

Evaluation criteria for applications to DPNurs

1. Scientific quality

- Is the research proposal relevant to the field of nursing science?
- Is the definition of the problems and proposed solutions clear and compelling, as well as scientifically justified? (Do the aims, research questions and hypotheses of the research fulfil the criteria of a scientific study?)
- Are the hypotheses clearly defined and based on appropriate literature and/or preliminary data, and has a need for the research been demonstrated?
- Are the chosen methods, including data analysis and statistics, appropriate for the project and well described?
- Are the ethical considerations for the proposed project described and addressed properly?
- Does the plan show what new information the research will bring, and how?
- Do the planned original publications form a coherent whole?

2. Feasibility (is the proposed research realistically portrayed as four years of work?)

- Does the plan (research plan, resource plan, and postgraduate study plan) show sufficient competence by the applicant to achieve completion of the proposed project?
- Is the timetable presented by the applicant realistic in regards to the proposed research plan, and the applicant's level of activity sufficient within the timeframe?
- Are the materials, methods (including statistics and/or power calculations), experimental models, and when appropriate patient/study cohorts adequate and well adapted to the hypothesis or research question?
- Are there plans for collaborators or networks essential to the execution of the research?

3. Societal and scientific relevance

- Does the project extend or challenge current understanding, opinions or practices in its field?
- Will completion of the aims improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice?
- Does the proposed research have potential to significantly advance current knowledge in the field or does it specify existing knowledge by novel technologies or innovations?
- Has the applicant assessed the societal relevance / dissemination of the results of the research?

4. The applicant's qualifications

- Has the applicant published parts of the planned study or have other merits in scientific publication?
- Does the applicant show other scientific activity (e.g. a presentation in a national conference, being a member of a committee, has received a grant for research or an award for their Master's thesis)
- Has the applicant earned study credits for postgraduate studies? How has the applicant fared in their earlier studies?
- Does the applicant show international activity (e.g. been an exchange student, is a member of an international research team, a presentation in an international conference)?

In addition, the amount and quality of studies in research methodology (quantitative and qualitative methods, statistics) or otherwise proven methodological skills are taken into account in the selection process.