

Review Criteria for Academia Sinica Scholar Award (ASSA)

Reviewers for the Scholar Award applications will be asked to provide a thorough evaluation based on the following specific bullet-point questions and rank the proposal accordingly on a scale of 1–5. In general, a good track record and past performance are advantageous, but the nature of the problem to be addressed, the innovative ideas proposed, its feasibility, and potential impact, are all equally important review criteria.

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

- What is the specific problem to be addressed?
- How is the specific problem important to science and/or society?
- Has the problem been identified and/or solved by others before?

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? *Note: The impact can be societal, scientific or in practical applications.*
- Will the impact be game-changing and transformative?
- What are the remaining issues important to solving the problem, but not addressed by the applicants?

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

- Has the applicant(s) thought through the problem thoroughly?
- Has the applicant(s) identified the risks involved and provided plans to de-risk?
- Are there any major flaws in the proposed approach to the problem?
- Can the applicants deliver significant results during the project period? How feasible are the proposed timeline and the projected milestones?
- Are different components or specific aims well-integrated and synergistic?

5. Does the applicant have relevant expertise? Are they committed?

- Does the applicant have a **strong** record in conducting cutting edge research and deliver impactful results?
- Is there evidence that the proposed project is a major component of the applicant's career and that the applicant is committed to delivering impactful results in 5 years?

6. Is the proposed project internationally competitive?

- How does the quality of this application compare with the top level globally?

Applicants are advised to prepare their proposals so that Reviewers can easily identify the answers to each of the questions. The redacted Reviewer's comments will be provided only to shortlisted applicants after the completion of the review process.

Note: Please refer to the Award announcement and other relevant documents available online including the guidelines provided in the application forms and templates, for additional requirements and details. There may be slight differences in carrying out the review process among the three Divisions but the major points to be considered will be similar.