

# Seed Funding Proposal Review Criteria

All RIT Grant Writer's Boot Camp Seed Funding proposals are evaluated using the following review criteria. The five criteria are defined below.

- 1) **Significance:** It quantifies the project's effectiveness to address an identified problem or barrier, and the importance of the problem or barrier within the PI's field.
- 2) **Investigator:** The level to which the PI is qualified to carry out the work proposed, based on training, technical expertise, and experience. The clarity of which the PI has articulated their research agenda and identified external funding opportunities to support it.
- 3) **Methodology:** The method by which the PI carries out their research. The study design, methods, timeline, and analyses should be well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the objectives of the project. Potential problem areas and pitfalls should be acknowledged, and alternative strategies considered accordingly.
- 4) **Broader Impacts:** The potential of the project to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes. Examples of desired outcomes include, but are not limited to: inclusion, STEM education, public engagement, societal well-being, STEM workforce, partnerships, national security, economic competitiveness, and infrastructure.
- 5) **Overall Merit:** It quantifies the reviewers' assessments of the project's ability to exert a sustained, influence on its field and the society, considering the four core peer review criteria. The overall merit score is not simply the average of individual criterion scores because reviewers are instructed to consider the whole picture when assigning this score, meaning they can weigh certain criteria more heavily depending on their relevance to the overall research impact, rather than just averaging all the individual scores equally; it represents a holistic assessment of the potential scientific impact of a research proposal, not just a mathematical average. Reviewers should consider how this proposed work will prepare the PI for a competitive submission to an external funder.