

Estonian Science Foundation

The aim of the guidelines is to ensure the experts' and the evaluation committees' similar approach to the proposal evaluation process in researcher mobility programme MOBILITAS.

According to the *Guidelines on Applying for Postdoctoral Research Grant* the evaluation criteria are divided into following sub-criteria:

1. Scientific quality and innovativeness of the planned research project

- **Novelty of the project and the potential for the creation of new knowledge**
Proposal is evaluated foremost for its general (international) level and the innovativeness of research plans and ideas as well as interest to science and feasibility of exploitation.
- **Relevance of the research topic and contribution of the expected results to the development of science, technology and/or social sphere**
Proposal is evaluated for the timeliness of research topic and its relevance both internationally and locally and if the prospective results make a substantial contribution to the development of science, technology, and/or society.
- **Degree of elaboration of the project plan and validity of the methodology to be used and the quality of the project implementation plan**
Proposal is evaluated for the elaboration of project (comprehensiveness, versatility etc); level of planned methodology, its appropriateness to the implementing of project as well as if the actions and timeline attaining objectives are realistic.

2. Competence of the postdoctoral researcher

- **Quality and results of the applicant's previous research activities, and the capacity of the applicant to carry out the proposed project**
The capacity to carry out his/her work is evaluated in the light of researcher's previous scientific work and results (on international level), the number and level of publications of his/her articles and monographs, (peer-reviewed) journals or compendiums.
- **Experience of the applicant in (international) research-related cooperation and his/her teamwork skills**
The experience is evaluated by cooperation competence and the scope of scientific communication according to previous positions, participation in conferences and other activities, as well as cited research, list of co writers, and citations to his/her own articles.
- **Potential contribution of the applicant to the research activities carried out in the receiving institution, training aspects of the proposal and impact of the project on his/her research career**
Contribution of the proposal is evaluated in the context of the scientific research level in prospective receiving institution, if the project will bring along complementary competence to this institution, and the other way round, what are the enhancing aspects and does working in this institute promote his/her scientific career.

All criteria are evaluated with the following rating scale: 1 – poor; 2 – satisfactory; 3 – good; 4 – very good; 5 – outstanding (It is allowed to use also the ratings 1.5; 2.5; 3.5 and 4.5).