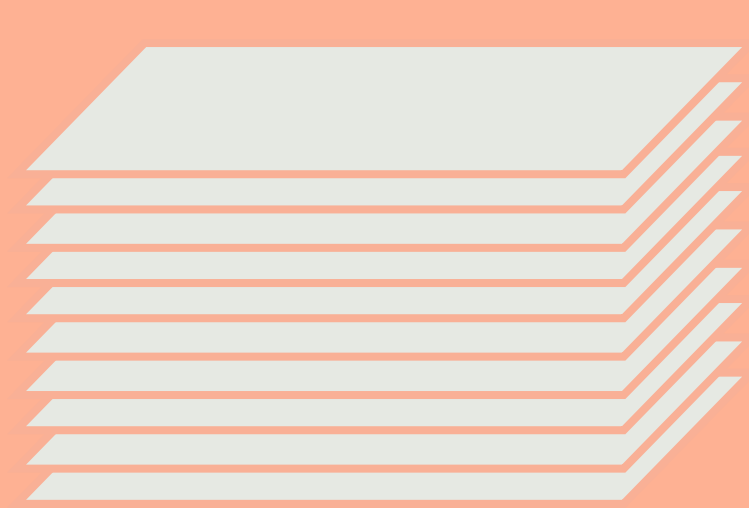


# How are applications reviewed and grant decisions made in Kone Foundation's general grant call?



Every year, we receive **thousands of applications** in the annual grant call in September.

(2025: 7,642 pcs)

The applications are evaluated by **dozens of peer reviewers.**

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

**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.



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.

**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**We do not publish the names of the reviewers.**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.