The McDonald Institute Experimental Postdoctoral Fellow Award in Astroparticle Physics (MI-EPDF) Round 2 Application Form

Section A:

Supervisors (Applicant**)**

Supervisor Name:	
Supervisor Position Title:	
Co-Applicant(s):	
Institution(s):	

Position Details

Anticipated Total Annual Salary (pre-benefits):	

Expected Sources of Funding (e.g., NSERC funds, Startup funds, etc.): Part of the funding (25% of the salary and benefits) for the position must be provided by members of the host institution. Briefly describe the expected source(s) of these funds.

Annual Funds Requested from the McDonald Institute (pre-benefits): **(Please enter the total amount requested per year e.g. $xx/year)***:*	

Length of Position in years (max 2 years):	

Anticipated Start Date (should be by September 2027)	

Experimental Position Focus (select the most appropriate McDonald Institute thematic area):			
☐ Astrophysics	☐ Cosmology	☐ Dark Matter Physics	☐ Detector Development
☐ Low-Background Techniques	☐ Multi-Messenger Physics	☐ Neutrino Physics	
☐ Underground Engineering			

Experimental Position Focus (select the main experiment(s) [up to 2] to be contributed to), if appropriate:					
☐ CUTE	☐ Damic	☐ DarkSide	☐ HALO	☐ Helix	☐ IceCube
☐ HyperK	☐ Legend	☐ LIGO/LISA	☐ News-G	☐ PICO	☐ P-ONE
☐ SBC	☐ Sensei	☐ SNO+	☐ SuperCDMS		☐ XLZD
☐ Other (fill in): _____					

Please send completed application form and section B as a combined PDF to admin@mcdonaldinstitute.ca with the subject line: MI-EPDF Awards R2 – {Primary Supervisor Last Name} by December 4, 2026

Section B: You may change the formatting of this section; however, it must stay within **2-page limit** (size 12 Times New Roman font, single-spaced) and organized into the bolded headers in the order presented below. **Any applications longer than 2 pages will not be considered.**

1. **Scientific case for your research program**
   Explain how the postdoctoral position will further your scientific goals and affect the scientific progress of the McDonald Institute research areas (i.e., describe what kind of research would be enabled by the postdoc at your institute). Ensure you describe how the proposed position is well aligned with the research goals of the McDonald Institute (see Alignment with McDonald Institute Research Strategy).

2. **Nature of the postdoctoral position and its opportunities**
   a) Explain the nature of the envisioned postdoctoral position, outlining the scope of responsibilities, anticipated research activities, and the overall purpose of the role.
   b) Explain how the position will support and advance the postdoctoral researcher's academic career aspirations and trajectory.
   c) Describe the opportunities for leadership and professional development that will be made available to the postdoc, including connecting with the broader McDonald Institute community.

3. **Research group**
   Explain how the postdoctoral position would enhance your research group (e.g. which members of your group would they collaborate/mentor/train/complete research with). Include details on the size and focus of your current group. *Do not catalogue your research members beyond academic programs (e.g. do not include demographic descriptors, rather use current academic level).*

4. **Promoting equitable processes** *(For more information and examples, please review Appendix A in the MIEPDF program guidelines.)*
   a) What equitable hiring practices will you exercise when recruiting and selecting a postdoctoral candidate(s) for this role?
   b) Describe how your research group operationalizes Indigenization – Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (I-EDI) principles on an ongoing basis.

Checklist:

- ☐ Full Application Form (this document)
- ☐ 2-page response to Section B

Submission:
Please send completed application forms as a combined PDF to: admin@mcdonaldinstitute.ca with the subject line: **"MI-EPDF Awards R2 - {Primary Supervisor Last Name}"** by **December 4, 2026**

Adjudication: Applications will be adjudicated by the Scientific Review Committee according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Score	Weight	Notes
The focus area of the position is relevant to the McDonald Institute and fills a gap in the available expertise. Refer to Alignment with McDonald Institute Research Strategy.	[0-3]	3	Only applications with alignment (score >1) will be considered.
Measure of the scientific merit and feasibility of the proposed position and its goals.	[0-5]	3	
Clear opportunities for career development while advancing science in a meaningful way.	[0-5]	2	
The position is needed to enhance the capability and capacity of the research group.	[0-5]	2	
The position will offer unique training/mentorship opportunities for the incumbent.	[0-5]	1	
The applicant describes how the incumbent will be linked to the McDonald Institute community to share results and link their findings to the McDonald Institute.	[0-5]	1	
Measure of Indigenization - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion considerations, possibly via the applicant's efforts in creating an equitable environment, plans to attract diverse candidates, training opportunities for all, and accommodations.	[0-5]	(1)	Pass/Fail (Fail: <2), otherwise only used for tie-breaking.
Total Weighted Score		**/51 (+5)**	

Alignment score [0-3]
0 – No alignment
1 – Some alignment
2 – Alignment with less priority
3 – Clear Alignment with highest priority

General scoring [0-5]
0 – Did not address the criteria
1 – Insufficient answer
2 – Partly answers, lacks evidence
3 – Moderately answers, lacks evidence
4 – Sufficient answer, insufficient evidence
5 – Evidence-backed, highest-quality answer

1. The budget requested is appropriate and aligns with current market values: (yes/no)

2. The applicant stayed within the page limit: (yes/no)

I-EDI scoring (pass fail + used to break ties):
0 – **Does not address the criteria (Fail):** No relevant information provided.
1 – **Insufficient response (Fail):** Limited information with weak justification and insufficient evidence of I-EDI implementation.
2 – **Adequate response (Pass):** Addresses some criteria with sufficient justification but does not effectively demonstrate impact or commitment.
3 – **Good response (Pass):** Addresses most criteria with clear justification, relevant examples, some evidence of operationalization of I-EDI but key details are missing.
4 – **Strong response (Pass):** Clearly addresses all criteria with well supported reasoning, concrete actions, demonstrating a solid commitment and evidence of operationalization of I-EDI.
5 – **Comprehensive response (Pass)**: Thoroughly addresses all criteria with excellent justification and clear evidence of impact, meaningful action, & wise practices.

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