

TIPS FOR BANTING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

Banting postdoctoral fellowships are competitive. Ensure you review the [Application Guide](#) carefully as well as the [Selection Committee Guidelines](#) before applying. There are three main components the reviewers will consider:

1. Excellence and leadership in your research domain
2. Quality of your proposed research program
3. Institutional commitment and demonstrated synergy between the applicant and institutional strategic priorities

You can always refer to the [Banting website](#) for the most detailed information available.

Characteristics of successful applications

Applicant

- Has demonstrated leadership and impact on their field (considering career stage)
- Has a significant publication record
- Brings new knowledge to host institution

Proposed research

- Should significantly advance knowledge base
- Includes an aspect of novelty, is “game-changing”
- Contributes to larger research context (applicant, supervisor, institution)
- Demonstrates synergy with research environment
- Weighs risks vs. feasibility
- Considers wider impact: application of research, social impact

Supervisor statement

- Speaks to research excellence of applicant, proposed research, aspects of synergy (with supervisor’s research, research environment, institution)
- Explains added value of postdoc brings to research environment
- Demonstrates institutional commitment (professional development, additional funding, other support services specifically targeted to Banting fellows)
- Propels research leadership of applicant (supervisor biography, where are their alumni now)

Referee

- Should be familiar with applicant’s research
- Should have interacted with applicant (in research or leadership activities)
- One referee should be your PhD supervisor (if not, you need to explain why this is the case)

Preparing to submit

- Ask someone in your field to review your application.
- Ask a non-specialist to review your application and ask them to explain your project back to you
- Revise and proofread! Ensure everything is grammatically correct and typographic error-free.
- Create a checklist to ensure your application is complete. You can use the Banting Application Guide as a template.
- Only provide requested material and respect formatting guidelines, page limits, and word counts. Additional material will be removed.