

**WRITTEN EVALUATION FORM**

**FOR REVIEWERS**

**IAS 2025 BRAINSTORM PROJECT**

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| --- | --- |
| **«Project\_acronym»** | **«Project\_title»** |

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of the Coordinating PI** |  |
| **Fac/IC** |  |

The reviewers' assessments and conclusions may be provided to the candidates on request and in an anonymous manner. It is essential, therefore, that reviewers provide a constructive comment of at least five lines for each selection criterion and for the conclusion. This will enable candidates to better appreciate the evaluation outcome.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and we would kindly ask you to send the completed evaluation form before the deadline to: [ias@uni.lu](mailto:ias@uni.lu).

Please refer to the guidelines for reviewers for more details on the written evaluation procedure.

**Introduction**

The BRAINSTORM funding instrument is part of the Institute for Advanced Studies of the University of Luxembourg and aims to support the organisation of small-group brainstorm meetings on emerging research questions at the forefront of knowledge. These brainstorm sessions should aim at developing excellence in specific domains or at addressing major societal challenges.

The IAS supports such small-size brainstorm meetings (minimum 5 and maximum 15 people all together incl. PIs) as it considers this as the ideal forum for exchanges on emerging research, often covering more than one discipline or sector. These workshops are expected to bring together a select group of international and UL scientists, to discuss the latest pre-publication research and innovation at the edge of the concerned field. Targeted participants include international experts, UL researchers including UL Doctoral or Post-doctoral researchers and YOUNG ACADEMICS from the IAS. Junior participants will gain new understanding of emerging fields through dialogue with more senior experts.

Applications to the BRAINSTORM workshops will be evaluated by members of the College of IAS fellows. The selection criteria include the quality of the BRAINSTORM idea, the international recognition of the participants, and the potential to lead to new ideas and initiatives.

**Specific characteristics of a BRAINSTORM workshop at UL:**

The BRAINSTORM workshops are expected to lead to new research projects, initiatives, networks or short position/white papers published internationally, further increasing UL’s visibility.

Driven by excellence and interdisciplinarity, the BRAINSTORM call is open to all disciplines and sectors. BRAINSTORM encourages the organization of collaborative events across UL entities and with foreign partners. These events usually last 2 days. Funding is granted on a competitive basis and once granted, it remains valid for a period of 12 months, from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st of a calendar year to facilitate workshop organization. After this period, the grant expires. Budget is not transferrable from one calendar year to another.

Additional information is available in the “BRAINSTORM - Call description and guidelines for candidates” available on-line ([Documents - University of Luxembourg I Uni.lu](https://www.uni.lu/research-en/ias/documents/)).

**The following criteria should be considered during the reviewing process:**

1. **Academic excellence**
   1. **Competence of the PIs**

Evaluate the research profile of the PIs and participants, and how they propose to overcome the actual frontiers of knowledge. Their scientific excellence is the warrant of the project coherence and success, and of its suitability to pave the way towards the development of new research areas at UL.

* 1. **Strength of the consortium**

The consortium members must be clearly complementary to address an interdisciplinary research objective. Without this interdisciplinarity, the event could not be successful. The project must favour collaboration within the University of Luxembourg and/or collaboration with national or foreign institutions if the complementary discipline is not available at the UL.

1. **Audacious character of the project idea**

The project is outstanding by its audacious and risky approach while being strongly supported by the complementarity of the PIs competences in various disciplines.

* 1. **Novelty**

The event targets an area of research that is still untouched, as it is generally considered too complex, too risky or too difficult to address in conventionally funded programmes at national or international level.

* 1. **Originality**

Not only the project idea is novel, but the approach proposed by the PIs to generate new knowledge is also original.

* 1. **Risky**

The proposed idea, methodology and consortium composition are unconventional, but necessary to aim for scientific breakthroughs and new solutions to the challenges facing society.

1. **Interdisciplinarity of the project consortium (internally/externally)**

We understand interdisciplinary research as “*a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice*” (Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research, Committee on Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research, National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, 2005)

Does the project encourage interdisciplinary working? How do the PIs ensure an interdisciplinary research team?

BRAINSTORM events are typically initiated by 2 to 3 Principal Investigators (PI) from distinct disciplines of UL, who jointly contribute to the overall meeting organization. They ensure the interdisciplinary nature of the group of researchers and thinkers participating in the event to achieve the development of new project ideas or impactful white papers. The criterion of "interdisciplinarity" must cover at least two academic disciplines. The proposal should illustrate how the project is based on interdisciplinary research and extends to other disciplines (e.g., methodologically, in terms of research questions/hypotheses, results or societal impacts).

1. **Strength to lead to the event objectives**

What are the key strengths that will contribute to the objectives of the project (white papers, proposal for future research projects, network)? What are the strong features of the BRAINSTORM event (outstanding speakers, experienced and motivated team, effective solutions for event management, promotion of the event...)? Have the important strengths been addressed in the project proposal to achieve the objectives?

**Evaluators' assessments and conclusions will be communicated to candidates anonymously.**

**Scoring (5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Score 5*** | Work is audacious and at the **forefront of knowledge** and will most likely have an **important and substantial impact** on science internationally. |
| ***Score 4*** | Work is expected to make a **significant contribution**; nationally at the forefront of research. |
| ***Score 3*** | Work is **competitive at the national level** and will probably make a **valuable contribution** in the international field. |
| ***Score 2*** | Work that is **solid but not exciting**, will add to our understanding and is in principle worthy of support. It is considered of less priority than work in the above categories. |
| ***Score 1*** | Work that is neither solid nor exciting, flawed in the scientific and or technical approach, repetitions of other work, etc. **Work not worthy of pursuing**. |

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| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | 1. **Academic Excellence**   (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score) |
|  |  |  |  |  | Competence of the PIs |
|  |  |  |  |  | Strength of the consortium |

**Academic Excellence**: **detailed justification of the evaluation**

(at least five lines are mandatory)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | 1. **Audacious character of the project idea**   (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score) |
|  |  |  |  |  | Novelty |
|  |  |  |  |  | Originality |
|  |  |  |  |  | Risky |

**Audacious character: detailed justification of the evaluation**

(at least five lines are mandatory)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | 1. **Interdisciplinarity**   (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score) |
|  |  |  |  |  | Project’s ability to encourage interdisciplinary working |
|  |  |  |  |  | Interdisciplinarity of the project consortium internally and/or externally |

**Interdisciplinarity: detailed justification of the evaluation**

(at least five lines are mandatory)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **4. Strength to lead to the event objectives**  (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score) |
|  |  |  |  |  | Strengths addressed in the project proposal to achieve the event objectives |

**Strength to lead to the event objectives: detailed justification of the evaluation**

(at least five lines are mandatory)

**5. Conclusion and your overall judgment**

(at least five lines are mandatory)

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| **6. Any further remarks and recommendations for the applicants** |

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Confidentiality:**

Evaluators' assessments and conclusions will be communicated to candidates anonymously.

**Reviewer’s contact details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Last Name and First Name:** |  |
| **Faculty/IC and Department/Group** |  |

I, the undersigned, certify that I will treat as strictly confidential all information I have received and will receive in connection with the evaluation of the project.

Date of signature:

Signature: