

19 Feb. 2018

## Handling bias

These rules cover potential bias of selection committee members and reviewers.

In order to ensure that the review and decision-making process is as objective as possible, conflicts of interest should be identified early on in the process. None of the reasons for bias listed below need necessarily lead to the person in question being excluded from the process.

Please check whether there are any circumstances that could give rise to an assumption of bias in yourself or in your proposed assessors.

The following rules concerning conflict of interest<sup>1</sup> must be taken into account in the Leibniz Competition procedures.

(1) Any potential bias must be reported.

(2) Bias and potential conflicts of interest may arise from:

- Close academic collaboration in the past seven years (e.g. joint publications, joint collaborative research projects) or direct academic competition.
- Current or previous (less than seven years ago) membership of an institution involved in the project.
- Membership of a committee of an institution involved in the application or of a committee associated with the project itself, especially scientific advisory councils and/or supervisory boards.
- A current or failed job application for a position at one of the institutions involved in the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the general rules of procedure ([Rahmengeschäftsordnung](#)) of the Leibniz Association of 24 November 2016

- Close personal connections to the people involved in the application or to people at one of the institutions involved in the project.
  - Personal commercial advantages in the event of funding being granted, shared commercial interests with people involved in the application (e.g. joint management of a company, joint utilisation) or direct commercial competition.
- (3) Where a cause for bias is found to exist, the chair of the selection committee shall decide on the consequences.
- (4) If a member of the selection committee is excluded from the voting, they may not transfer any votes to another member and may not make use of any votes that others have transferred to them.