The DFG Review Process
1. Who ensures scientific merit?
2. Who reviews proposals?
3. How are reviewers selected?
4. How does the decision-making process work?
5. What are the DFG's review criteria?
6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
The DFG Review Process

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Who ensures scientific merit?
The DFG’s review boards

These review boards

► are elected by scientists and academics from their respective communities

► are involved in panel reviews for coordinated programmes

► monitor the selection of reviewers, make recommendations and comparatively assess all proposals and reviews in the individual grants programme

► ensure that comparable high-quality standards and criteria are applied equally in all DFG programmes

There are 48 DFG review boards with 606 members. Review board members act in an honorary capacity.
The DFG Review Process

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2. **Who reviews proposals?**

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5. What are the DFG's review criteria?

6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
Peer reviewers in the individual grants programme

► have **special knowledge of the fields involved** in the proposals

► **are unbiased** and **independent**

► are individually **suitable and experienced**

► are able to **argue evidentiary**

► are additionally **qualified**

Each year, and abroad. Reviewers act in an honorary capacity. The DFG receives approximately **13,000 proposals for individual grants** and solicits reviews from **9,000 reviewers** from Germany.
Who review proposals for coordinated programmes?

Review panels

- possess the required expertise to cover all fields and subfields involved in the proposals
- include at least one member of a review board
- are independent
The DFG Review Process

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6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
How are reviewers and review panel members selected?
By the DFG’s Head Office

Selection criteria

The DFG Review Process

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6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
Individual grants involve reviewers, a review board & the Joint Committee

How does the decision-making process work?

Proposal

Formal examination

Reviewer selection

(written)
Review
Reviewers

• Project quality
• Applicants’ qualifications
• Aims & work programme
• Employment opportunities
• Planned allocation of funding

Draft of funding recommendation

Assessment
Review Board

• Assessment of reviewer selection
• Proposal and review
• Comparative merit and funding volume

Communication of funding recommendation

Decision
Joint Committee

• Cross-subject comparison

Decision letter, Reviewers’ recommendations

Notification

Further inquiries

confidential

DFG Head Office

DFG

Further inquiries
How does the decision-making process work?
Coordinated programmes involve reviewers & decision-making bodies

Reviewer selection

Proposal

Review (Peer review panel)

Reviewers

- Project quality
- Applicants' qualifications
- Quality and added value of cooperation
- Programme-specific criteria
- Aims & work programme
- Employment opportunities
- Planned allocation of funding

Protocol, funding recommendation

Decision-making Body

- Cross-subject comparison

Decision letter, Reviewers' recommendations

Notification

DFG Head Office

Discussion

Confidential
The DFG Review Process

1. Who ensures scientific merit?
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4. How does the decision-making process work?
5. **What are the DFG's review criteria?**
6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
What are the DFG's selection criteria?
DFG reviewers judge proposals according to

- scientific quality of the project
- applicants’ qualifications
- aims and work programme
- employment opportunities
- planned allocation of funding
- quality and added value of cooperation
- programme-specific criteria

in coordinated programmes
The DFG Review Process

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6. How are decision-making bodies formed?
How are decision-making bodies formed?
Cooperation between scientific communities and committee members

Cooperation

Executive Committee

Senate

Joint Committee

Senate and Grants Committees

Executive Board

Head Office

Review Boards

Scientists and Academics

General Assembly

- Election

- Members
For more information

- on the DFG: www.dfg.de
- on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris/
- on over 17,000 German research institutes: www.dfg.de/rex