

IPSFC-Style Candidate Evaluation Rubric
(Graduate Students, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Professors)

Overview

This rubric provides a standardized framework to evaluate applicants across career stages. Expectations are adjusted relative to career level, but scoring categories remain consistent. Total score: **100 points**

Evaluation Table

Category	Weight	Evaluation Criteria	Graduate Student Indicators	Postdoctoral Indicators	Professor Indicators
Academic / Research Excellence	30	Evidence of strong intellectual trajectory and scholarly quality	GPA, academic awards, early publications, strong recommendation letter	Publication record, emerging independence, recognitions	publication record, funding record, leadership and training HQP
Strategic Fit with Indo-Pacific Goals	25	Alignment with program priorities and regional relevance	Clear academic/research relevance to Indo-Pacific region	Active or developing regional collaborations	Partner appropriateness and programmatic impact
Feasibility & Execution Plan	20	Evidence of attainable research outcomes	Realistic study plan, supervisor support, host confirmation	Defined milestones, confirmed host institution	Research agreements, infrastructure, administrative readiness
Broader Impact & Capacity Building	15	Benefits extending beyond the individual applicant	Skills development and future contributions	Network building and mentoring potential	Institutional partnerships and student training impact
Professional Reliability & Delivery	10	Evidence of responsible project completion	Recommendation letter, Time management, reliability	Track record of completed projects	History of delivering grants and managing programs

Score Interpretation

Score Range	Interpretation
90–100	Exceptional candidate — low risk, high impact
80–89	Strong candidate — competitive
70–79	Viable candidate — requires justification
Below 70	Weak strategic fit or execution concerns