



SGSSS-DTP Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Stage One Competition Marking Framework (2023/24)

	Fellowship Proposal (OUT OF 10)	Candidate Record (OUT OF 10)	Mentoring & Research Environment (OUT OF 5)
	Considering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case for support • Justification of resources • Workplan • Data management plan (if applicable) • Other attachments (if necessary, e.g., if there is an overseas institution visit) 	Considering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV • Preparedness for the Fellowship • Contribution to a positive research culture 	Considering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department statement • Mentor statement and summary CV • Referee statement
	<p>An excellent proposal scoring well in terms of both cogency and originality. Quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs and consideration of ethical issues are strong. Specified objectives are achievable and realistic within the time available. Proposed activities support the applicant's longer-term career aspirations.</p> <p>Plus</p>	<p>An excellent candidate with the achievement or expectation of a PhD meeting ESRC eligibility requirements for the PDF scheme. Taking career stage into account, preparedness to flourish with fellowship funding and to contribute to the wider SGSSS community, the CV (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).</p> <p>Plus</p>	
10	As (9) but proposal is exceptionally good in all of its elements.	As (9) but, taking career stage into account, an exceptionally good overall CV.	
9	As (8) and all elements are very well-defined and developed.	As (8) but an excellent CV with a number of clearly identifiable strengths.	

8	As (7) and all elements are well-defined and clearly developed.	As (7) but a very good CV with at least one obvious strength.	
7	A good proposal with appropriate work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, consideration of ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and fit with applicant's career aspirations.	A candidate with the achievement or expectation of a PhD meeting ESRC eligibility requirements for the PDF scheme. Taking career stage into account, a good CV with no obvious weaknesses (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).	
	An adequate proposal but with minor identifiable weaknesses. One or more of quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and/or fit with applicant's career are problematic, ill- expressed, or show a lack of knowledge. Plus	An adequate candidate with the achievement or expectation of a PhD meeting ESRC eligibility requirements for the PDF scheme. Taking career stage into account, but a CV with minor identifiable weaknesses (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications). Plus	
6	An adequate proposal in quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and/or fit with applicant's career aspirations.	As (5) but taking career stage into account, an adequate overall CV (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).	
5	An adequate proposal that nevertheless suffers from one minor but identifiable weakness in quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and/or fit with applicant's career aspirations.	A candidate with the achievement or expectation of a PhD meeting ESRC eligibility requirements for the PDF scheme. Taking career stage into account, an adequate CV but with one identifiable minor weakness (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).	Mentor is a senior colleague in the host RO. Mentoring and research environment represent a near-perfect fit with the proposed work programme. Mentor has considered applicant's needs carefully and tailored a programme of support accordingly, clearly detailing how they will ensure PDF is kept properly active and focussed throughout the year and will keep PDF's long-term career prospects clearly in mind.

4	A proposal with a number of minor weaknesses in relation to quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and/or fit with applicant's career aspirations.	As (3) but taking career stage into account a CV that suffers from a number of minor weaknesses (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).	Mentor is a senior colleague in the host RO. Mentoring and research environment represent a very good fit with the proposed work programme. Mentor has considered applicant's needs and programme of support appropriately, clearly acknowledging the need to ensure PDF is kept properly active and focussed throughout the year and keep PDF's long-term career prospects clearly in mind.
3	A proposal with significant weaknesses in multiple elements of quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and/or fit with applicant's career aspirations.	A candidate with the achievement or expectation of a PhD meeting ESRC eligibility requirements for the PDF scheme. Taking career stage into account, a CV that suffers from one major weakness (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).	Mentor is a senior colleague in the host RO. Mentoring and research environment represent a good fit with the proposed work programme. Mentor has given some consideration to the applicant's needs and necessary programme of support. Acknowledgement is given to need to ensure PDF is kept properly active and focussed throughout the year and to keep PDF's long-term career prospects clearly in mind, but detail of this is less clear.
2	A weak proposal that would need considerable additional work before being fundable. Overall, the proposal is somewhat problematic, poorly-expressed, or shows a lack of knowledge in relation to the quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and/or fit with applicant's career.	A candidate with the achievement or expectation of a PhD meeting ESRC eligibility requirements for the PDF scheme. Taking career stage into account, a CV with more than one major weakness (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).	Mentor is a senior colleague in the host RO but it is unclear that mentoring and research environment represent a good fit with the proposed work programme. Mentor has given little consideration to the applicant's needs and necessary programme of support. Little acknowledgement is given to need to ensure PDF is kept properly active and focussed throughout the year and to keep PDF's long-term career prospects clearly in mind.
1	A very weak proposal that is not fundable. Overall, the proposal is highly problematic, poorly-expressed, or shows a lack of knowledge in relation to the quality of work programme, value for money, impact and outputs, ethical issues, achievable and realistic objectives and/or fit with applicant's career.	A candidate with the achievement or expectation of a PhD meeting ESRC eligibility requirements for the PDF scheme. Taking career stage into account, a CV with numerous major and minor weaknesses (e.g. education to date, awards received for work or training, previous employment history, conference papers, publications).	Mentor is a senior colleague in the host RO. However, mentoring and research environment do not represent a good fit with the proposed work programme. Mentor has given no consideration to the applicant's needs and necessary programme of support. No acknowledgement is given to need to ensure PDF is kept properly active and focussed throughout the year and to keep PDF's long-term career prospects clearly in mind.