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How applications are reviewed
We start at 13.00

SUOMEN AKATEMIA
FINLANDS AKADEMI
ACADEMY OF FINLAND

Ask & Apply webinars 2022

Webinars in June:

1. New Academy Research Fellowships: **Monday 13 June at 13-14**

2. Workshop: How to demonstrate your qualifications in the new Academy Research Fellowships scheme: **Tuesday 14 June at 13-14.30**

3. Tips for a good application: **Thursday 16 June at 13-14**

Webinars in August-September:

4. What's new in the autumn 2022 call: **Thursday 25 August at 13-14**

5. How applications are reviewed: **Wednesday 31 August at 13-14**

6. How funding decisions are made, ask our research councils **Wednesday 7 September at 13-14**

7. Ask Me Anything – our science advisers answer your questions **Wednesday 14 September at 13-14**

Some guidelines

1. First the presentation – then questions and discussion
   The presentation takes 15 minutes and we have a plenty of time for questions and discussion

2. The webinar presentation will be recorded and made available online for two weeks – Q&A and discussion will not be recorded

3. You can write questions during the presentation on Q&A

Q&A
Use following classification:

Funding instrument	Research council, if needed
RF (Research Fellow)	BHE (Biosciences, Health and Environment)
AP (Academy Projects)	CS (Culture and Society)
CR (Clinical Researcher)	NSE (Natural Sciences and Engineering)

An example: **NSE: How many review panels there will be?**

Processing of applications – an overview

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| Science Advisers | → | Reviewers | → | Research Councils |
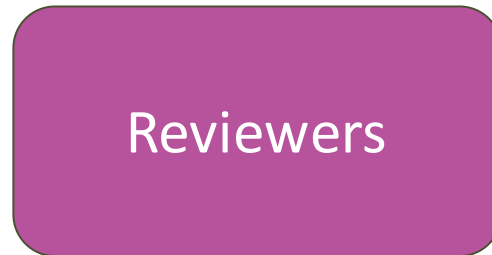
Science Advisers
- Eligibility check
- Panel allocation
- Selection of reviewers

Reviewers
- Draft reviews
- Panel meeting
  - Reviewing and rating
  - Ranking
- Final review reports
- Chair's memo

Research Councils
- Preparatory meetings
- DECISION meetings
  1. Final score 1–4
  2. Final score 5–6

| June–November | December-March | April-June |

International peer review

- Our key tool for identifying the best and most promising research projects

- Reviewers are esteemed international researchers in their field or otherwise regarded as peers regarding the application

- Panels are renewed for each call and assembled to match the number and theme of applications

- There are also joint panels across research council borders

- Secrecy, integrity and conflicts of interest are taken into account throughout the review process

Statistics from last September call(s)

Number of applications in September call 2021

Funding instrument	Biosciences, Health and the Environment	Culture and Society	Natural Sciences and Engineering
Postdoctoral Researcher	217	233	282
Academy Research Fellow	176	198	228
Clinical Researcher	37	-	-
Academy Project	541	514	631

Number of panels/panellists in September calls 2019–2021

Research council	2019	2020	2021
Biosciences, Health and the Environment	16/171	19/193	18/187
Culture and Society	19/201	18/173	19/170
Natural Sciences and Engineering	29/225	32/254	30/252

Number of reviewers by country in the review of applications submitted to September 2021 call

