



How are applications reviewed and grant decisions made in Kone Foundation's general grant call?



Every year, we receive **around 6,000 applications** in the annual grant call in September.

The applications are evaluated by **about 50 peer reviewers.**

Before the grant call, **we invite practitioners in the fields supported by the Foundation to become peer reviewers.**

The applicant selects **the field of their work, and a specialist from that field reviews the application.**

If the application combines work in different fields, the applicant can choose up to three fields.

New peer reviewers are assigned each year

in order to guarantee a diversity of perspectives and to make sure there is rotation in this position of power.

When considering reviewer candidates, the Foundation emphasises expertise, breadth of knowledge, and diversity.

The Foundation board makes the final reviewer selections. Selections are based on suggestions by the board, Foundation staff, and peer reviewers from previous rounds.

In addition, anyone can propose a peer reviewer.

The candidates decide if they want to accept the role.

Peer reviewers are compensated for their work.



Each application is typically assigned to one reviewer.

In our view, this results in a selection of more artistically and scientifically compelling projects than when reviewed by several evaluators – a process that often requires compromise.



We do not publish the names of the reviewers.

This way, any criticism of the grant decisions is directed towards the Foundation rather than individual reviewers.

Peer reviewers receive comprehensive instructions before they evaluate the applications.



All applications are handled confidentially.

Persons involved in processing and evaluating the applications do not publicly discuss any information relating to applicants.



→ We instruct the reviewers to consider **the general criteria for applying.**

→ Reviewers must consider **the core focuses and values defined in the Foundation's strategy** such as plurality of voices, perseverance and environmental sustainability. Academic and artistic freedom is a key factor.

→ Reviewers must consider **their own preconceptions and attitudes.** They must acknowledge where they come from and mitigate any impact on their evaluation work.

→ The reviewers must be aware of **their position of power** and consider **diversity and equality** in both the applicants and the work being evaluated.

After receiving the applications, the reviewers ensure none of the applicants are friends or colleagues, nor in their immediate circles.

If there are conflicts of interest, the applications in question will be transferred to another reviewer.

The applications are evaluated independently in an online system.

Reviewers of applications that combine work in different fields can discuss the applications anonymously with one another.

When the reviewer has made their suggestions for grantees, they have **a meeting with a grant specialist working at the Foundation** to assess the feasibility of the projects and their relation to the strategic focuses of the Foundation.

The selections of all reviewers are collected and presented as a suggestion to the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the funding decisions, and their decisions may affect the awards even after the reviewers have done their job.

The Board of Trustees makes the funding decisions in late November or early December.

The list of new grants, including project summaries and working group members, will be published on our website in early December.

The competition for grants is tough. Unfortunately, every year, a large number of compelling applications do not receive funding.

Because evaluation is ultimately subjective and there are thousands of applications, Kone Foundation does not give feedback on applications.

