

EVALUATION CRITERIA		OUTSTANDING	STRONG	MODERATE	INSUFFICIENT
THEME (50%)	Societal Problems, issues and/or research question(s) to be addressed	The proposed theme and research questions are clearly presented and are extremely original . The purpose of the Cluster is strongly aligned with UBC's strategic priorities & commitments (Indigenous Strategic Plan, Inclusion Action Plan, and regional impact and social-economic development as mentioned in the Aspire Plan)	The proposed theme and research questions are presented . The purpose of the Cluster is aligned with UBC's strategic priorities & commitments (Indigenous Strategic Plan, Inclusion Action Plan, and regional impact and social-economic development as mentioned in the Aspire Plan)	The proposed theme and research questions are somewhat clearly presented . The purpose of the Cluster is partially aligned with UBC's strategic priorities & commitments (Indigenous Strategic Plan, Inclusion Action Plan, and regional impact and social-economic development as mentioned in the Aspire Plan).	The proposed theme and research questions are not clearly presented . It is unclear how the Cluster aligns with UBC's strategic priorities & commitments (Indigenous Strategic Plan, Inclusion Action Plan, and regional impact and social-economic development as mentioned in the Aspire Plan).
	Anticipated goals & outcomes	Long-term vision and short-term objectives are clearly defined and specific , and will be measured . Challenges related to UBC's strategic priorities and commitments specific to the theme are clearly described . Outcomes are very likely to result in significant benefits .	Long-term goals and short-term objectives are clearly described . Challenges related to UBC's strategic priorities and commitments specific to the theme are described . Outcomes are likely to result in some benefits .	Long-term goals and short-term objectives are described . Challenges related to UBC's strategic priorities and commitments are specific to the theme loosely described . Benefits of outcomes not well articulated .	Objectives are not clearly described and /or not obtainable . Challenges related to UBC's strategic priorities and commitments specific to the theme are inaccurate or not described . Benefits of outcomes not described .
	The potential for impact, relative to the research theme and discipline	Importance of the work is clearly evident and groundbreaking . Potential for significant societal and cultural impact relative to the research questions/theme. The significance of the impact is well articulated .	Impact and importance of the work is evident . Potential for notable societal and cultural impact relative to the research questions/theme. The significance of the impact is broadly described .	Impact and importance of the work is somewhat evident . Potential for minor societal and cultural problems relative to research questions/theme. The significance of the impact is somewhat described .	Impact and importance of the work is not clearly evident . Societal and cultural problems impacts are unlikely, relative to the research questions/themes. The significance of the impact is not sufficiently articulated .
	An explanation of why an interdisciplinary approach is required to achieve the anticipated research outcomes	Justification for why an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to address the challenge is clearly described . More than a sum of its parts: the proposal clearly demonstrates how new insights, knowledge, theory, or practice will be developed from the combination of disciplines and organizations. A highly compelling case for why the approach is likely to succeed is provided.	Justification for why an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to address the challenge is described . More than a sum of its parts: the proposal somewhat demonstrates how new insights, knowledge, theory, or practice will be developed from the combination of disciplines and organizations. A case for why the approach is likely to succeed is provided.	Justification for why an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to address the challenge is somewhat described . More than a sum of its parts: the proposal loosely demonstrates how new insights, knowledge, theory, or practice will be developed from the combination of disciplines and organizations. A case for why the approach is likely to succeed is not well articulated .	Justification for why an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to address the challenge is not described and /or not appropriate . Not more than a sum of its parts: the proposal suggests an approach that is largely based on a conventional perspective . A case for why the approach is likely to succeed is not articulated .
