

IDM Visiting Scientist Funding Evaluation Framework

Purpose: To support visits that promote high-impact research, capacity building, and meaningful collaboration aligned with the mission of the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (IDM) at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Evaluation Criteria Overview (Total: 100 point)

Evaluation Category	Weight	Max Points	Committee average scoring
1. Scientific Rationale and Strategic Alignment	20%	20	
2. Profile and Complementarity of Visiting Scientist	15%	15	
3. Mutual Benefit and Long-Term Collaboration	15%	15	
4. Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Equity Impact	20%	20	
5. Activities During the Visit	10%	10	
6. Feasibility and Planning	10%	10	
7. Budget Justification and Value for Money	10%	10	
TOTAL	100%	100	

1. Scientific Rationale and Strategic Alignment (20 pts)

- Quality and originality of proposed scientific collaboration
- Relevance to IDM priorities (e.g., TB, HIV, AMR, One Health, Immunology, Vaccinology)
- Alignment with South African public health needs or regional/global impact areas

Examples of strong alignment:

Contributing to joint research outputs on high-burden diseases

Advancing a strategic platform (e.g., spatial omics, scRNAseq, BSL3 capacity)

2. Profile and Complementarity of Visiting Scientist (15 pts)

- Evidence of research excellence (publications, awards, grants)
- Fit with the hosting group's expertise or gaps
- Stage of career (supporting mid-career, emerging leaders, or underrepresented voices)

Scoring guidance:

Senior leader contributing technical expertise or policy engagement

Early-career scientist bringing innovative or niche skills

Equity consideration for researchers from LMICs or under-resourced settings

3. Mutual Benefit and Long-Term Collaboration Potential (15 pts)

- Potential for joint proposals, publications, student exchanges, or shared infrastructure
- Track record of prior engagement or potential for sustainable partnership
- Institutional visibility and strategic value for IDM and UCT

IDM Education Working Group

Chair: Virginie Rozot | Co-chair: Tariq Ganief

Members: Ruby Bunjun, Caron Jacobs, Elisa Nemes & Monika Looney

[Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine](#)

Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town | Anzio Road, Observatory 7925

Indicators of strength:

MOU development or co-funding plans

Co-supervision of graduate students or junior investigators

Participation in research capacity platforms

4. Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Equity Impact (20 pts)

- Plan to mentor students, early-career researchers, or staff
- Activities supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)
- Engagement with historically excluded institutions or communities

Strong applications will:

Include named trainees involved in activities

Offer tailored workshops, lectures, or co-supervision

Engage with transformation priorities at IDM and UCT

5. Activities During the Visit (10 pts)

- Scientific presentations or seminars open to IDM/UCT
- Hands-on training, lab work, or field activities
- Engagement with other departments or faculties at UCT

Examples:

Teaching a 1-week course on data analysis methods

Participating in a departmental retreat or scientific writing bootcamp

6. Feasibility and Planning (10 pts)

- Visit timing and duration are realistic and appropriate
- Roles and responsibilities clearly defined (e.g., host, admin, lab)
- Compliance with institutional procedures (e.g., ethics, visa, access)

7. Budget Justification and Value for Money (10 pts)

- Clear breakdown of costs (e.g., airfare, per diem, accommodation, honorarium if applicable)
- Resources used efficiently for maximum impact
- Availability of co-funding or institutional support

Final Funding Recommendation

Score Range	Recommendation
90-100	Strongly recommend - top priority
75-89	Recommend for funding
60-74	Consider - fund if budget allows or request revision
<60	Not recommended at this time

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