Number of reviewers

- ☐ 0–4
- ☐ 5–20
- ☐ 21–40
- ☐ 41–100
- ☐ 101–200

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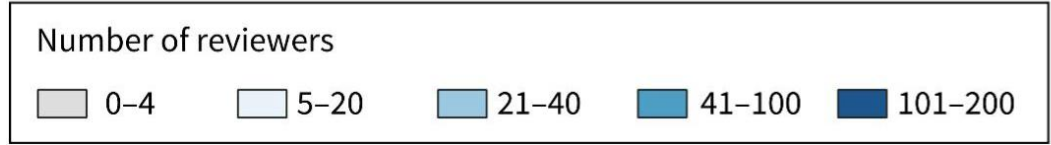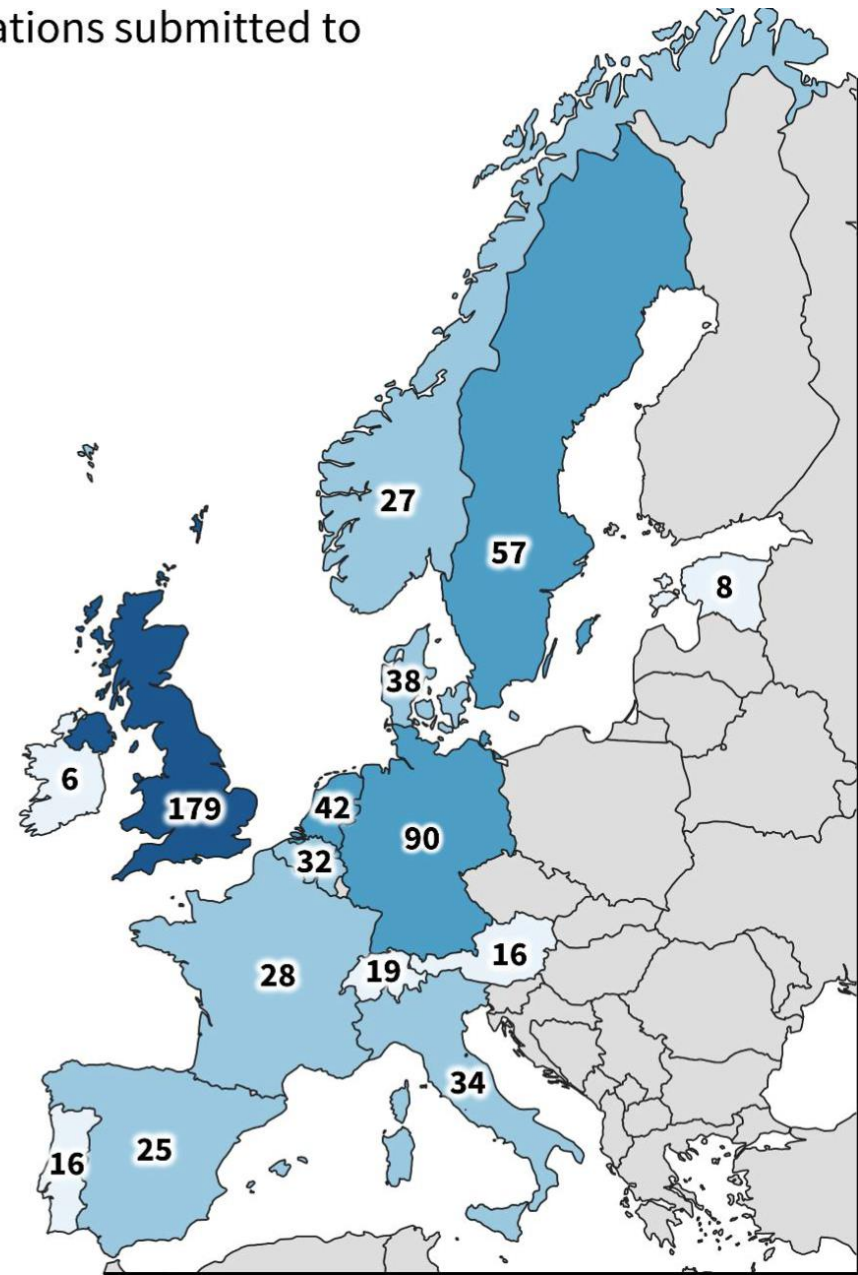
Reviewer's work before the panel meeting

Panel = chair + 5-11 members, depending on the number of applications to be reviewed in the panel (approx. 20-60 per panel)

Applications are assigned to at least two panel members who prepare draft reviews and give preliminary ratings to the applications.

A third panel member is usually assigned to read the application to form a general view of it.

An external draft review may be requested from an expert outside the panel to provide additional knowledge pertaining to a particular field.

All members have access to all applications and reviews before the panel meeting.

Reviewer's work at the panel meeting

The panel will concentrate on the strongest applications according to draft reviews.

