

OPPI Advancing Equity in Planning Scholarship- Evaluation Rubric

This assessment rubric supports a clear, fair, and accessible review of applications for the OPPI Advancing Equity in Planning Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes undergraduate or graduate planning students whose research is aligned with principles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Reconciliation and Social Justice.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Social Justice (DEI-RSJ) reflects OPPI's commitment to building a planning profession and organization that is fair, inclusive, and responsive to the people and communities of Ontario. It acknowledges the full range of human diversity, including race, Indigeneity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, neurodiversity, socioeconomic status, culture, and lived experience, as well as the ways these identities intersect.

DEI-RSJ recognizes that people experience the planning profession and its outcomes differently due to historical and ongoing barriers, and that equal treatment does not always produce fair results. This work focuses on creating accessible pathways into the profession and ensuring that professional standards and processes are inclusive and responsive. It also acknowledges the distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples and the importance of supporting self-determination through respectful and accountable relationships. More broadly, a social justice lens recognizes that planning and professional regulation shape access to opportunity, resources, and well-being, and calls on planners and organizations to consider who benefits, who is burdened, and whose voices are centered in decisions and practices.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a student member of OPPI
- Must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate planning program for the upcoming academic year
- Applicant's research must address topics related to diversity, equity, inclusion, reconciliation, and/or social justice in planning

Level	1- Limited	2- Developing	3- Strong	4- Exceptional
Alignment with DEI-RSJ Principles in Planning	Research topic has minimal or unclear connection to diversity, equity, inclusion, reconciliation, or social justice in planning.	Research references equity or inclusion but does not clearly address systemic barriers, diverse communities, or planning outcomes.	Research clearly engages with equity-related planning issues, including barriers affecting diverse communities or inequitable planning outcomes.	Research strongly reflects DEI-RSJ principles, demonstrating a clear understanding of how planning systems and decisions affect diverse communities, Indigenous rights,

				access to opportunity, or equitable outcomes.
Relevance to Planning Practice and/or Systems	Limited connection between the research topic and planning practice and/or professional systems.	Some connection to planning practice and/or systems, though the relevance is not fully articulated.	Clear relationship between the research and planning practice, policy, and/or professional systems.	Research demonstrates strong relevance to planning practice, institutions, and/or policy, with clear implications for improving equity in planning outcomes.
Potential Impact of the Research	Limited indication that the research could influence planning discussions or outcomes.	Research may contribute to discussions on equity but impact is unclear.	Research has clear potential to inform planning practice, policy, or professional learning related to equity.	Research demonstrates strong potential to influence planning approaches, decision-making, or understanding of inequities in planning outcomes.
Applicant Commitment to Advancing Equity in Planning	Limited evidence of engagement with equity-focused planning issues.	Some demonstrated interest or involvement in equity-related topics.	Clear commitment through academic work, community involvement, advocacy, or professional activities.	Demonstrated leadership or sustained commitment to advancing equity, reconciliation, or social justice in planning contexts.

Total score: /16