

Defence-related Research Action - DEFRA

Call for proposals 2025

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POTENTIAL REMOTE EVALUATORS

FOREWORD

This document contains the eligibility criteria for potential remote evaluators of the peer review.

Potential reviewers must have appropriate expertise – demonstrable through their present or past function and affiliation or scientific achievements such as peer-reviewed scientific publications or previous presence in expert panels or committees - in the research area(s) covered by the proposal(s).

Brief recall of the DEFRA evaluation procedure

DEFRA's phase 2 evaluation procedure of Full Proposals consists of 4 steps (see section 5.1.2. of the [Information document](#)):

- Step 1: Remote scientific peer review evaluation
 - Remote individual written evaluation
 - Production of Consensus Report
- Step 2: Scientific Experts Committee (SEC) evaluation, including interviews with the applicants
- Step 3: Selection proposal formulated by the Scientific Committee of the RHID
- Step 4: Final selection of proposals by Directors Board of the RHID

The selected experts will participate in the individual written evaluation (i.e. step 1 of the evaluation procedure).

For more information concerning this procedure, please check the **Information document including submission and evaluation guidelines and budget rules** on the DEFRA website:

<https://www.belspo.be/defra/>

The experts must meet the following criteria:

- Be outstanding and (inter)nationally (well) recognised in their research field (min 5 peer-reviewed publications in the given research field)
- Be able to evaluate all the aspects covered by the proposal
- Be external experts (not belonging to Belgian Defence)
- Be free of conflict of interest

Experts who fail to comply with all criteria will not be considered.

Regarding Conflict of interest

Experts are considered to have a conflict of interest if they stand to profit professionally, financially or personally from approval or rejection of an application.

More specifically, this means eligible experts must:

- have no direct link with the project;
- not be involved in the preparation of the pre-proposal and/or the full proposal;
- not directly benefit from the acceptance of the proposal;
- not be a family member or partner relative to the first degree of any of the applicants;
- not belong to applicants' institutions/companies;
- not be a director, a trustee or a partner of the applicants' institutions/companies;
- not have been employed within the applicants' institutions/companies in the past 5 years;
- not have held a contract or collaborated in any way with any of the applicants or their research groups in the past 5 years;
- not be a(n) (ex) PhD-promotor (one of the) of (the) applicants;
- have no common projects or co-publications with any of the applicants or their research groups within the last 5 years;
- not be in any other situation which compromises or casts a doubt on his or her ability to evaluate the proposal impartially, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party.

Regarding nationality

Experts must be nationals of a country of the European Union or nationals of a country of the European Free Trade Association or nationals of a country that is a member of NATO.