CAPABILITY (30%)	The interdisciplinary diversity of the cluster	Cluster membership transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries . Most scholars are from different faculties and career stages. Various disciplinary approaches and perspectives are fully integrated . The interdisciplinary diversity reflected in the team is clearly appropriate for the Cluster theme, goals, and anticipated outcomes.	Cluster membership transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries . A few scholars from different departments and career stages. Various disciplinary approaches and perspectives are partially integrated . The interdisciplinary diversity reflected in the team is appropriate for the Cluster theme, goals, and anticipated outcomes.	Cluster membership partially transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries . Most scholars are from similar departments . Some disciplinary approaches and perspectives are integrated. The interdisciplinary diversity of disciplines is somewhat appropriate for the Cluster theme, goals, and anticipated outcomes.	Cluster membership does not transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries . Scholars are from similar departments and/or justification is not provided. Disciplines might be missing to achieve the proposed Cluster theme, goals, and anticipated outcomes.
	The individual and collective expertise in the subject area	The application clearly demonstrates that the research team has the required expertise in all relevant disciplines to meet objectives. Experience and track records of the investigators (the importance, originality, quality and impact of past research) is outstanding, related to their role in the Cluster, the theme of the Cluster, and relative to their career stage.	The application demonstrates that the research team has most of the required expertise , although some aspects may be missing or insufficiently described. Experience and track records of the investigators (the importance, originality, quality and impact of past research) is strong , related to their role in the Cluster, the theme of the Cluster, and relative to their career stage.	The application demonstrates that the research team has most of the required expertise , although some aspects may be missing or insufficiently described. Experience and track records of the investigators (the importance, originality, quality and impact of past research) is good , related to their role in the Cluster, the theme of the Cluster, and relative to their career stage.	The application does not demonstrate that the research team has all the required expertise to complete the work. Experience and track records of the investigators (the importance, originality, quality and impact of past research) is not adequately described , related to their role in the Cluster, the theme of the Cluster, and relative to their career stage.
	The articulation of the roles, responsibilities, and contributions of each Cluster Member	All roles and responsibilities of Cluster Members are clearly defined . Individual contributions to the team are clearly described and appropriate . Shows strong understanding of EDI considerations and systemic barriers in the context of the research team. Specific actions to support the recruitment of a diverse team and an inclusive research training environment are clearly defined.	Some of the roles and responsibilities of Cluster Members are described . Individual contributions to the team are loosely described . Shows some understanding of EDI considerations and systemic barriers in the context of the research team. Some concrete actions to support the recruitment of a diverse team and an inclusive research training environment are described.	Some of the roles and responsibilities of Cluster Members are somewhat described . Individual contributions to the team are not clearly described . EDI considerations and systemic barriers in the context of the research team are not well articulated . Actions to support the recruitment of a diverse team and an inclusive research training environment lack specificity.	Roles and responsibilities are not clear . Individual contributions to the team are not included and/or not appropriate . EDI considerations are generic and/or do not point to one or more systemic barriers. Inclusion of one or more team members appears tokenistic.
	The role(s) of Cluster Collaborators and/or other non-academic partners, how they will contribute, and how they will benefit	Roles and responsibilities of Cluster Collaborators (partners, community members, students, etc.) are clearly defined and very appropriate . The benefits of the partnership are mutual and clearly articulated . Partners and/or collaborators are involved since the project's conception and have co-created or co-designed the plan.	Roles and responsibilities of Cluster Collaborators (partners, community members, students, etc.) are somewhat described and appropriate . The benefits of the partnership are described and seem mutual . Partners and/or collaborators are involved in designing some aspects of the project.	Roles and responsibilities of Cluster Collaborators (partners, community members, students, etc.) are loosely described . The benefits of the partnership are not entirely mutual and/or not articulated . Partners and/or collaborators are loosely involved in aspects of the project.	Roles and responsibilities are not clear and/or not appropriate . Critical partners or collaborators are missing. Partners and/or collaborators have not been involved in the conception or design of the project where this would be beneficial. EDI considerations are missing .
	The leadership experience of the Cluster Lead(s)	PI(s) are very experienced in interdisciplinary research, research project management, and team management.	PI(s) are accomplished in interdisciplinary research, research project management, and/or team management.	PI(s) demonstrates some experience in interdisciplinary research, research project management, and/or team management.	PI(s) do not have experience in interdisciplinary research, research project management, or team management.
