



Council on Library and Information Resources
Policy on Conflicts of Interest for Reviewers of Grant and Fellowship Applications

Last updated June 2021

CLIR works with reviewers outside the organization in determining recommendations for grant and fellowship awards. These individuals are selected in order to confer the benefits of their unique insights, perspectives, and experiences upon CLIR's communities of applicants, recipients, and program staff.

To serve on a review panel for a CLIR program, a reviewer must not be an applicant or be named as a principal investigator on any proposal submitted to that program at the same time.

When making reviewer assignments, staff make every effort to avoid assigning reviewers to applications from institutions or individuals to which the reviewers have known connections. Despite these best efforts, sometimes reviewers are assigned to applications to which they have personal connections about which staff are unaware. Upon distributing reviewer assignments, staff will instruct reviewers to examine each application for potential ties or conflicts and to alert staff of any ties which might compromise the reviewer's ability to conduct an impartial assessment of the submission.

An application will be re-assigned to a new reviewer if any one of the following is true:

- Reviewers have a personal relationship (defined as a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature) with a fellowship applicant or a named principal investigator (PI) on a grant proposal;
- Reviewers have close, recent professional ties to an applicant, an applicant institution, or an institution formally collaborating on a proposed grant project;
- Reviewers themselves, their family members, or their close friends will benefit financially in any way from a proposed fellowship or grant; or
- For any other reason, reviewers do not feel comfortable with or capable of giving an application an unbiased review.

Reviewers should confer with program staff about any actual or perceived conflicts and applications will be reassigned promptly whenever warranted.