

Criteria for possible conflicts of interest

In order to ensure an objective review process, the policy of the Helmholtz Association is to identify possible conflicts of interest. Therefore, it is important to avoid any impression of a biased review.

Conflicts of interest can occur both in relation to the research project itself and to the applicant i.e. the institution that the applicant is based at.

When nominating potential reviewers, please take note of the criteria listed below.

A conflict of interest may arise from:

- Scientific collaboration with principal investigators (joint research projects, joint publications or intensive use of Helmholtz research facilities within the last five years)
- Current, past or scheduled future employment relationships or appointment procedures at the respective Helmholtz Center or a partner institution involved in the project
- Current or scheduled future dependency relationship between applicant and reviewer (e.g. the applicant is the supervisor of the reviewer)
- Membership in Advisory Boards of a Helmholtz Center or involved partner institutions
- Close personal relationships with a principal investigator
- Direct scientific competition
- Own economic interests

In case one or more of these criteria are fulfilled, this does not automatically lead to the exclusion of the proposal from the selection process. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis by the President of the Helmholtz Association and/or the Chair of the Review Committee. All conflicts of interest are officially documented in the review process and shared with the selection committee.