**Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship Competition**

**Suitability of Candidates**

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship Competition is a very competitive program. Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies staff have read through and compared previous applications (successful and not) to see ‘what it takes’ to be successful. Here are the trends we see with successful applications, as they related to the Evaluation Criteria:

**Criteria 1: Applicant’s research excellence and leadership in the research domain**

Defined by:

* demonstrated capacity for research excellence based on track record
* demonstrated capacity for leadership in the research domain
* significant and identifiable contributions to his/her research field

Our successful and highly scored applications have had:

* at least one degree from an international university
* at least 5 first authored publications and a minimum of 6 presentations, unless publications/presentations are not common within the discipline
* solid evidence of collaboration and teamwork, preferable on an international scale
* leadership contributions/impact of research evident by novel methods, dissemination of knowledge through various avenues
* at least one prestigious fellowship or scholarship within the last 5 years.

**Criteria 2: Quality of the applicant’s proposed research program**

Defined by:

* strength of proposed research program (feasibility, timelines and novelty of research)
* match of researcher and research to the proposed institutional environment
* position of applicant for significant impact through a research-intensive career

Our successful and highly scored applications have had:

* supervisor who is an outstanding researcher leading one of Canada's top groups in the proposed area of research
* strongly written supervisor’s statement which aligns with candidate’s aspirations
* demonstrated potential for contribution of the research to advance knowledge in the research field (evident by past experiences and the candidate’s aspirations).

**Criteria 3: Demonstrated synergy between applicant & institutional strategic priorities.**

Defined by:

* strong commitment of the institution to support the development of the applicant's research and leadership capacity through institutional support and professional development
* Demonstrated alignment with the institution’s strategic priorities and potential benefit to the institution from engagement with the applicant.

Our successful and highly scored applications have had:

* three strong reference letters which describe, with concrete examples, the merits and leadership abilities of the candidate, the fit and commitment of the candidate to the research and the new environment
* A strongly written supervisor’s statement, which outlines the strategic alignment with the institution’s priorities, and how they will position the candidate as a research leader.