

The Deep South Contestable Fund Project Proposal **Review Criteria**

1. Contribution to the Deep South Challenge

A clearly stated alignment to (or complementarity of) the Deep South Challenge Mission and Engagement Objectives (if applicable).

2. Project Excellence

A clear project plan, rationale for approach, methodology, timeline, outputs and plan for dissemination of outputs is needed.

3. Best Team Expertise

Project leaders should be recognised for expertise in their area; collaborations of experts will score highly. International collaborations are also encouraged if this brings additional expertise.

4. Additionality

Proposals will score highly if they move beyond business as usual and provide additionality in their plans to address the scope of the Challenge research or engagement programme.

5. Vision Mātauranga:

Relevance to the Deep South's Vision Mātauranga programme needs to be shown, ideally through one or more of the four established research science themes and/or one or more of the strategic elements of this programme.

6. Feasibility

Proposals that demonstrate detailed planning of all activities within realistic time and budgetary constraints, taking into account available expertise are more likely to score highly for feasibility. Consideration will be given to the cost of the project, relative to its value to the Challenge.

7. Engagement

Proposals that provide potential for engagement and communication with a broad suite of stakeholders and collaboration with the Engagement programme will score highly. Engagement proposals should align with the Engagement goals and objectives.

8. Capacity Building

To score highly, projects should increase capacity or capability that might not otherwise occur. This may include opportunities to increase specific research capability at all career levels. We especially encourage activities that build capacity in the translation of knowledge and integration across programmes.

9. Collaboration

Projects that have or intend to build strong linkages to other research programmes/projects will score highly. Reviewers will also look for collaboration with other Deep South Challenge programmes/projects and National Science Challenges (where co-funding would be a benefit).

10. Co-funding/Aligned Funding

To score highly, the project should have strong synergies with other funded research such that increased return on investment can be expected from both the proposed and the existing research projects. Aligned funding/resources from other sources needs to be clearly attributed to this project.

11. Risk Management and Ethical Implications

Identified risks should be clearly outlined, along with detail of how the risks will be managed and who is responsible for this.

Ethical implications should be recognised and a process for gaining ethics approval needs to be in place if necessary.