Dear Panel Member:

Your application assessment package contains the following items:

- ERA Evaluation Criteria summarizing the ERA Guidelines;
- A sample of a completed Application Assessment Form to provide guidance;
- Application Assessment Forms to be completed and returned to the Ministry.

Please review the contents before beginning the assessment process.

*Please note:* Youth Outreach is an essential and required component of the Early Researcher Awards program. **However, it is not to be assessed as a part of the evaluation criteria.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.
Early Researcher Awards
APPLICATION ASSESSMENT FORM INSTRUCTIONS

The complete applications have been provided to you including letters of reference. Please fill out the Application Assessment Forms for your assigned applicants.

All reviewers are expected to submit their completed Application Assessment Forms to the Ministry one week before the panel meetings. Copies will be distributed to other panel members at the meeting. They will also be retained as part of the meeting record.

Reviewing the Application

In reviewing an application, please consider all aspects of the application based on the ERA guidelines summarized in the attached ERA Evaluation Criteria.

Early Researcher Award Candidates are evaluated based on four weighted criteria; Excellence of the Researcher, Quality of the Research, Development of Research Talent, and Strategic Value to Ontario. Each criterion is divided into subcategories to help you consistently evaluate all aspects of the application.

Comment sections are provided in the Application Assessment Form. Please find attached pre-populated comments for your use. Feel free to add your own comments, or edit the comments provided. In addition, include any tips or helpful advice directed at the researcher’s proposal underneath the ‘additional comments’ line for the relevant sections. These preliminary comments are helpful to the panel in preparing a set of panel-approved comments that each applicant will receive.

Refer to the attached sample Application Assessment Form for guidance. Please email completed Application Assessment Forms to your Ministry contact.

Please note that the Ministry is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal Information in this form is collected under the authority of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade Act for the purpose of administering the Early Researcher Award program. This assessment may be provided to applicants upon FOI request. Questions about this information collection should be directed to Mima Vulovic, Manager, Research Talent and Awards, 56 Wellesley Street West, 11th Floor, Toronto, On M7A 2E7 or call (416) 212-5589.
Round 13 ERA Evaluation Criteria

Early Researcher Award applications will be evaluated based on four weighted criteria; Excellence of the Researcher, Quality of the Research, Development of Research Talent, and Strategic Value to Ontario.

The applications will be ranked as exceptional, excellent, very strong, strong, moderate, or insufficient on these four weighted criteria.

**Excellence of the Researcher (40%)**
*With respect to the researcher’s career stage and field of study, the accomplishments demonstrate excellence of the researcher in terms of:*
- Academic and employment record
- Research grants and awards received
- Publication record
- Other areas of research productivity
- Researcher current and potential standing for excellence in the research field based on research plans and letters of reference
- Independence from previous supervisor regarding publication record
- Independent peer-reviewed funding

**Quality of Research (30%)**
*Based on the research proposal, the quality of research is evaluated in terms of:*
- Excellence of proposed research
- Originality of proposed research
- Clarity of research proposal
- Relevance of methodology

**Development of Research Talent (20%)**
*Demonstrates potential for highly qualified personnel (HQP) training based on:*
- Development of research knowledge of members of research team
- Skills development of team
- Training is unique and leading edge
- Past experience in HQP training

**Strategic Value for Ontario (10%)**
*The research program demonstrates potential for strategic value for Ontario based on the [Ontario Innovation Agenda](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-innovation-agenda), including but not limited to:*
- Economic benefits
- Entrepreneurial focus
- Knowledge transfer
- Ability to enhance the province’s profile in the global academic community
- Social and/or cultural benefits
- Anticipated impact on the Ontario Innovation Agenda’s focus areas:
  - bio-economy, clean technologies
  - advanced health technologies
  - digital media and information and communication technologies
Early Researcher Awards
SAMPLE APPLICATION ASSESSMENT FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT INFORMATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERA Application #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institution:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Panel Name:
- Arts and Humanities
- Energy, Engineering and Emerging Technologies
- Environmental and Natural Sciences
- Health Systems Research
- Information and Communications Technology, Math and Physics
- Life Science Health – Clinical Research
- Life Science – Non-Clinical Research
- Materials and Advanced Manufacturing
- Social Sciences

Reviewer’s Name: 

