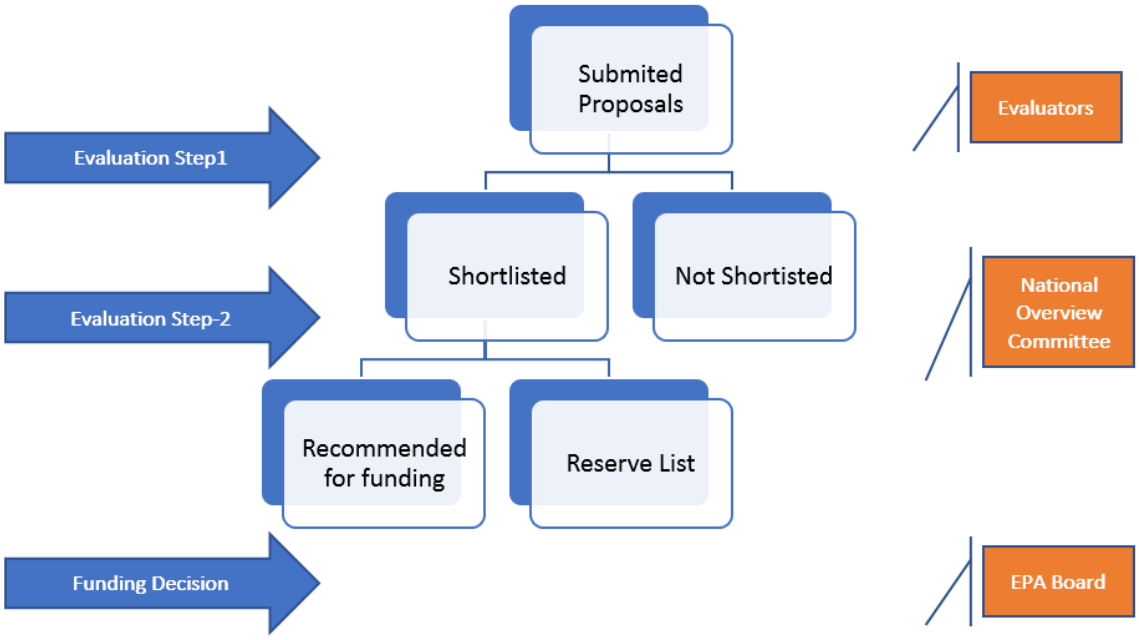

Figure 1 - Illustration of Evaluation Process

[1] Proposals on the Reserve List may be advanced should the Negotiation Process fail to progress on the higher-rated proposals, or if budget becomes available.

Call Documentation

It is essential that all evaluators and members of the National Overview Committees familiarise themselves with the call documentation before reviewing proposals.

The documents are available to download from the EPA's Online Grant Management and Application Portal or the Call Documents page on the EPA website and include:

1. EPA Research Call Technical Description Documents
2. EPA Research Terms and Conditions for Support of Grant Awards
3. EPA Research Guide for Applicants
4. EPA Research Guide for Grantees

Additionally, evaluators should refer to the following:

1. The EPA Research Calls Frequently Asked Questions webpage (for details of any clarifications which have been published during the call period)
2. A short video explaining unconscious bias (used with permission and thanks to The Royal Society UK).

Evaluation Step 1 – Remote Scientific Evaluation

Evaluator Selection and Panel Formulation

The purpose of the evaluation process is to ensure that all proposals submitted under EPA Research Calls are assessed in a fair and transparent manner, and that the best and most suitable proposals are selected for funding.

To assist with ensuring that this aim is met the EPA, in line with international best practice, assigns panels of independent international and national experts with a record of publication and/or experience and/or knowledge in relevant subject areas to act as evaluators of proposals.

International Evaluator Selection

The use of international evaluators is an integral part of the EPA decision-making process. Evaluators are selected based on their publications and involvement in relevant EU/international research projects for academics, experience in previous evaluation panels/committees at national and EU/international level and/or their experience (knowledge transfer, etc.) for non-academic evaluators.

National Evaluator Selection

To ensure that proposals are relevant to the Irish context and will provide solutions to the identified knowledge gaps, national evaluators are also included in the evaluation panels. National evaluators may comprise relevant staff from the EPA, Government Departments and other State Agencies, and are selected based on the relevance of their area of work and experience.

