

# Limited Submission Review Instructions & Scoring Matrix NSF Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program 2020 – Research Partnerships Track

Principal Investigator(s):

## BACKGROUND & INSTRUCTIONS

A “limited submission” refers to a grant program that places a limitation on the number of proposal applications a single eligible entity can submit each cycle. The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) has a process in place to allow for an internal competition among interested PIs to determine which application(s) will move forward. Once a limited submission opportunity is identified, an internal call for pre-proposals is sent out to potential PIs. Those interested in being considered for full submission are required to submit a pre-proposal (ranging from one to five pages, depending on the type of program and sponsor) by a specified date. If more applications are received than the institution is allowed to submit to the sponsor, the applications are moved forward to a peer review process in order to make final selection(s).

That peer review process is what you are taking part in now. While we do want you to be aware that **the proposals you review here are *not* finalized and will be expanded before they are submitted to the sponsor**, we ask that you be as critical in your review as you would be if these applications were moving forward to a sponsor now. We are **especially interested in your feedback on weaknesses of the applications and where improvements can be made** either before they move forward through submission to this program or others.

If you are reviewing more than one application for this same program, we ask that you use the applications as a reference for one another in your scoring, knowing that the pool will be ranked based on scores received to determine which move(s) forward to the sponsor.

### *A final reminder for foreign nationals before you proceed:*

We want to ensure that you are eligible to receive compensation for this service. Visa type determines your eligibility for honoraria. Most common visa types eligible for honoraria: B-1, B-2, F-1 (with approval from current school/employer and additional documentation provided), J-2, WB-WT. Any visa holders not eligible for honoraria pay outside of their employing organization may NOT be eligible for payment from UTSA. Further guidance from UTSA on allowable reimbursements for most frequently used visas can be found here: <https://international.utsa.edu/visas/guide-to-most-used-visas/index.html>. If you believe you may not be eligible for honoraria, please notify ORAU staff immediately.

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## SCORING

Selection of applications to be submitted to the **NSF Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program 2020 – Research Partnerships Track** will be based on a 5-point scoring scale for criteria given below. Scores for each criteria will then be weighted based on program specifications.

**No. of applications allowed per institution this cycle: 1**

- Ratings should be given in whole numbers (not decimals).
- Reviewers should consider not only the relative number of strengths and weaknesses, but also the importance of these strengths and weaknesses to the criteria or to the overall impact when determining a score.
  - For example, a major strength may outweigh many minor and correctable weaknesses

**Minor weakness:** easily addressable weakness, does not substantially lessen impact

**Moderate weakness:** lessens impact

**Major weakness:** Severely limits impact

## SCORING RUBRIC

Score	Description
1	<b>Poor</b> – No evidence or information provided
2	<b>Fair</b> – Minimal evidence; limited potential; vague; weak concepts; limited likelihood of success; limited in innovative thinking; lacks sufficient information
3	<b>Good</b> – Some evidence; partially developed concepts; some potential for effectiveness and success; some inconsistencies; needs work; some innovation present; requires additional information/clarification
4	<b>Very Good</b> – Convincing concepts with enough examples of evidence to indicate a good chance for success; clear and complete; innovative
5	<b>Excellent</b> – Excellent concepts; exceptional evidence; well-thought out with an extremely high likelihood of success; exemplary; highly innovative

Borrowed from State of Ohio's Straight A Fund Application Scoring & Evaluation Process, Criteria & Rubrics.

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## SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA

Reviewers should consider each of the review criteria below and give a separate score for each. Note – additional solicitation specific review criteria have been incorporated into the review criteria below.

*Below, please summarize the factors that informed your individual criteria scores.*

<p><b>1. Potential for Advancing Knowledge</b> Potential of the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit). The intellectual merit of the proposed translational research to overcome the identified technological hurdles and knowledge gaps. The strength of the prior research results in supporting the assertion that the technology is ready to move beyond the basic research phase and that the translational research proposed has the potential to be successful.</p>
<p>Strengths:</p>  <p>Weaknesses:</p>
<p><b>2. Potential for Advancing Societal Outcomes</b> Potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts). The merits of the broadening participation plan to foster the inclusion of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in the proposed technology translation and in future commercialization endeavors. The strength of the discussion of the market/societal need and how the innovation has the potential to offer a competitive solution or competitive advantage. The quality of the discussion about the Intellectual Property landscape.</p>
<p>Strengths:</p>  <p>Weaknesses:</p>
<p><b>3. Incorporation of Transformative Concepts</b> The proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts.</p>
<p>Strengths:</p>

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Weaknesses:
<b>4. Project Planning</b> The plan for carrying out the proposed activities is well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale. The intellectual merit and broader impacts of the education and leadership development plan for graduate students and/or postdoctoral researchers (based on learning objectives and outcomes). The effectiveness of the assessment plan and the relevance of the proposer's metrics to the anticipated results. The quality of the strategy for a path toward commercialization.
Strengths:
Weaknesses:
<b>5. Qualifications of PI, Team or Organization and Partnerships</b> The quality and capabilities of the team to successfully complete the project, including the qualifications of the students/postdoctoral researchers and the technology commercialization expert. The technical and commercial strengths and the appropriateness of the proposed partnership(s) and its role in supporting and enabling the objectives of the proposal.
Strengths:
Weaknesses:
<b>6. Resources</b> The PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) has access to adequate resources to carry out the proposed activities.
Strengths:
Weaknesses:

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO APPLICANT**

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Reviewers may provide guidance to the applicant or recommend against submission without fundamental revision.

<b>Additional Comments to Applicants (Optional)</b>

**EVALUTATION SCORES**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Your Score</b>
1. Potential for Advancing Knowledge	
2. Potential for Advancing Societal Outcomes	
3. Incorporation of Transformative Concepts	
4. Project Planning	
5. Qualifications of PI, Team or Organization and Partnerships	
6. Resources	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	