Please refer to the following charts for the evaluation rating and criteria weighting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Rating Chart</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
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<td>Rating</td>
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<table>
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<th>Criteria Weighting Chart</th>
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<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
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<td>Weighting</td>
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Please find attached pre-populated comments for your use. Feel free to add your own comments, or edit the comments provided. In addition, include any tips or helpful advice directed at the researcher’s proposal underneath the ‘additional comments’ line for the relevant sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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</table>
| **Excellence of the Researcher** | 1.8 Candidate is an emerging leader in the field.  
1.9 Excellent reference letters attest to the candidate’s potential.  
1.14 High level of peer-reviewed grant support.  
Additional comments: Other areas of research productivity, such as the pending patents, could be highlighted in future applications. |
| Academic and employment record |  
Research grants and awards received |  
Publication record |  
Other areas of research productivity |  
Researcher current and potential standing for excellence in the research field based on research plans and letter of reference |  
Independence from previous supervisor regarding publication record |  
Independent peer-reviewed funding |  |
| **ASSESSMENT OF EXCELLENCE OF THE RESEARCHER** | 4.2/5 |
| **Quality of Research** | 2.6 Novel interdisciplinary approach.  
Additional comments: This proposal would benefit from figures, graphs, or tables illustrating the significance of the problem being addressed. |
| Excellence of proposed research |  
Originality of proposed research |  
Clarity of research proposal |  
Relevance of methodology |  |
| **ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY OF RESEARCH** | 3.6/5 |
| **Development of Research Talent** | 3.1 Trainees play a significant role in the research.  
3.9 Training plans will expose training team to exciting and challenging projects.  
3.10 Candidate has considerable experience in HQP training.  
Additional comments: For future applications, emphasize how your unique expertise will provide training that is not available elsewhere. |
| Development of research knowledge of members of research team |  
Skills development of team |  
Training is unique and leading edge |  
Past experience in HQP training |  |
| **ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH TALENT** | 4.1/5 |
| **Strategic Value for Ontario** | 4.6 The research has significant potential for impact on bio-economy and clean technologies for Ontario.  
Additional comments: The connection between the problem addressed by the research and how solving it could translate into economic, social, or cultural benefits for Ontario could be strengthened. |
| Economic benefits |  
Social and/or cultural benefits |  
Knowledge transfer |  
Ability to enhance the province’s profile in the global academic community |  
Anticipated impact on bio-economy, clean technologies, advanced health technologies, and digital media and information and communication technologies |  |
| **ASSESSMENT OF STRATEGIC VALUE FOR ONTARIO** | 3.4/5 |
EXCELLENCE OF THE RESEARCHER

- **Expertise and Track Record:**
  - Is the researcher’s past academic and research training at the highest level?
  - In relation to the researcher’s career stage, has he or she made significant contributions through high-impact peer-reviewed publications, or patents?
  - Has the researcher received awards or other acknowledgement of his or her contributions in the field?
  - Do reference letters indicate that the researcher is at the top level of his or her peer group?

- **Potential for Excellence:**
  - Do the proposed research plans, including the objectives, methods, and consideration of the issues, demonstrate that the researcher has the skill and experience to conduct excellent research and make a significant contribution in the field?
  - Have the referees rated the applicant’s research potential highly?
  - Has the researcher received peer-reviewed grants, endorsing his or her potential to carry out excellent research?

*Pre-populated Comments:*

1.1 Candidate is among the very best in the field.
1.2 Candidate is within the top 5 percent of the peer group.
1.3 Candidate’s international recognition and research profile are evident.
1.4 Potential has been recognized with major national personal awards.
1.5 Candidate has published numerous articles.
1.6 Candidate has published articles in high impact journals.
1.7 Excellent research productivity, building momentum.
1.8 Candidate is an emerging leader in the field.
1.9 Exceptional reference letters demonstrate candidate’s international recognition and research profile.
1.10 Excellent reference letters attest to the candidate’s potential.
1.11 Excellent productivity record of publications and citations.
1.12 Citations show candidate has attracted international attention.
1.13 Exceptional level of the grant funding.
1.14 High level of peer-reviewed grant support.

1.15 Candidate does not stand out relative to pool of applicants.
1.16 Candidate is not a recognized researcher in the field.
1.17 Candidate was just appointed and this application is premature.
1.18 Reference letters only modestly describe the candidate’s potential and research excellence.
1.19 Reference letters lack enthusiasm.
1.20 Reference letters are not sufficiently “arms length”.
1.21 Candidate has moderate record of publications.
1.22 Limited productivity in low impact journals, or conference publications.
1.23 Candidate has modest record of grants.
1.24 Ongoing peer-reviewed grant support for candidate is limited.
1.25 Candidate does not hold competitive grant funding.
QUALITY OF RESEARCH

- **Research Excellence:**
  - Will the research make a significant contribution and advance knowledge in the field?
  - Are the objectives of the research plan focused and realistic?
  - Are design and scientific methods well developed, appropriate and at the highest standard?
  - Are potential problem areas addressed?
  - Is it feasible to carry out the research in the proposed time frame?
  - Do the reference letters indicate support for the research plan?

