



Grant Assessment Panel: Scoring criteria for full applications

This document is intended as a guide for Panel members to score applications. It is essential that Panel members consider a range of factors when deciding on the overall score for a proposal.

1. Science/Technology Development and 3Rs potential

Panel members should consider both the excellence of the science/technology development and the likely 3Rs impact should the proposed research be successful. In order to help Panel members determine a combined score for the scientific/technology development and 3Rs potential of an application, the NC3Rs uses the scoring system shown below.

2. Overall score

Panel members are asked to score the application from a range of 1 – 10, where one is the lowest score and ten is the highest. Scores should be whole numbers (0.5 integers are not accepted). Proposals with an average score of between seven and ten are considered fundable.

The scoring system should be used to determine the overall science/technology development and 3Rs score to give an application. Panel members should refer to Annex 1 for guidance when determining descriptors. The science/technology development and 3Rs descriptors should be used to form the basis of the overall score.

SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	POTENTIAL 3Rs IMPACT				
	Exceptional	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Not competitive
Exceptional	10	9	8	7	5
Excellent	9	8	7	6	4
Very Good	8	7	6	5	3
Good	7	6	5	4	2
Not competitive	5	4	3	2	1

Annex 1

Guidance on scoring criteria

The following table should be used as guidance when determining the appropriate science/technology development and 3Rs descriptors. It is not necessary to meet all of the individual criteria as this is not intended to be prescriptive but rather to provide a general framework.

Science/Technology Development	3Rs
<p>Exceptional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly original and innovative ▪ Novel methodology and design ▪ Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance to the UK/internationally ▪ Additional potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact ▪ Potential for high return on investment ▪ Very high likelihood of successful delivery (risks well managed) 	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Potential to have a very high impact on the 3Rs e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replacing/reducing a large number of animals ▪ Refining a severe procedure (even if numbers affected are low) ▪ Applicable to other models or disciplines ▪ Will have a local impact on animal use with a very high likelihood of adoption by other groups nationally/internationally* ▪ Strategically important area as identified by the NC3Rs
<p>Excellent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Original and innovative ▪ Robust methodology and design (innovative in parts) ▪ Key scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance to the UK/internationally ▪ Additional potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact ▪ Valuable scientific resource ▪ Potential for significant return on investment ▪ High likelihood of successful delivery 	<p>Excellent</p> <p>Potential to have a high impact on the 3Rs e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replacing/reducing a significant number of animals ▪ Refining a severe/moderate procedure (even if numbers affected are low) ▪ Could be applicable to other models or disciplines ▪ Will have a local impact on animal use with a high likelihood of adoption by other groups nationally/internationally* ▪ Strategically important area as identified by the NC3Rs
<p>Very Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Robust methodology and design ▪ Worthwhile scientific question and/or addresses a strategically important knowledge gap ▪ High likelihood of contributing to new knowledge generation ▪ Resources appropriate to deliver the proposal ▪ High likelihood of successful delivery 	<p>Very Good</p> <p>Potential to have a medium impact on the 3Rs e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replacing/reducing a significant number of animals ▪ Refining a moderate procedure (even if numbers affected are low) OR refining a mild procedure where numbers are high ▪ Could be applicable to other models or disciplines ▪ Will have a local impact on animal use with the likelihood of adoption by other groups nationally/internationally ▪ Addresses an important concern as identified by the NC3Rs
<p>Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Methodologically sound study ▪ Worthwhile scientific question with potentially useful outcomes ▪ Resources broadly appropriate to deliver the proposal ▪ Moderate likelihood of contributing to new knowledge generation ▪ Good likelihood of successful delivery 	<p>Good</p> <p>Potential to have a medium to low impact on the 3Rs e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replacing/reducing a modest number of animals ▪ Refining a mild/unclassified procedure ▪ Not directly applicable to other models or disciplines ▪ Will have a local impact on animal use but unlikely to be adopted more widely ▪ Addresses a 3Rs concern
<p>Not competitive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Methodologically weak study ▪ Poor quality science (may also include ethical concerns) ▪ Question poorly defined ▪ Unlikely to contribute to new knowledge generation ▪ Resources inappropriate to deliver the proposal 	<p>Not competitive</p> <p>Will have no (or a very low) impact on the 3Rs e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will not replace/reduce any animal use ▪ Does not refine a classified procedure ▪ Not applicable to other models or disciplines ▪ Will not have a local impact on animal use or be adopted by more widely ▪ Does not address a 3Rs concern

*Local impact refers to: within an applicant's own laboratory and/or institution