Evaluation Panels

For topic-specific calls, one panel of evaluators is established per call topic[2] to ensure consistency in the evaluation process.

For open calls, one panel of evaluators is established per Thematic Area under each of the three Research Pillars (as outlined in the EPA Research Strategy). If required, additional panels may be established depending on the scope of the proposals received.

Each panel is composed of a minimum of three evaluators, at least two of which are international evaluators.

[2] Different call topics do not compete against each other, as a budget has been pre-allocated to each topic.

Evaluator's Role and Responsibilities

Evaluators assess proposals using predefined evaluation criteria to provide a score based on their assessment. The final responsibility for evaluation and award decision lies with the EPA. Evaluators are appointed as independent experts deemed to work in a personal capacity and, in performing the work, do not represent any organisation. Evaluators are responsible for reviewing all proposals which have been assigned to them and submitting an individual evaluation form for each one.

The evaluation process is completed remotely, and no meeting with the EPA or the applicant is required. Evaluators must not communicate with applicants at any stage of the evaluation process unless requested to do so by a member of the EPA Research staff.

Before commencing the evaluation of a proposal, evaluators are required to:

- Confirm they have read and understood the EPA Privacy Policy and Terms of Use of EPA Websites
- Complete a declaration confirming no conflict of interest exists
- Complete a declaration of confidentiality
- Watch a short video explaining unconscious bias (used with permission and thanks to The Royal Society UK).

Conflicts of Interest

If an evaluator is in some way connected with a proposal or has any other allegiance which impairs or threatens to impair their impartiality with respect to a proposal, they must declare such facts to the EPA as soon as they become aware of it. In case of doubt whether a conflict of interest exists, evaluators should consult with EPA.

If a potential conflict of interest arises during the evaluation process, the evaluator must inform the EPA as soon as they become aware of it and the situation will be assessed and managed appropriately.

In any event, evaluators **must not** delegate or sub-contract any aspect of the evaluation process or part thereof.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals are assessed using pre-defined evaluation criteria. Evaluation criteria and weightings may be revised periodically, therefore it is essential to refer to the description and marks available on the online Evaluation Form and published in the EPA Research Call documentation.

Project-Based Award Proposals

Criterion	Total Marks Available	% of Overall Score
Literature Review	100	10%
Pressures, Policy, Solutions	150	15%
Objectives, targets and impacts, detailed work-packages, risk and contingencies	300	30%
Communication	150	15%
Project management and project team	150	15%
Appropriateness of resource allocation	150	15%
TOTALS:	1,000	100%

Research Fellowship Proposals

Criterion	Total Marks Available	% of Overall Score
Literature Review. Pressures, Policy, Solutions	200	20%
Objectives and targets, detailed work-packages, risk and contingencies	300	30%
Academic background, work experience and training	200	20%
Communication	100	10%
Project management and project team	150	15%
Appropriateness of Resource Allocation	50	5%
TOTALS:	1,000	100%

Rating System

Proposals should address at least one of the Call Topics in the Technical Description Documents and are marked on a scale of 0 to 1,000. The ratings available for each evaluation criterion are as follows:

Rating	Score (% of Marks Available)	Description
Poor	0% - 19%	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses
Fair	20% - 39%	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses
Good	40% - 59%	The proposal addressed the criterion well but with several shortcomings
Very Good	60% - 79%	The proposal addresses the criterion very well but with a small number of shortcomings
Excellent	80% - 100%	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion, any shortcomings are minor

Thresholds

To proceed to the second stage of the evaluation process , proposals must:

- Achieve a **minimum average** score of 40% in each evaluation criterion (i.e. as an average across all individual evaluation forms)
- Achieve a **minimum average** total score of 700/1,000 marks (i.e. average based on the overall total score from all individual evaluation forms)

Evaluators Comments on Proposals

The online evaluation form consists of two main sections:

- Evaluation of the individual criterion
- Overall comments and recommendations

Proposals must be evaluated based on the details submitted at the time of application, and not their potential should certain changes be made.

Comments on Individual Criterion

The comments entered by evaluators under each individual criterion will inform the discussion during the National Overview Meeting, and the preparation of the Technical Queries during the Negotiation Process[3].

