

Review Criteria for Academia Sinica Grand Challenge Program Seed Grant

The Academia Sinica **Grand Challenge Program** is established to encourage its researchers to pursue **innovative** solutions for **critical problems** in science and humanities that have broad and lasting **impact**. To catalyze and cultivate new ideas still in the early stage of development, shorter term Seed Grants are provided to fund **exploratory projects** for 1-2 years. Successful applicants are expected to deliver key results within the funding period that would validate the proposed concepts and establish a strong foundation for more extensive future investigations.

Reviewers for a seed grant application will be asked to provide critical evaluation by answering to specific bullet-point questions and rank the proposal accordingly on a scale of 1-5, for each of the following criteria:

1. How significant is the specific problem to be addressed?

- What is the specific problem to be addressed?
- Is the specific problem important to science and/or society?

2. To what extent is the idea innovative?

- What are the novel elements in this application?
- What are the closest ideas published by others to date?

3. What is the extent of anticipated impact?

- If the project succeeds, to what extent will the outcomes impact the solution to the problem identified?
- Will the impact be game-changing and transformative?

4. How feasible is the Research Plan and proposed approach?

- Are there any major flaws in the proposed approach to the problem?

Note: Preliminary results are not required in this Program particularly for the Seed Grant to encourage new ideas and directions. However, proposal with a major scientific/technical strategic flaw will not be favorably considered

- What key results are to be delivered in the 1-2 years' period that will justify a longer term pursue?
- Have the applicants identified the risks involved and have plans to de-risk?

5. Do the applicants have relevant expertise?

- Are the track records of the applicants indicative of their commitment and likely success?
- How competitive are the applicants and the proposed project?

Applicants are advised to prepare their proposal in such a way that would allow the Reviewers to critically identify the answers to each of the questions. The Reviewers' comments will be redacted and provided to the applicants after the completion of the review process.