Application review form

September 2020 call

Panel/Name of reviewer: 
Name of applicant: 
Title of proposed project:

Application review form: Clinical researcher 2020

The Academy of Finland funds part-time research by physicians and other researchers engaged in clinical practice. 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 for research costs. The funding is granted for four years.

Please provide both written feedback and numerical ratings to each of the following items.

- Blue text with bulleting refers to technical instructions for the online services (SARA).

The numerical evaluation of the sub-items and final rating is made with a rating scale ranging from 6 (outstanding) to 1 (poor).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 (outstanding)</td>
<td>Demonstrates exceptional novelty and innovation; has potential to substantially advance science at global level; is a high-gain project that may include risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
<td>Is extremely good in international comparison – contains no significant elements to be improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (very good)</td>
<td>Is in general sound but contains a few elements that could be improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (good)</td>
<td>Is in general sound but contains important elements that should be improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (fair)</td>
<td>Contains flaws; is in need of substantial modification or improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 (poor)</td>
<td>Contains severe flaws that are intrinsic to the proposed project or the application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Quality of research described in the plan

1.1 Scientific quality, novelty and innovativeness of research Sub-rating (1–6)

Significance of project; objectives and hypotheses; ambitiousness and state of the art of objectives (possible novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines); scientific impact of research; potential for breakthroughs or exceptionally significant outcomes; etc.

- See item 1 Aim and objectives in the research plan.

1.2 Implementation of research plan Sub-rating (1–6)

Feasibility of project (bearing in mind extent to which the proposed research may include high risks); materials, research data and methods; human resources and management of research tasks; research environment including research infrastructures; identified potential scientific or methodological problem areas and mitigation plan; etc.

- See item 2 Implementation in the research plan.

1.3 Responsible science (no numerical rating)

Has the applicant considered the following aspects of responsible science properly? Please provide further comments if responsible science aspects have not been properly considered.

- See item 4 Responsible science in the research plan.
- The Academy of Finland is committed to promoting research integrity, responsible conduct of research and the principles and practice of equality and non-discrimination and open science. See ‘Instructions for reviewing’ for further information.

1.3.1 Research ethics

☐ Yes
☐ No, please comment
1.3.2 Promotion of equality and non-discrimination within project or in society at large

☐ Yes
☐ No, please comment

1.3.3 Open access of research publications

☐ Yes
☐ No, please comment

1.3.4 Data management and open access to data

☐ Yes
☐ No, please comment

2 Competence of applicant, quality of research collaboration

2.1 Competence and expertise of applicant

Personal merits and scientific expertise of applicant, including appropriateness and sufficiency for the proposed project; applicant’s professional competence and independence; experience in supervising PhD candidates and/or postdoctoral researchers; etc.

- See item 3.1 Project personnel and their relevant merits in the research plan.
- See CV of the applicant(s) in the application form.
- See attached list(s) of publications.
- The Academy of Finland is a signatory of the DORA declaration. See ‘Instructions for reviewing’ for further information.

2.2. Research team and significance of research collaboration

Complementary expertise of applicant’s team, if relevant (i.e. project personnel directly working/funded for the project); contribution of national and/or international research collaboration (i.e. collaborators engaged in the project with their own funding) to the success of
the project; complementary expertise and research environment of collaborators in terms of project implementation; etc.

- See item 3.1 Project personnel and their relevant merits in the research plan.
- See item 3.2 Collaborators and their key merits in terms of the project in the research plan.
- See attached Letter(s) of commitment.

2.3 Researcher mobility

Significance of planned mobility for implementation of research plan and for researcher training; quality of receiving organisation in the field of research; appropriateness of length and timing of mobility period(s); etc.

- See Mobility in the application form.
- See attached Invitation letter(s) for research visit(s).

3 Overall assessment and rating

3.1 Main strengths and weaknesses of project, additional comments and suggestions (no numerical rating)

Please list major strengths and weaknesses of the application as well as any additional comments.

- Please give an overall assessment for the application including lists of strengths and weaknesses as well as any additional comments. It is important to comment on both the strengths and the weaknesses of the application.
- You are also encouraged to comment on the societal effects and impact, including principles of sustainable development (items 4.4 and 5 in the research plan). However, these should not affect the scientific review/rating or ranking of the application. Instead, they will be considered as an additional factor when the funding decisions are made.

Strengths:
Weaknesses:
Comments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Overall rating</th>
<th>Rating (1–6)</th>
</tr>
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</table>

- 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**

Your application was ranked [ordinal number] of all [number] [Funding instrument name] applications reviewed in this panel. Only applications with the final rating of 5 or 6 were ranked. The [Funding instrument name] applications addressed to the Research Council for [Research Council name] were reviewed in a total of [number] panels.