

# Seed Funding Proposal Review Criteria

All RIT Grant Writer's Boot Camp Seed Funding proposals are evaluated using the four core review criteria defined below. Guided by the core review criteria, an Overall Merit Score is assigned to a proposal.

- 1) **Significance:** Evaluate the importance of the proposed research in the context of current scientific challenges and opportunities. Assess whether the application addresses an important gap in knowledge in the field, would solve a critical problem, or create a valuable conceptual or technical advance.
- 2) **Investigator:** The level to which the PI is qualified to carry out the work proposed, based on training, technical expertise, and experience. The clarity of which the PI has articulated their research agenda and identified external funding opportunities to support it.
- 3) **Methodology:** The method by which the PI carries out their research. The study design, methods, timeline, and analyses should be well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the objectives of the project. Potential problem areas and pitfalls should be acknowledged, and alternative strategies considered accordingly.
- 4) **Broader Impacts:** The potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes. They can be accomplished through the research itself, through activities directly related to research, or activities that supported by but are complementary to the project.

**Overall Merit:** It quantifies the reviewers' assessments of the project's ability to exert a sustained, influence on its field and the society, considering the four core peer review criteria described above. The overall merit score is not simply the average of individual criterion scores, it represents a holistic assessment of the potential scientific impact of a research proposal. Reviewers are instructed to consider the whole picture when assigning this score, meaning they can weigh certain criteria more heavily depending on their relevance to the overall research merit, rather than just averaging all the individual scores equally; it represents a holistic assessment of the potential scientific impact of a research proposal, not just a mathematical average. Reviewers should consider how this proposed work will prepare the PI for a competitive submission to an external funder.