The comments entered under each of the evaluation criterion should be specific to that criterion only, and should include:

- The proposal's strengths for the criterion
- Any areas of weakness for the criterion
- Recommendations for improvements (if any) for the criterion

Overall Comments and Recommendations

The comments entered by evaluators in this section will form the basis of the feedback provided to the applicant and will be made available to the applicant as part of the Evaluation Summary Report. The comments should be constructive and give clear reasons for the marks and, if appropriate, any recommendation for modifications to the proposal should it advance to the Negotiation Process.

The comments in this section should address all the evaluation criteria and should include:

- The proposals overall strengths
- The proposals overall weakness(es)
- Any recommendations for improvements

A full review of the proposed budget will be completed by the EPA Research Financial Consultants for any proposals that have been shortlisted following Stage 1 of the evaluation process. It is not necessary for evaluators to conduct a full review of the submitted budget.

[3] The Negotiation Process is only applicable to proposals that have been recommended for funding or placed on a Reserve List following Step 2 of the Evaluation Process, and subsequently ratified by the EPA Board of Directors.

Payments to Evaluators

It is expected that on average an evaluator will review 2 to 3 proposals per day.

To incentivise the participation of international experts/retired Irish Public Sector staff, the EPA, in line with other national and international funders of research (including the European Commission), reimburses the time spent undertaking these evaluations by paying a per diem rate as follows:

Rate Type	Public Service Level	Per Diem Rate
Retired Irish Public/Civil Sector Servants Rates	Assistant Secretary/Director	€200.00
	Principal Officer/Programme Manager	€150.00
	Assistant Principal/Level 2	€130.00
Standard Rate	N/A	€412.00

NB: The per diem rate is **not** available to EPA staff, other Irish Public Sector staff or Civil Service Staff who are currently in employment and in receipt of a salary.

Evaluation Step 2 – National Overview

Role of the National Overview Committee

Each year the EPA establishes a National Overview Committee for each of the Research Pillars (Climate, Sustainability and Water). The purpose of the National Overview Committees is to review the proposals shortlisted following Evaluation Step 1 – Remote Scientific Evaluation against predefined criteria, agree on the final ranking of the shortlisted proposals subject to the availability of funding and make recommendations to the EPA

The National Overview Committees can make the following recommendations:

- The proposal is recommended for funding;
- The proposal is placed on a reserve list;
- The proposal is not recommended for funding.

Composition of Committees

National Overview Committees comprise staff from relevant Government Departments, other State Agencies, other funding agencies (including co-funders), relevant stakeholders (e.g. data providers or users) and the EPA.

National Overview Committees also comprise at least one of the evaluators from each panel who was involved in the first step of the evaluation process. For these members, their participation in the National Overview Committee is as experts who are deemed to work in a personal capacity and, in performing the work, do not represent any organisation. This is in line with the practices from other national and EU/international funders.

In advance of the Committee meeting and prior to receiving details of the proposals for review, all members of the National Overview Committees are required to:

- Confirm they have read and understood the EPA Privacy Policy and Terms of Use of EPA Websites
- Complete a declaration confirming no conflict of interest exists
- Complete a declaration of confidentiality
- Watch a short video explaining unconscious bias (used with permission and thanks from The Royal Society UK).

National Overview Criteria

Proposals which were shortlisted following Step 1 of the Evaluation Process are scored against the following criteria:

- Relevance to National Environmental Policies and the Call Technical Description
- Value for Money
- Research Integrity
- Gender Equity
- Gender Dimension
- Performance on previous EPA funded projects (where applicable), including compliance with reporting requirements

Scoring System

The scoring system for each of the above criteria is outlined on the following pages.

Criterion: Relevance to National Environmental Policies and the Call Technical Description

This criterion relates to how the outputs from the proposed research will provide evidence for/ contribute to the debate relating to environmental policies/considerations.

