



RTA-24 – CCS Research Training Awards - Evaluation Criteria  
*for all levels*

**Overall scoring**

Criteria	Master's	Doctoral	Postdoctoral
Research Project	40%	45%	50%
Relevance & Potential Impact	60%	55%	50%

There are two rating scales to be used by reviewers to score applications. A Research Rating and a Relevance & Potential Impact Rating should be provided **separately, resulting in two scores.**

Only applications with final scores for both Research Rating and Relevance & Potential Impact of **>3.5** will be eligible for funding. **The Overall score for a given application will be used in the rank ordering of applications within each panel.**

**Research Rating (research project)**

- The public summary clearly identifies the need, goal, methods (including co-creation methods where applicable) and expected outcomes of the project and is written in non-technical language
- Rationale and evidence for the proposed work is thorough and compelling
- Scientific approach, including theories and frameworks, is well-described and feasible
- Aims are clearly articulated (research question clearly articulated when relevant) and key activities and milestones for the term of the project are described and feasible within the project timeline
- High likelihood that the project, as described, will result in new discoveries and/or knowledge
- There is thoughtful consideration of barriers to project success and alternatives proposed
- Sex, gender, and other dimensions of diversity (e.g. race, ethnicity) and their intersectionalities are appropriately addressed throughout the project, including the study design, methods, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination/implementation of findings/outcomes
- The research proposal includes how knowledge may be shared with and beyond academia (with the affected community) in a relevant, accessible, feasible and culturally appropriate way
- The research project is feasible. All/most certificates/authorizations are in place to confirm it.



## Relevance & Potential Impact

### Relevance to Cancer

- The potential impact (short or long-term) of the proposed research on people at risk/people affected by cancer is clearly described
- The application describes and has a high potential to lead to improvements in the prevention, detection, treatment, and/or duration and quality of life for people affected by cancer, and/or equitable and timely access to cancer care (i.e. [CCS Research Goals](#)).
- Impact on patients/affected communities has been appropriately considered - project will not exacerbate or place undue hardship and/or mitigating strategies have been described
- The cross-disciplinary training described brings new knowledge or perspective(s) to the trainee's cancer research or offers other key experiences to support growth and future innovation
- The training described is commensurate with award level. The associated budget is detailed, and appropriate.

### Personal Impact

- Answers to the 2 questions (Why am I the right candidate for this award? What do I envision as my (long-term) contribution to cancer research?) strongly suggest the candidate's enthusiasm and experience create conditions for success and potential impact in cancer research, from a holistic view of the individual
- There is evidence of supervisor's genuine commitment and inclusive support (i.e., EDI actions described)
- The environment where the research will take place is inclusive and supportive, as described in the supervisor's letter
- CV and/or transcripts indicates a satisfactory academic record
- Relevant lived experience, community engagement, work experience, other skills or experience with community, cancer, or healthcare is described and supports growth and innovation in cancer research, taking into consideration education and career interruptions/obstacles
- Statement of support from the community member / patient / caregiver is suggestive of a strong or meaningful connection or collaboration presently or in the future
- Statement of support describes strong potential for impact in cancer
- Mentorship plan is compelling and includes mentor(s) for the trainee, ideally in different focus areas, that supports growth within their field
- The described responsibilities and expected benefits (i.e., specific skills or opportunities gained) of each mentoring relationship is detailed, adequate, and supports the trainee's growth



- Optional: Statements of support from potential mentors show commitment and enthusiasm for the mentorship (if applicable)
- The provided mentorship plan is commensurate with award level

*For postdoctoral fellows:*

- Applicants staying either in the same laboratory or under the supervision of their PhD supervisor(s) clearly articulate how they will establish their own independence.
- There is evidence of leadership qualities and a career trajectory to suggest future leadership in the field