**Pre-populated comments:**

2.1 An exciting and timely proposal.
2.2 Proposed research is leading edge and will have a major impact in the field.
2.3 The research represents an innovative approach to an important topic.
2.4 Excellent infrastructure and environment for research with high impact.
2.5 The research is important from both a theoretical and practical perspective.
2.6 Novel interdisciplinary approach.
2.7 A well-presented and developed research plan with high relevance.
2.8 The candidate is poised to make a major breakthrough in the research area.
2.9 Ambitious research plan with a high likelihood of success.
2.10 Success will have a major impact in the field.
2.11 Research shows a definite potential for knowledge transfer and industry application.
2.12 Results of the proposed research will likely contribute to potential job creation, and/or patents and royalties.
2.13 Research has practical applications.
2.14 Research has practical applications, but lacks originality.
2.15 Research is not well related to other work in the field.
2.16 Research proposal is not well presented and plans are not clear.
2.17 Research project is diffuse, and lacks objective measures of success.
2.18 Research is too broad in scope, and specific objectives are undefined.
2.19 Research plan has little information about analysis of results.
2.20 Research plan has design weaknesses.
2.21 Ambitious research plan with a moderate likelihood of success.
2.22 Ambitious research plan with a minimal likelihood of success.
2.23 Success will have only a modest impact in the field.
2.24 Research shows a modest potential for knowledge transfer and industry application.
DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH TALENT

- Training of highly qualified personnel (HQP)
  - Has the researcher demonstrated past success in HQP training and the capacity to supervise the number and type of trainees proposed?
  - Is the planned research appropriate for the training envisaged?
  - Is the balance between undergraduate, master’s, doctoral, and post-doctoral trainees appropriate?
  - Will the trainees acquire skills for future careers in research?
  - Does the project help build Ontario’s research talent pool?
  - Does the training plan provide opportunities for career development?

Pre-populated comments:

3.1 Trainees play a significant role in the research.
3.2 The proposed training is unique and leading edge.
3.3 The proposed training will strengthen new areas of expertise.
3.4 The proposed training plans indicate that trainees will be exposed to an environment of innovation.
3.5 Proposed training plan will contribute additional expertise to current centres of excellence.
3.6 Well-developed training plan.
3.7 Planned training activities suit the level of trainees proposed.
3.8 The research involves leading edge technologies providing highly relevant training.
3.9 Training plans will expose training team to exciting and challenging projects.
3.10 Candidate has considerable experience in HQP training.
3.11 Trainees will not play a significant role in the research.
3.12 The proposed training plans do not indicate that trainees are given the opportunity for career development.
3.13 The research will not involve the trainees in exciting or challenging work.
3.14 Training proposed for trainees is not well-described.
3.15 Plans to supervise the trainees are not clear.
3.16 Training proposed is rather narrow in scope.
3.17 The proposed training plans are overly ambitious and involve too many team members.
3.18 The planned training activities are not suitable for the level of trainees proposed.
3.19 Candidate has had limited experience and chance to demonstrate potential in terms of training.
STRATEGIC VALUE TO ONTARIO

- Potential Impact to Ontario:
  - Does the applicant’s anticipated research demonstrate strategic value for Ontario?
  - Strategic value includes but is not limited to the potential for:
    - Economic benefits
    - Entrepreneurial focus
    - Knowledge transfer
    - Ability to enhance the province’s profile in the global academic community
    - Social and/or cultural benefits
    - Anticipated impact on the Ontario Innovation Agenda’s focus areas:
      - bio-economy, clean technologies
      - advanced health technologies
      - digital media and information and communication technologies

Pre-populated comments:

4.1 The research and its potential results will make significant contributions to Ontario.
4.2 The research and its potential results will have a significant economic impact to Ontario.
4.3 The research and its potential results will have a significant social and/or cultural impact to Ontario.
4.4 The research has significant knowledge transfer benefits to Ontario.
4.5 The results of the research and training will enhance the global academic community.
4.6 The research has significant potential for impact on bio-economy and clean technologies to Ontario.
4.7 The research has significant potential for impact on advanced health technologies to Ontario.
4.8 The research has significant potential for impact on pharmaceutical research and manufacturing to Ontario.
4.9 The research has significant potential for impact on digital media and information and communication technologies to Ontario.
4.10 Proposed research is likely to lead to increased investments and job creation.
4.11 The results of the research are likely to increase the technological capacity and competitiveness of Ontario.
4.12 Statement of strategic value is realistic; however more detail could have been provided.
4.13 Results of the proposed research have significant future market potential.
4.14 The research will contribute to Ontario in a limited extent.
4.15 The research has limited or no potential for economic benefit to Ontario.
4.16 The research has limited or no potential for social and/or cultural benefit to Ontario.
4.17 The research has limited or no potential for knowledge transfer in Ontario.
4.18 Results of the research and training will only somewhat enhance the province’s global academic profile.
4.19 The research has limited or no potential for impact on bio-economy and clean technologies to Ontario.
4.20 The research has limited or no potential for impact on advanced health technologies to Ontario.
4.21 The research has limited or no potential for impact on pharmaceutical research and manufacturing to Ontario.
4.22 The research has limited or no potential for impact on digital media and information and communication technologies to Ontario.
4.23 Proposal does not make the case that the research will have significant benefits to Ontario.
4.24 Statement of strategic value is not realistic.
4.25 Results of the proposed research are unlikely to have significant future market potential.