Scoring for this criterion should be based on the information provided by the applicants in the following fields of the online Application Form:

- Demonstrate Relevance to National Environmental Policies and Call Technical Description
- Impact statement

These statements should be supported by information provided in the following sections of the Project Description Upload:

- Section A2: Pressures, Policy and Solutions
- Section B: Objectives Targets and Impacts, Detailed Work Packages, Risk and Contingencies

This score is agreed by the National Overview Committee using the following Scoring Matrix:

Relevance to National Environmental Policies and the Call Technical Description		
Rating	Description	Score
Poor	**Unfamiliar** with environmental issues, national/EU policies and current R&D (including how the aims of EPA research Programme will be addressed). The applicant failed to demonstrate the applicability of the findings; how the outputs of the proposed research will inform policy (i.e. how the proposed research will provide the evidence to support environmental policy in Ireland, in terms of identifying pressures, informing policy and developing solutions); how these outputs can be efficiently transferred/applied to the implementation of policies and the protection of our environment; **AND** The applicant failed to demonstrate how the proposed research addresses the scope of the Call Technical Description.	1/5
Fair	**Limited evidence of familiarity** with relevant with environmental issues, national/EU policies and current R&D (including how the aims of EPA research Programme will be addressed). The applicant did not clearly demonstrate the applicability of the findings; how the outputs of the proposed research will inform policy (i.e. how the proposed research will provide the evidence to support environmental policy in Ireland, in terms of identifying pressures, informing policy and developing solutions); how these outputs can be efficiently transferred/applied to the implementation of policies and the protection of our environment **AND** The applicant did not clearly demonstrate how the proposed research addresses the scope of the Call Technical Description.	2/5
Good	**Familiar in nearly all aspects** of relevant environmental issues, national/EU policies and current R&D (including how the aims of EPA research Programme will be addressed). The applicant could have provided more details regarding the applicability of the findings; how the outputs of the proposed research will inform policy (i.e. how the proposed research will provide the evidence to support environmental policy in Ireland, in terms of identifying pressures, informing policy and developing solutions); how these outputs can be efficiently transferred/applied to the implementation of policies and the protection of our environment **AND** The applicant could have provided more details on how the proposed research addresses the scope of the Call Technical Description.	3/5

Relevance to National Environmental Policies and the Call Technical Description		
Rating	Description	Score
Very Good	**Strong understanding** of relevant environmental issues, national/EU policies and current R&D (including how the aims of EPA research Programme will be addressed). The applicant provided a very good justification regarding the applicability of the findings; how the outputs of the proposed research will inform policy (i.e. how the proposed research will provide the evidence to support environmental policy in Ireland, in terms of identifying pressures, informing policy and developing solutions); how these outputs can be efficiently transferred/applied to the implementation of policies and the protection of our environment AND The applicant did demonstrate very well how the proposed research addresses the scope of the Call Technical Description.	4/5
Excellent	**Excellent understanding** of relevant environmental issues, national/EU policies and current R&D (including how the aims of EPA research Programme will be addressed). The applicant provided an excellent justification regarding the applicability of the findings; how the outputs of the proposed research will inform policy (i.e. how the proposed research will provide the evidence to support environmental policy in Ireland, in terms of identifying pressures, informing policy and developing solutions); how these outputs can be efficiently transferred/applied to the implementation of policies and the protection of our environment AND The applicant provided an excellent justification on how the proposed research address the scope of the Call Technical Description.	5/5

Criterion: Value for Money

This criterion relates to how the proposal demonstrates value for money and that the amount of the project budget requested will allow the proposed research to be addressed appropriately.

Scoring for this criterion should be based on the information provided by the applicants in the following fields of the online Application Form:

- Demonstrate how proposal will deliver value for money;
- Is the proposed research multi/trans-disciplinary?
- Impact statement;
- Expected Impacts.

These statements should be supported by information provided in the following sections of the Project Description Upload:

- Section A2: Pressures, Policy and Solutions
- Section B: Objectives Targets and Impacts, Detailed Work Packages, Risk and Contingencies, and the completed Work Package Templates, including Deliverables, Milestones and Expected Outcomes
- Section C: Communication: Open Access of Publications and Data; and
- Section E: Budget justification.

