

DISCOVERY GRANTS MERIT INDICATORS¹

	Exceptional	Outstanding	Very Strong	Strong	Moderate	Insufficient
Excellence of the Researcher	Acknowledged as a leader who has continued to make, over the last six years, influential accomplishments at the highest level of quality, impact and/or importance to a broad community .	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be far superior in quality, impact and/or importance to a broad community .	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be of superior quality, impact and/or importance.	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be solid in their quality, impact and/or importance.	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be of reasonable quality, impact and/or importance.	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be below an acceptable level of quality, impact and/or importance.
Merit of the Proposal	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is extremely original and innovative and is likely to have impact by leading to groundbreaking advances in the area and/or leading to a technology or policy that addresses socio-economic or environmental needs. Long-term vision and short-term objectives are clearly defined . The methodology is clearly defined and appropriate . The proposal and budget clearly demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is highly original and innovative and is likely to have impact by contributing to groundbreaking advances in the area, and/or leading to a technology or policy that addresses socio-economic or environmental needs. Long-term goals are clearly defined and short-term objectives are well planned . The methodology is clearly described and appropriate . The proposal and budget clearly demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is original and innovative and is likely to have impact by leading to advancements and/or addressing socio-economic or environmental needs. Long-term goals are defined and short-term objectives are planned . The methodology is clearly described and appropriate . The proposal and budget demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is original and innovative and is likely to have impact and/or address socio-economic or environmental needs. Long-term goals and short-term objectives are clearly described . The methodology is described and appropriate . The proposal and budget demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, has original and innovative aspects and may have impact and/or address socio-economic or environmental needs. Long-term and short-term objectives are described . The methodology is partially described and/or appropriate . The proposal and budget somewhat demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program, as presented lacks clarity , and/or is of limited originality and innovation . Objectives are not clearly described and/or likely not attainable. Methodology is not clearly described and/or appropriate . The proposal and budget do not clearly demonstrate how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.
Training of HQP	Training record is at the highest level , with HQP contributing to top quality research . Most HQP move on to positions that require highly desired skills , obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and clearly defined . HQP success highly likely.	Training record is far superior to other applicants, with HQP contributing to high-quality research . Most HQP move on to positions that require highly desired skills , obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and clearly defined . HQP success highly likely.	Training record is superior to other applicants, with HQP contributing to quality, original research . Many HQP move on to appropriate positions that require desired skills , obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and clearly described . HQP success is likely.	Training record compares favourably with other applicants. HQP generally move on to positions that require desired skills , obtained through training received. Research plans for trainees are appropriate and described . HQP success is likely.	Training record is acceptable but may be modest relative to other applicants. Some HQP move on to programs or positions that require desired skills , obtained through training received. Plans for trainees are described and should contribute to HQP success .	Training record is below an acceptable level relative to other applicants. HQP do not, in general, move on to positions that require skills obtained through training received. Plans for trainees are not appropriate or are not described with enough information to predict likelihood of HQP success .

¹The Discovery Grants Merit Indicators should be used in conjunction with the Peer Review Manual which outlines how reviewers arrive at a rating.

Cost of research	High	Normal	Low
	Majority of justified expenses represent costs higher than the norm for the research area.	Majority of justified expenses are within the norm for the research area.	Majority of justified expenses are lower than the norm for the research area.

² Possible examples include: Cost of training of HQP; Equipment intensive research and/or high users fees; particularly expensive or frequent consumables; Travel (for collaborations, field work, access to facilities, conferences)