

The Banting Fellowship: Are you a competitive applicant?

A competitive application will excel in the following three evaluation criteria (weighted equally):

1) Applicant's research excellence and leadership in the research domain

A competitive applicant will:

- Have demonstrated a high capacity for research excellence based on their track record (as defined by the quality* of their research contributions).
 - o Quality is determined by the impact of their contributions in the research community.
- Have demonstrated a high capacity for leadership in the research domain (as defined by the sphere of influence achieved to date by the applicant).
 - o An applicant's sphere of influence is determined based on their impact in the following areas:
 - Research programs
 - Institutions (e.g., research, cultural)
 - Research communities (e.g., local, international)
 - Society at large (e.g., regional, national)
- Be capable of writing a proposal to a multi-disciplinary committee (i.e., non-specialist audience) with exceptional clarity.
- Often have already secured other external funding for their research.

*Though reviewers emphasize quality over quantity, successful applicants typically have extensive publication records and an above average amount of first authorships, when compared to their peers.

2) Quality of applicant's proposed research program

A competitive proposed research program will:

- Be highly novel/original.
- Be feasible, with risks accounted for.
- Be well-suited to and enhanced by the proposed institutional and research environment.
- Have a significant impact on the applicant's field of research and Canada's societal, economic, and/or research landscape.
- Position the applicant to have a continued significant impact through a research-intensive career.
- (If applicable) Respectfully involve indigenous peoples through community engagement with clearly outlined reciprocal benefit and institutional support.

3) Institutional commitment and demonstrated synergy between applicant and institutional strategic priorities

A competitive application will contain a supervisor's statement that demonstrates:

- A clearly outlined institutional ability and commitment (e.g., personnel, funding, facilities available) to champion the development of the applicant's research and leadership.
- An exceptional fit between the research interests and background of the supervisor* and applicant, and the anticipated mutual benefits of working together.
- That the institution has the research capacity in the area of the applicant's proposed research program to provide an intellectually stimulating environment and position the applicant as a research leader.
- Clear alignment and synergy between the applicant's research ambitions and the institution's strategic priorities, including the institutional potential to benefit strategically from engaging with the applicant.

*The supervisor in question will be a leader in their field with an exceptional track record.