This score is agreed by the National Overview Committee using the following Scoring Matrix:

Value for Money		
Rating	Description	Score
Poor	**The applicant did not demonstrate** the Value for Money of the proposed research (e.g. in-kind contribution; leveraging existing equipment, networks; building research capacity; building on existing/past research, etc.) AND **The applicant did not demonstrate** how the requested budget is required to deliver the proposed research (i.e. the requested resources are not described or not appropriate for the duration and objectives of the research).	1/5
Fair	**The applicant only provided limited evidence** of the Value for Money of the proposed research (e.g. in-kind contribution; leveraging existing equipment, networks; building research capacity; building on existing/past research, etc.) AND **The applicant only provided limited evidence** of how the requested budget is required to deliver the proposed research (i.e. limited evidence that the resources requested are appropriate/realistic for the duration and objectives of the research).	2/5
Good	**The applicant provided good evidence** of the Value for Money of the proposed research (e.g. in-kind contribution; leveraging existing equipment, networks; building research capacity; building on existing/past research, etc.) AND **The applicant provided good evidence** of how the requested budget is required to deliver the proposed research (i.e. good evidence that the resources requested are appropriate/realistic for the duration and objectives of the research).	3/5

Value for Money		
Rating	Description	Score
Very Good	**The applicant provided very good evidence** of the Value for Money of the proposed research (e.g. in-kind contribution; leveraging existing equipment, networks; building research capacity; building on existing/past research, etc.). AND **The applicant provided very good evidence** of how the requested budget is required to deliver the proposed research (i.e. appropriateness of resources very well demonstrated in nearly all respects).	4/5
Excellent	**The applicant provided excellent evidence** of the Value for Money of the proposed research (e.g. in-kind contribution; leveraging existing equipment, networks; building research capacity; building on existing/past research, etc.) AND **The applicant provided excellent evidence** of how the requested budget is required to deliver the proposed research (i.e. Resources requested are detailed comprehensively and are an excellent fit to the duration and objectives of the research).	5/5

Criterion: Research Integrity

The EPA places great importance on ensuring that all aspects of the research which it funds is conducted to the highest standards of research integrity. The EPA fully endorses the National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland and the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and expects that all Research Performing Organisations and EPA grant award holders abide by the guidelines included therein.

Scoring for this criterion will be based on the information provided by the applicants in the following fields of the online Application Form:

- Please describe how the personnel involved in the proposed research project will be trained in the context of Research Integrity.

The scoring for this criterion is completed by the EPA using the following Scoring Matrix:

Research Integrity	
Score	Description
5/5	Proposal aims to provide specific training to all staff in Research Integrity through the Epigeum online course, or other relevant course.
3/5	Training in Research Integrity will be provided to some, but not all, team members OR training available at Host Institution but not specified how many members of team will undertake training. OR Training and mentoring to be provided to junior members of the team by more senior members. OR One member of team will complete training and disseminate information to other team members.
1/5	Staff will abide by/be given materials to read such as National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity. OR No meaningful plan for training in the context of Research Integrity proposed.

Criterion: Gender Equity

The EPA is committed to ensuring there is appropriate gender balance at all levels of personnel engaged in the research it funds. Further details are provided in the EPA Research Gender Strategy.

Scoring for this criterion will be based on the information provided by the applicants in the following fields of the online Application Form:

- Demonstrate how gender balance will be fostered within the proposed research team.

This statement should be supported by information provided in the Work Package Summary Table included in the Project Description Upload.

The scoring for this criterion is completed by the EPA using the following Scoring Matrix:

Gender Equity	
Score	Description
5/5	Applicant's team comprises at least 40% of each gender OR Applicant has fully justified why Gender Equity cannot be achieved (e.g. 1-person team; no F/M lead researcher/expert in that area (recognised deficit); etc.).
1/5	Applicant's team does not comprise at least 40% of each gender and no explanation or justification has been provided.

Criterion: Gender Dimension

To ensure that applicants have given full consideration to any potential sex and/or gender dimension which may be present in their proposed research, applicants are required to describe how the gender dimension is taken into account in the scope of their proposed research as part of the application process. Further details are provided in the EPA Research Gender Strategy.

Scoring for this criterion will be based on the information provided by the applicants in the following fields of the online Application Form:

- Describe how the gender dimension is taken into account in the scope of your proposed research.

