



### Application review form

#### Clinical Researcher 2024

Winter call 2024

Panel/Name of reviewer:

Application number:

Name of applicant:

Title of proposed project:

#### How to review applications for Clinical Researcher funding

The Research Council of Finland funds part-time research by physicians and other researchers engaged in clinical practice. The focus of the review should be on the scientific quality of the research plan.

Additionally, attention should be paid to the applicant’s suitability to the objectives of the Clinical Researcher funding instrument.

The aim is to promote clinical research careers in cooperation with, for example, university hospitals and to encourage medical doctors and other researchers working in clinical practice to engage in research alongside clinical practice. The funding is granted for part-time salary costs (20–50% of working hours) and research costs. The funding is granted for four years.

Provide both a written review and numerical ratings for section 1 (Quality of research) and section 2 (Implementation) and give the overall rating for section 4. Write evaluative comments rather than descriptive ones. Section 3 (Review panel's summary assessment) is written by the panel during the panel meeting.

Use a rating scale ranging from 6 (outstanding) to 1 (insufficient). The consistency between the numerical rating and the written comments is particularly important.

Rating scale	Description
6 (outstanding)	Demonstrates extremely high novelty and/or innovation; has potential to substantially advance science at global level; presents a high-gain plan that may include risks
5 (excellent)	Is very good in international comparison - contains no significant elements to be improved
4 (good)	Is in general sound but contains some elements that should be improved
3 (fair)	Is in general sound but contains important elements that should be improved
2 (poor)	Contains flaws and needs substantial modification or improvement
1 (insufficient)	Contains severe flaws that are intrinsic to the proposed project or the application



## 1 Quality of research

### 1.1 Scientific quality, novelty, and innovativeness of research

**Sub-rating (1-6)**

Please review:

- scientific quality and significance of project's objectives and hypotheses
- ambitiousness and state of the art of objectives, including possible novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines
- impact of research within academia
- potential for breakthroughs or exceptionally significant outcomes including possible high-risk, high-gain research
- project's potential to generate new knowledge, new methods, new technology or new practices
  - See [research plan](#).

### 1.2 Additional comments on aspects of societal effects and impact of the project, if relevant

**(no numerical rating)**

- Comments on societal effects and impact should not affect the scientific review/rating or ranking. Instead, they will be considered as an additional factor when the funding decisions are made.

## 2 Implementation

### 2.1 Feasibility of research plan, including aspects of responsible science

**Sub-rating (1-6)**

Please review:

- feasibility of project, taking into account extent to which the proposed research may include high risks
- materials, research data and methods
- working arrangements and management of research tasks
- research environment including research infrastructures
- identified potential scientific or methodological problem areas and mitigation plan
- consideration of research ethics, open access to research publications and data, data management, promotion of equality and nondiscrimination in society at large, and sustainable development within in the project
  - See [research plan](#).

### 2.2 Competence, expected achievements, and potential of applicant

**Sub-rating (1-6)**

Please review:





## Research Council of Finland

- applicant's personal achievements and scientific expertise
  - applicant's professional competence and independence
  - merits in supervising and mentoring
  - merits in existing or planned joint projects
  - experience of working in different research environments across international and/or sectoral borders
  - significance of this funding to advancement of applicant's professional competence
  - applicant's career development potential
  - applicant's ability to generate scientific and/or clinical renewal during and after the project
- See **CV** of the applicant in the application form including
    - o most relevant publications and other key outputs in CV
  - Please note that the scientific expertise of the applicant in terms of project implementation is reviewed in sub-section 2.3.

### 2.3 Expertise, human resources, and collaborations, including aspects of responsible science

**Sub-rating (1-6)**

Please review:

- competence and scientific expertise of applicant in terms of project implementation
  - complementary expertise of team, who are directly working for/funded in the project, including appropriateness and sufficiency for the proposed project
  - adequateness of human resources for project implementation, with attention to promoting equality and nondiscrimination within project
  - contribution of both national and international research collaborators, who are engaged with their own funding, and impact of their environment on project's potential success
  - significance of planned mobility for implementation of research plan and researcher training
- See **research plan**.
  - See **list of publications**.
  - See **mobility plan** in the application form.
  - See possible **letter(s) of collaboration**.

**3 Review panel's summary assessment of proposal****3.1 Main strengths and weaknesses of proposal and their justifications; possible other remarks****TO BE COMPLETED ONLY AT THE PANEL MEETING**

Section 3 of the form is applicable only to the top-tier applications selected for discussion during the review panel meeting.

**3.1.1 Main strengths and their justifications (no numerical rating)**

- Summary assessment of application including main strengths with justifications
  - Refer to the review criteria in sections 1 and 2.
  - To be completed only at the panel meeting

**3.1.2 Main weaknesses and their justifications (no numerical rating)**

- Summary assessment of application including main weaknesses with justifications
  - Refer to the review criteria in sections 1 and 2.
  - To be completed only at the panel meeting

**3.1.3 Other remarks (if any):****4 Overall rating****Rating (1-6)**

- Please note that the final rating should not be a mathematical average of the sub-ratings. For example, the application should not be penalised if it has a slight weakness in one evaluation item that is later strengthened in another item (e.g., lack of some expertise in a local team but compensated through international collaboration).

**Ranking based on the panel discussion (the ranking is made during the panel meeting)**

Your application was ranked [ordinal number] of all [number] [Funding instrument name] applications reviewed in this panel. Only applications with a final rating of 5 or 6 were ranked.