

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 Top Researcher Grant* the evaluation criteria include following sub-criteria:

1. Scientific quality and innovativeness of the planned research project of top researcher and the intended group

- **Novelty of the research project and the potential for the creation of new knowledge**
The proposal is evaluated foremost for its general (international) level, the innovativeness of research and proposed ideas as well as from the perspective of scientific progress 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 in Estonia and internationally, and if the prospective results make a substantial contribution to the development of science, technology, and/or society.
- **Degree of elaboration of the research and validity of the methodology to be used and the quality of the project implementation plan**
Research is evaluated for the elaboration of project (comprehensiveness, versatility etc); level of planned methodology, its appropriateness to the implementing of research as well as if the actions and timeline attaining objectives are realistic.

2. Competence of the top researcher

- **Quality and results of the applicant's previous research, and the capacity of the applicant to carry out the proposed research**
The capacity to carry out his/her work is evaluated in the light of researcher's previous scientific work and results of obtaining grants and implementing projects; the number and level of publication of his/her articles and monographs, journals or compendiums; and based on these their prerequisites for carrying out the planned scientific research.
- **Experience of the applicant in (international) research-related cooperation and his/her teamwork skills**
The experience is evaluated by cooperation activity and the scope of scientific communication according supervised dissertations, 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 partner institution, training aspects of the proposal and impact of the planned research on his/her research group members' careers**
Proposal is evaluated in the context of the contribution to the scientific research in prospective partner institution, if it will bring along significant complementary competence to this institution, and what are the enhancing aspects to the group members and how does participation in this group promote their 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).