FEASIBILITY (20%)	The specific plans, including timelines and activities, that will advance the goals of the Cluster	The proposed plan is well described, very reasonable , and clearly achievable within the proposed timeframe. Plans integrate all major research and Cluster-building activities and milestones (i.e., research project work, team development, performance measurement, training, knowledge translation, etc.).	The proposed plan is described, reasonable , and likely to be achievable within the proposed timeframe. Plans include key research and Cluster-building activities (i.e., research project work, team development, performance measurement, training, knowledge translation, etc.).	The proposed plan is loosely described, somewhat reasonable , and/or it may not be achievable within the proposed timeframe. Plans include some research and Cluster-building activities (i.e., research project work, team development, performance measurement, training, knowledge translation, etc.).	The proposed plan is poorly described, unreasonable , and/or unlikely to be achievable within the proposed timeframe. Plans are missing key elements of research or Cluster-building activities (i.e., research project work, team development, performance measurement, training, knowledge translation, etc.).
	The research methods that will be used	The research methodology is clearly defined and appropriate as related to the topic. EDI (or Indigenization) considerations for Research Design are meaningful and clearly described , where applicable.	The research methodology is described and appropriate as related to the topic. EDI (or Indigenization) considerations for Research Design are described , where applicable.	The research methodology is partially described and/or it is unclear how it is appropriate. EDI (or Indigenization) considerations for Research Design are loosely described , where applicable.	The research methodology is not clearly described and/or not appropriate as related to the topic . EDI (or Indigenization) considerations for Research Design are not described , despite being applicable.
	The degree to which interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research will be undertaken	The application, adaptation and/or integration of frameworks, tools, methods, and/or techniques across disciplines, and/or the creation of new transdisciplinary approaches are clearly described . The integration of interdisciplinary methodology is novel and appropriate . Strong indication that the team has thought about the respectful communication, mutual understanding and trust required to approach interdisciplinary research challenges effectively.	The application, adaptation and/or integration of frameworks, tools, methods, and/or techniques across disciplines, and/or the creation of new transdisciplinary approaches are described . The integration of interdisciplinary methodology is appropriate . Good indication that the team has thought about the respectful communication, mutual understanding and trust required to approach interdisciplinary research challenges effectively.	The application, adaptation and/or integration of frameworks, tools, methods, and/or techniques across disciplines, and/or the creation of new transdisciplinary approaches are somewhat mentioned . The integration of interdisciplinary methodology is somewhat appropriate . Some indication that the team has thought about the respectful communication, mutual understanding and trust required to approach interdisciplinary research challenges effectively.	Proposes frameworks/tools/methods/ techniques that are already in use in or easily applied to the second disciplinary area, requiring little adaptation or development . The integration of interdisciplinary methodology is not clearly described and/or not appropriate . The disciplines and/or projects run in parallel. No indication the team has thought about building communication, mutual understanding and trust.
	Budget justification (using template provided)	The budget clearly demonstrates how the Eminence fund will be used to support Cluster-building activities and meet Cluster goals. Justification for expenses is very clear and strongly aligns with the Cluster plan. Expenses for EDI and Indigenization commitments are meaningful and appropriate , where applicable. The research team has the necessary resources to complete the work.	The budget demonstrates how the Eminence fund will be used to support Cluster-building activities and meet Cluster goals. Justification for expenses is provided . Expenses for EDI and Indigenization commitments are appropriate , where applicable. The research team has the necessary resources to complete the work, although some aspects are not well described .	The budget demonstrates how some the Eminence fund will be used but some items do not support Cluster-building activities and/or do not directly support Cluster goals. Justification for expenses is only partially provided . Expenses for EDI and Indigenization commitments are appropriate , where applicable. The research team has most of the necessary resources to complete the work, although some aspects are not well described .	The budget does not include Cluster-building activities and/or do not directly support Cluster goals. Justifications for expenses are unclear. Expenses for EDI and Indigenization commitments are not appropriate . The application does not demonstrate that the research team has concrete plans to acquire the necessary resources to complete the work.