

## **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.