

SNSF Starting Grants: Evaluation form for panel members and reviewers

1 Introductory remarks

All applications that meet the personal and formal requirements are evaluated scientifically. All panel members as well as all peer-reviewers (only for applications selected for phase 2) are asked the same questions, following the evaluation criteria defined in the call document (cf. Website).

2 Evaluation form

Questions on "Scientific quality of the research project"

Q1: Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g., novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

Q2: Scientific approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research?
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified?

Question on "Qualification of the applicant"

Q: Intellectual capacity and creativity of the applicant

- To what extent has the applicant demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent does the applicant provide evidence of creative and original thinking?
- To what extent does the applicant have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

[Text boxes related to specific strengths and weaknesses as well as for comments (cf. Figure 1) and rating scale (cf. Figure 2)]



Figure 1: Screenshot of comment fields.

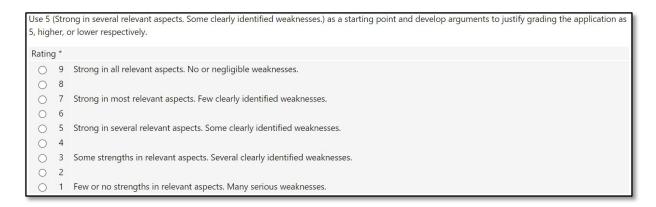


Figure 2: Screenshot of SNSF rating scale.



3 Overall assessment

At the end of the evaluation form, the referees and reviewers are asked to summarise their assessment:

Q: Please summarise the main reasons for your overall assessment by listing the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.

"This statement is the most important part of your recommendation, as it makes the reasoning behind your assessment transparent, it prepares the panel for the decision-making, and it provides the administrative office with the necessary information for the further processing of the proposal. A summary of your statement will be forwarded to the applicant, especially in the case of negative funding decisions."

