Dean’s Projects: Guidelines for Adjudicators

Please email the completed excel grading sheet to deans.projects@usask.ca.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1: Project Description</th>
<th>30 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Background Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Hypothesis and Expected Outcomes</td>
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<td>o Timeline</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Quality and Clarity of Methodology and Analysis</td>
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<td>o Deliverables of the Applicant and Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Overall Impression of Feasibility</td>
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<td>o Project Proposal Language</td>
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<th>Section 2: Student Outcomes and Experience</th>
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<td>o Student learning outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Supervisor expectations and contingency plan</td>
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Maximum Total Points 50 points

Comments are an important method of improving unsuccessful applications for future competitions and can be left in two formats:

- **Section comments**: particularly important for those who do not receive funding, as it allows for perspective regarding which sections were weaker than others.
- **General Comments**: summarizes the most important points of the review, addressing the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

All comments will be de-identified before being released to applicants.

Disclosure of Association may be where you feel that you have had some connection to the application or applicant, but is not necessarily a conflict of interest. For example:

- You are a close personal friend of the supervisor or applicant
- You have held, or currently hold collaborative funding with the supervisor
- Have published with supervisor in the last five years

You may still provide a grade and participate in the assessment, but our office will be aware of the association.

Applications where you are a Supervisor will be automatically noted as a Conflict of Interest.
Dean’s Projects Adjudication Grading Grid

Section 1: Project Details

Background Information
Background information on the project should be presented in a concise manner and clearly outline the importance and significance of the research project.

Hypothesis and Expected Outcomes
Using the background information, the applicant should have a clearly defined hypothesis. They must also describe the expected outcomes at the completion of the project.

Timeline
Timelines should be clearly outlined and realistic. The funding period is ten weeks for Dean’s Projects and six to eight weeks for Summer Research Experience Projects.

Quality and Clarity of Methodology and Analysis
Applicants must describe the overall methodological approach, including experimentation, data collection, sample sizes and statistical analysis.

Deliverables of the Applicant and Supervisor
The deliverables for the student should indicate that the applicant will engage in a research opportunity that will require both intellectual and methodological contributions. The supervisor must be engaged in the project and committed to providing the necessary supports for the applicant.

Overall Impression of Feasibility
The proposed research should be clearly feasible with viable and realistic outcomes.

Project Proposal Language
All applicants must ensure they write their application in a manner that can be understood by a non-expert in their field.

Section 2: Student Outcomes and Experience

Student Outcomes
The student learning outcomes should be outlined clearly, and provide valuable research experience for the student. The supervisor should have a clear plan for the student.

Supervisor Expectations
Supervisors should provide a mentorship experience that involves regular interaction with the student as well as clear direction in their day to day activities.

Contingency Plan
The faculty supervisor must provide a contingency plan for unforeseen circumstances or if the research project is delayed for any reason.