

**WRITTEN EVALUATION FORM**

**FOR REVIEWERS**

**IAS AWARD 2025**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of the Applicant** |  |
| **Fac/IC** |  |

Evaluators' assessments and conclusions will be shared with applicants anonymously. To ensure applicants can fully understand the outcome of the evaluation, evaluators must provide constructive comments for each selection criterion and for the overall conclusion.

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.

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

**Introduction**

The IAS Award recognizes outstanding and independent scientific achievements by early-career researchers (ECRs) at the University of Luxembourg (affiliated or not with the Institute for Advanced Studies Luxembourg). Successful projects must demonstrate exceptional scholarly quality and societal relevance and/or impact. This award highlights the importance of individual initiative and intellectual independence in advancing innovative research.

The IAS Award aims to recognize and support outstanding ECRs at the University of Luxembourg (UL) who have demonstrated exceptional promise in advancing knowledge, fostering interdisciplinarity, and contributing to scholarly, societal, or industrial impact.

The Award is designed to:

• Promote Excellence: Celebrate and incentivize outstanding academic achievement and originality among ECRs at UL.

• Support Interdisciplinary Research, a key aspect of Luxembourg’s research and innovation strategy: Encourage the integration of diverse disciplinary approaches, fostering innovative thinking that transcends traditional academic boundaries.

• Strengthen Research Culture at UL: Enhance the visibility of ECRs and reinforce a culture of excellence, collaboration, and ambition within the university.

• Foster Career Development: Provide awardees with recognition that can serve as a catalyst for future academic advancement, collaboration opportunities, and international visibility.

• Encourage Societal and Industrial Impact: Highlight and support work that not only contributes to academic advancement but also addresses real-world challenges in society, policy, culture, or industry.

Ultimately, the IAS Award seeks to position UL as a hub for pioneering, interdisciplinary research by empowering its emerging talent to take bold steps in their academic journeys.

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

a. Independence

Applicants should demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research and to develop original research ideas. Indicators of independence may include:

• Leadership in the conceptualization and design of the proposed research;

• A clear distinction from the work of former supervisors or collaborators;

• Evidence of intellectual ownership of prior research outputs;

• Experience in supervising students or research staff, where applicable.

b. Scientific quality

Applicants should present research that demonstrates academic rigor, clarity, and methodological soundness. Specifically, applications should:

• Articulate clear and coherent research questions and objectives, demonstrating a focused and purposeful line of inquiry;

• Employ robust and appropriate methodologies, aligned with the research aims and disciplinary standards;

• Demonstrate critical engagement with relevant literature, situating the proposed work within the current state of knowledge;

• Identify potential limitations or challenges, along with well-considered strategies to address them.

c. Interdisciplinarity of the research

Proposals should demonstrate meaningful integration of concepts, theories, or methodologies from different disciplines. Applicants are advised to:

• Explain the added value of their interdisciplinary approach to the research problem;

• Clarify how different disciplinary perspectives were combined or synthesized;

• Outline any past, present or future collaboration across disciplinary boundaries and justify its necessity.

d. Originality and Innovation

Applicants must clearly articulate the novel aspects of their research. This includes:

• Innovative research questions, frameworks, or methodologies;

• The potential to advance the field or open new areas of inquiry;

• A departure from conventional approaches or solutions;

• A clear statement of what distinguishes the proposal from the extant literature.

e. Societal Impact and/or Relevance

Proposals should describe the potential contribution of the research beyond the academic community. Applicants should consider:

• The relevance of the research to societal needs, challenges, or public interest;

• Potential beneficiaries or stakeholders outside academia;

• Planned pathways for impact, such as dissemination strategies, policy engagement, or knowledge transfer;

• How the research may influence practice, contribute to innovation, or inform public understanding.

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

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| ***Score 5*** | **Outstanding**The presented work is bold, original, and at the forefront of international research. It is expected to make a substantial and transformative contribution to science globally. |
| ***Score 4*** | **Excellent**The work is highly significant and demonstrates strong potential to advance the field. It is nationally leading and likely to have international relevance. |
| ***Score 3*** | **Very Good**The work is competitive at the national level and shows promise for contributing meaningfully to international research. Solid and well-conceived, though not field-leading. |
| ***Score 2*** | **Good**The work is methodologically sound but lacks novelty or impact. It adds incremental value to existing knowledge but is of lower priority compared to higher-rated proposals. |
| ***Score 1*** | **Not Competitive**The work is flawed in concept or execution, lacks originality, or duplicates existing work. It is not considered worthy of support. |

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| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **a. Independence** (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score) |
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**Independence**: **detailed justification of the evaluation**

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| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **b. Scientific quality** (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score) |
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**Scientific quality: detailed justification of the evaluation**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **c. Interdisciplinarity of the research** (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score)  |
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**Interdisciplinarity of the research: detailed justification of the evaluation**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **d. Originality and Innovation** (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score)  |
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 **Originality and Innovation: detailed justification of the evaluation**

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| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **e. Societal Impact and/or Relevance** (Please tick only one box per line, 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest score)  |
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 **Societal Impact and/or Relevance: detailed justification of the evaluation**

**Conclusion and your overall judgment**

**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: