

Peer review is the cornerstone of the work of the MRC as a funding organisation and the time and effort that peer reviewers give to the MRC peer review process is invaluable in helping our research boards and panels make funding decisions.

## Assessment criteria and scoring:

All proposals submitted to us are scrutinised by independent experts working in the relevant field who assess research proposals based on three core criteria:

1. **Importance:** how important are the questions, or gaps in knowledge, that will be addressed?
2. **Scientific potential:** what are the prospects for good scientific progress?
3. **Resources requested:** are the funds requested essential for the work and does the proposal represent good value for money?

Each of the funding schemes we operate has detailed assessment criteria and you should read and consider the set for the scheme you are reviewing for. The scheme will be specified within the proposal form. You should also read the guidance on [how to write a good review](#).

You will be asked to provide a score of 1-6 and to justify this score within your comments. You should refer to the [scoring matrix](#) for an explanation of what we expect of applications to achieve each score.

## Other important considerations when reviewing:

Reviewers should also read our guidance on: recognising unconscious bias, responsible use of metrics, assessing the effects of career breaks and flexible working, reviewing multi/interdisciplinary proposals and considering ethical issues when completing a review.

## Conflicts of interest:

The integrity of peer review is of paramount importance and any personal interests as a reviewer must never influence, or be seen to influence, the funding outcome. If you have a conflict of interest, you should decline to review. If you are unsure about whether a conflict exists, please [contact us](#).

## Confidentiality and anonymity:

Our assessment process is confidential in order to protect the innovative research ideas proposed by applicants and anonymous to support the free and frank exchange of views. When you agree to review for the MRC you are bound by a [confidentiality agreement](#).

## How your review will be used:

Your review will be used to inform the MRC board or panel members' assessment of the proposal and will also be made available to the applicant. Good reviews are invaluable in helping the board or panel make funding decisions. They also provide constructive feedback to applicants to help them improve their research.

## Contact us:

If you have any queries about a review request or would like to discuss extending a review deadline please contact our board and panel teams via email: [peer.review@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:peer.review@mrc.ukri.org) or via telephone: +44 (0) 1793 416248.

If you have any queries about using the Je-S system to provide your review, please contact the Je-S helpdesk via email: [JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk) or via telephone: +44 (0) 1793 444164.