Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme

Assessment and selection process

27.01.2017

Introduction

All the candidature files presented in the framework of the Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme will be evaluated according to a strict and transparent six-phase procedure. This procedure is meant to guarantee an analysis from both an academic and operational point of view, and allow the selection of projects which respond to the objectives of the programme.

› Who contributes to the selection process?

The projects are evaluated by four separate groups, each one providing a different yet complementary point of view:

Peer-reviewers*:* Provide an academic and independent assessment based on the specific academic knowledge required for each application.

IOC departments: Assess the relevance of the applications in regard to the priority fields of research and to provide feedback on how the research results could be applied and used in future IOC activities.

Olympic Studies Centre Selection Committee: Make the final recommendations to the IOC regarding the applications to be awarded and the total amount for each grant, based on the assessment made by the peer-reviewers and the relevant IOC departments (arbitration role).

Olympic Studies Centre (OSC): Validate the final recommendations in coordination with the IOC administration.

› Description of the assessment and selection process:

Stage 1: Acceptance of the applications (February)

All complete applications which fulfil the admission criteria and respond to the objectives of the programme will receive a confirmation message from the OSC, one week after the candidature is received, at the latest.

Stage 2: Assignment of Peer-reviewers and IOC departments (February-March)

All eligible applications will go through an initial assessment based on quality and relevance criteria by The Olympic Studies Centre Selection Committee. The applications meeting these criteria will be reviewed by two peer-reviewers, previously identified by the OSC in cooperation with the Selection Committee. When appropriate and possible, one peer-reviewer will be identified from the list of referees proposed by the candidates in their application form and the other one from the OSC's pool of international peer-reviewers.

All the peer-reviewers involved in the assessment process will have to sign a document declaring that they do not have any conflict of interests with the applicants submitting the application. They will review and committing themselves to respect a series of key principles in the reviewing of applications for funding.

The OSC will also send the candidature files to the IOC departments concerned for evaluation.

Stage 3: Assessment by group (March-April)

The peer-reviewers will be requested to assess the relevance of the proposal in the research field, the academic quality and feasibility of the project, and the applicants' ability to carry out the research. They will be explicitly requested to support their scores with qualitative comments, and, based on their assessment, they will recommend whether or not the proposal should be funded. Given that peer-reviewers will be asked to assess the applicant/s's capacity, they will know the identity of the applicant/s. They will, however, commit themselves not to communicate with candidates in any circumstances, and to not disclose and/or make use, in subsequent project submissions either by themselves or by closed colleagues, of the content of the proposals they have evaluated.

The IOC department representatives will assess the interest of the applications for their priority fields of research and provide feedback on how the research results could contribute to the department's future activities.

Stage 4: Final recommendations by the Selection Committee (April-May)

The Selection Committee, composed of academic members and the Academic Programmes' Manager of the OSC, will ensure the link between the academic and operational assessments. It will take into consideration the applications and the scores and comments provided by the peer-reviewers (blind copies) and the IOC department representatives in order to identify a shortlist that best combines academic quality and relevance according to the IOC priority fields of research.

Stage 5: Validation by the IOC (May)

The IOC, through its OSC, will validate the final selection of applications to be awarded a grant based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.

Stage 6: Notification of the results (June)

The OSC will inform the applicants of the results of their application. Grant-holders will receive the blind copy of the peer-reviewers' assessment as additional input for their project.

Upon request, non-selected applicants will also receive a copy of the blind peer-review reports related to their application.