The panel prepares **one consensus panel review** on each application based on the discussions and the draft reviews and decides the **final overall rating.**

The applications that receive an overall rating 1-3 or 4 will include the overall assessment summary section of the review report. Review reports for the applications that receive an overall rating 5 or 6 will include all sections.

Panels also **rank the strongest applications (rating 5–6)** after the scientific review.

Scale of rating

Description	Rating
Demonstrates extremely high novelty and/or innovation; has potential to substantially advance science at global level; presents a high-gain plan that may include risks	**6 (outstanding)**
Is very good in international comparison – contains no significant elements to be improved	**5 (excellent)**
Is in general sound but contains some elements that should be improved	**4 (good)**
Is in general sound but contains important elements that should be improved	**1–3 (fair to insufficient)**
Contains flaws; is in need of substantial modification or improvement	
Contains severe flaws that are intrinsic to the proposed project or the application	

Responsible review process

We are committed to responsible procedures with regard to

Disqualification　　**Confidentiality**　　**Open access**　　**Research ethics**

Equality and nondiscrimination

The review process and criteria are defined in advance, and they are transparent and accessible on our website at call launch.

Responsible researcher evaluation

After the funding decisions, the Academy will publish a list of names, current positions and institutions of all individual reviewers and panel members.

Sustainable development

The review processes, instructions and criteria are regularly reviewed and developed based on feedback from and discussions with different stakeholders and international sister organisations.

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Review form – Academy Project

1. Quality of research

1.1 Scientific quality, novelty and innovativeness of research

2. Implementation

2.1 Feasibility of research plan

2.2 Human resources, expertise and

collaboration

2.2.1 If applicable: Research consortium

3. Responsible science

3.1 Responsible science

3.2 Societal effects and impact of the project

4. Summary assessment of project

4.1 Main strengths and their justifications

4.2 Main weaknesses and their justifications

4.3 Concluding remarks

5. Overall rating

Review form – Academy Research Fellowship

1. Competence of applicant

    1.1 Competence and expertise of applicant

2. Quality of research

    2.1 Scientific quality, novelty and innovativeness of research

3. Implementation

    3.1 Feasibility of research plan
    3.2 Human resources, expertise and collaboration

4. Responsible science, societal effects and impact

    4.1 Responsible science

    4.2 Societal effects and impact of the project

5. Summary assessment of project

    5.1 Main strengths and their justifications

    5.2 Main weaknesses and their justifications

    5.3 Concluding remarks

6. Overall rating

Review form – Clinical Reseacher

1. Quality of research

   1.1 Scientific quality, novelty and innovativeness of research

2. Implementation

   2.1 Feasibility of research plan

   2.2 Competence and expertise of applicant

   2.3 Human resources, expertise, and collaboration

3. Responsible science, societal effects and impact

   3.1 Responsible science

   3.2 Societal effects and impact of the project

4. Summary assessment of project

   4.1 Main strengths and their justifications

   4.2 Main weaknesses and their justifications

   4.3 Concluding remarks

5. Overall rating

Responsible researcher review

Reviewers are asked to:

- Consider the **content and quality of publications**, rather than their number or venue of publication, or the impact of the journals in which they were published

- Consider the **value and impact of all research outputs,** not only publications

- **Be sensitive to legitimate delays** in publication and personal factors or other types of leave, part-time work and disabilities that may have affected the applicant's record of outputs

- Take into account the applicant's career stage throughout the review

- Base the review mainly on a qualitative peer review of the research plan

Feedback from panels

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- *The frame and objectives should be more precise, hypotheses should be better described*
- *Lack of proper theoretical background / support*
- *Lack of novelty / innovativeness*
- *More attention to methodological detail, lack of methodological innovation*
- *Implementation plan should be better described*
- *Some proposals were over-ambitious and thus lacked feasibility*
- *Many proposals lacked preliminary data*
- *More emphasis should be put on the (societal, economical etc.) impact –section*
- *Mobility plan was unconnected to the research plan*

Calls open 25/8 − 28/9/2022 OR 5.10.2022

READ THE CALL TEXT CAREFULLY
• Contact details according to your Research Council

Helpdesk

Ask&Apply Webinars 2022

Academy Research Fellow reform

Funding statistics for September 2021 call

Panel feedback (res councils: CS, BHE, NSE)

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