The scoring for this criterion is completed by the EPA using the following Scoring Matrix:

Gender Dimension	
Score	Description
5/5	Gender dimension of proposed research (or aspects of) acknowledged and steps outlined to ensure it is appropriately addressed during the course of the research project. OR No apparent gender dimension to the proposed research with explanation provided
3/5	Gender dimension of proposed research acknowledged however no clear plans to address this are included in proposal.
1/5	Applicant did not provide any reference / justification regarding potential gender dimension or lack of gender dimension of the proposed research in the proposal.

Criterion: Past Performance

Grantees are required to comply with the EPA's requirements for Grantees to ensure satisfactory completion of a project. The past performance of Principal Investigators on EPA-funded research projects will considered for this criterion.

The scoring for this criterion is completed by the EPA using the following Scoring Matrix:

Past Performance	
Score	**Description**
1.0	New Principal Investigator with no previous EPA grant-awards. **OR** Principal Investigator who is already in receipt of EPA-funding and there are no issues with the management/delivery of the project.
0.9	Principal Investigator who is already in receipt of EPA funding and there are outstanding interim/final deliverables (minor to moderate **non-justified** delays of less than 3 months).
0.8	Principal Investigator who is already in receipt of EPA funding and there are outstanding interim/final deliverables (significant **non-justified** delays of greater than 3 months) **AND/OR** Principal Investigator who has had a grant **terminated due to no/poor performance** within the last 24 months.

Final Score

The final score is calculated as follows:

(((Scientific Score / 1,000) x 5) + (National Relevance score x 40%) + (Value for Money score x 40%) + (Research Integrity score x 5%) + (Gender Equity score x 10%) + (Gender Dimension score x 5%)) x Past Performance score

Example:

If Scientific Score is 850:	(850/1,000)*5 = 4.25
If National Relevance score is 5:	5 x 40% = 2.00
If Value for Money score is 4:	4 x 40% = 1.60
If Research Integrity score is 3:	3 x 5% = 0.15
If Gender Equity score is 1:	1 x 10% = 0.10
If Gender Dimension score is 3:	3 x 5% = 0.15
Sub Total:	**8.25**
If Past Performance score is 0.90:	x 0.90
Final Score:	**7.43**

Thresholds

Only proposals with a **minimum final score of 7.00 out of 10.00** will be considered for funding.

Funding Decisions

Proposals under each call topic will be ranked by their final score. The highest scoring proposal(s) will be recommended for funding, and additional proposals may be added to the Reserve List.

The EPA Board of Directors will approve the final list of proposals which are Recommended for Funding and proposals recommended for the Reserve List. This approval is conditional subject to the successful resolution of all technical and financial queries raised during the evaluation process[4].

[4] The technical and financial queries will be addressed during the Negotiation Process.

Feedback to the Applicants

All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of the Evaluation Process. The notification will include an Evaluation Summary Report, which contains summary comments from each member of the evaluation panel, and summary comments from the National Overview Committee.

NB: The names of individual evaluators and National Overview Committee members are **not** provided to the Applicants.

Freedom of Information Act

The EPA may be obliged to disclose information relating to the evaluation of projects under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and / or the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014. Where the evaluator submits any information to the EPA which they consider to be confidential, they must identify this information at the time it is submitted and explain why they consider the information to be confidential. The EPA will take account of the evaluators request and will endeavour to give effect to it if it considers it to be reasonable; but it cannot guarantee that it will not be obliged to disclose any such information; and the evaluator acknowledges this.

Data Protection

Personal information supplied to the EPA Research Programme will be stored in electronic and structured manual data formats e.g., hard copy folder or database, for use only in connection with this application and the administration of the EPA Research Programme and publication of results. The provisions of Data Protection Legislation shall be complied with by the EPA and the Grantees with respect to the processing of personal data.

Data Protection Legislation shall mean the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and Directive 95/46/EC, any other applicable law or regulation relating to the processing of personal data and privacy (including the E-Privacy Directive and the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Privacy and Electronic Communications) Regulations 2011, as such legislation shall be amended, revised or replaced from time to time, including by operation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) (**GDPR**) (and laws implementing or supplementing the GDPR and/or the E-Privacy Regulations).

The provisions of the applicable Terms and Conditions with respect to data protection, and the terms of the EPA Privacy Policy, shall apply to the processing of personal data in connection with the EPA Research Programme.