

Conflicts of Interest Policy for Expert Reviewers and Research Funding Committee Members

Members of Marie Curie Funding Committees, expert panel members and expert reviewers must comply with our Conflicts of Interest Policy. Experts are asked to confirm that they do not have a conflict of interest before they review a funding application.

An expert is conflicted and cannot review an application if they:

- play any role in the application (including lead applicant (PI), co-applicant or collaborator, or if they assisted with the application).
- are at the same institution as the lead applicant (PI), joint-PI, co-applicant or collaborators (including any honorary positions) or were recently (i.e. within the last 2 years) at the same department of the same institution as the lead applicant (PI), joint-PI, co-applicant or collaborators.
- have published or collaborated closely with the lead applicant (PI), joint-PI or any co-applicants or collaborators within the last 3-5 years (a standard of 5 years is employed wherever possible, but 3 years may be considered if the field for the funding round is narrow), or plan to do so in the near future.
- are on an application in the same funding round or an earlier round (e.g. expression of interest stage) of the same funding call (whether successful or unsuccessful).
- are already a member of the Research Funding Committee for the funding call.
- are a relative of one of the grant applicants.
- are in a close personal relationship with one of the grant applicants.¹
- are a business partner of one of the grant applicants.
- have, or have had, a supervisory or line management relationship or been a group leader with one of the lead or joint lead applicants in the last 3-5 years (a standard of 5 years is employed wherever possible, but 3 years may be considered if the field for the funding round is narrow).
- are a direct competitor of one of the lead or joint lead applicants.
- otherwise have a connection to the application or applicant(s) which could cause an outsider to doubt the impartiality of the funding assessment.

Committee members who have a conflict of interest with an applicant or application must also leave the meeting for the length of time the application is discussed and are not involved in scoring or voting on the application. Committee members who have applied to the funding round as a lead or joint lead applicant will be recused from the whole Committee meeting.

Committee members can challenge conflicts or raise new ones not picked up by the Research Management Team. In the event that a conflict is declared at the beginning of a Committee meeting, the Chair will decide whether the individual should leave the meeting while the application is discussed, with support from the Marie Curie team.

¹ Marie Curie recognises that it is likely that academics who work in the same field may know each other, and this does not constitute a conflict, providing that objectivity can be maintained when reviewing a proposal.