CFI JELF Assessment Criteria

3. Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research or technology development activities.

- Describe each item and justify its need to conduct the proposed activities. For construction or renovation, provide a description of the space including its location, size and nature. Use the item number, quantity, cost and location found in the Cost of individual items table. Provide a cost breakdown for any grouping of items.

- Explain why existing infrastructure within the institution and the region cannot be used to conduct the proposed activities.

Infrastructure

What is it? What does it do? Why do you need it?

- Describe each item (not just suites/systems – every item) and justify its need for the research

- Include item number, quantity, cost, and location where it will be housed/installed

- Justify why existing infrastructure/equipment can't be used

Infrastructure – helpful tips

Example:

Item #2: Microscopes (Location: 8-72 Medical Sciences Bldg.); $22,205 (including in-kind)

Brief discussion of the infrastructure in this line: what is its purpose in the context of the research.

- The stereomicroscope ($12,570) will be used for…
- The light microscope ($9,636) will be used for…

- Justify why the equipment requested is needed for the proposed research
- Avoid listing brand/make/model

Infrastructure – helpful tips

- Infrastructure costs must be reasonable
  - The CFI may reduce funding if a reviewer thinks costs in the budget are too high

- Convince the CFI reviewers that you require dedicated equipment
  - Why do you need your own if similar/same equipment exists on campus, locally, or regionally?
  - E.g., already in heavy use, inappropriate specs, deployed in field, integration into existing equipment, etc.

Infrastructure

- Resources for identifying existing infrastructure on campus (not exhaustive):
  - Facilities and Centres at UofA (VPRI website): https://www.ualberta.ca/research/facilities-centres

  - Equipment Database (Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry): https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/research/corefacilities

- CFI Research Facilities Navigator: https://navigator.innovation.ca/
  - Online directory of research facilities in institutions across Canada
  - Searchable directory for existing infrastructure and research facilities in Canada
  - Researchers can add a profile to advertise their facility/infrastructure – must be approved by the institution (Mara Simmonds Mara.Simmonds@ualberta.ca in the VPRI office will assist with institutional review)