

# Guidelines

## for Reviewing Draft Proposals to Establish Research Training Groups or International Research Training Groups

### I. General

Reviewers are asked to comment in detail on each of the four criteria listed below and provide a final statement. In addition, each item should be given a final rating of A, B or C (A = positive, convincing; B = average; C = negative, not convincing). The rating will aid in the interpretation of your arguments. The evaluation should focus in particular on the qualification of the participating scientists and academics as well as on the quality of the research programme.

For International Research Training Groups: Please also comment on the added value resulting from the international cooperation.

When preparing your review, please bear in mind that the DFG will forward your comments in anonymised form to the coordinator of the proposed Research Training Group.

### II. Review Criteria

#### 1. Research programme

- Please assess the quality, scientific relevance and originality of the Research Training Group's main research topic or research idea. How would you assess the novelty of the research programme in international comparison?

- In what way do you consider it forward-looking to establish a Research Training Group with this focus, considering that the key mission of such a group is to promote young researchers?
- Please assess whether the research programme justifies the expectation that the main topic will be explored appropriately in projects and theses. Has substantial preliminary work been carried out? Can ambitious doctoral research projects be expected?
- Is the research programme adequately focussed and coherent?

Text:

Rating:

A	B	C

## 2. Participating scientists and academics

Please comment on the scientific credentials of the participating researchers with regard to the proposed main research topic or research idea as well as regarding their experience in training young researchers.

- To what extent have they distinguished themselves in their research activities and publications to date?
- How would you assess their individual expertise with regard to the proposed main topic or research idea?
- To what extent are the participating researchers experienced in training young researchers?

Text:

Rating:

A	B	C

Please evaluate the combination of specialties and the cooperation within the team of applicants as it relates to the research programme and qualification concept.

- To what extent does the team of applicants combine the subject matter expertise necessary to successfully carry out the research programme and qualification concept?
- Have the members of the team taught or carried out research together in the past?
- Is the participation of young researchers in the Research Training Group planned or expected?

Text:

Rating:

A	B	C

### 3. Qualification and supervision concept

Do the draft concept and the relevant preliminary work justify the expectation that young researchers will be trained successfully?

To what extent does the proposal incorporate supervisory structures that promote systematic, transparent, and speedy doctoral training?

Text:

Rating:

A	B	C

### 4. Environment

Please comment on whether the scientific environment is especially suited to successfully work on the proposed main research topic or research idea in the framework of a Research Training Group.

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Text:

Rating:

A	B	C

Since it is possible to propose a “module for structured doctoral training” as part of the Collaborative Research Centre programme, parallel funding will no longer be available to Collaborative Research Centres and Research Training Groups that are based at the same location and have largely overlapping topics. The goal is to increase efficiency through a concentration of the funding for closely related research projects. The standard procedural rules regarding delimitation from other projects apply. A thematic overlap is acceptable if the Research Training Group’s topic and/or structure is sufficiently unique. For instance, the establishment of an International Research Training Group may be considered to deliver added value.

If the draft proposal is linked to an existing or expired Research Training Group, please explain why the topic of proposed Research Training Group is sufficiently differentiated and to what extent the research programme investigates new scientific problems.

Text:

## 5. Final statement

Please provide a final statement on whether you consider the concept as a whole promising. Should the university be asked to submit a proposal?

Text:

Rating:

A	B	C

### **III. Diversity and Equal Opportunities in German Research**

In all of its funding programmes, the DFG actively encourages equal opportunities and diversity in German science and academia. Funding reviews may not disadvantage applicants due to extra-scientific reasons, such as age, gender or state of health. For example, in assessing proposals from young researchers, considerations should not be based on the applicants' actual age but instead on the individual circumstances relating to the duration of their scientific careers and previous research achievements.

In promoting diversity and equal opportunities in research, it is possible to compensate for certain, extra-scientific disadvantages. For example, in order to evaluate the scientific achievements of applicants appropriately, their individual situations need to be taken into account. Equal opportunity therefore includes taking into consideration unavoidable delays in the scientific careers of applicants (for example longer periods of qualification, gaps in publications, or less time spent abroad due to family reasons).