

Panel decision process

- In step 1, aprox. 4 panel members evaluate B1 document. One is lead panelist.
- In step 2, same panel members reevaluate proposal, now with B2.
- 3-6 external referees also evaluate proposal.
- This leads to a pre-interview ranking.
- After interview, each proposal is discussed and ranked again – things can change a lot. Lead panelists defend the proposals they like best.
- A final discussion fine-tunes the ranking.
- Panel decision is the final ranking, not who is funded.

Interview questions:

- The Lead panelist will start and ask most questions (from themselves and from external reviewers)
- Other panelists that read your proposal will follow.
- Finally, other panelists that did not read the proposal may also ask.
- At the end, there will likely be a question on the budget.

Recommendations

- Simple presentation with key points – panel will be tired.
- Direct, short answers that go straight to the point. Do not ramble.
- Check panel members from 2 years ago – the panel will be very similar. Study the background and relevant publications of panel members with related expertise.
- Panel member faces and expressions mean nothing. Focus on the science and your answers, ignore everything else.
- Panel member opinions count much more than external reviewers.
- Non expert panel members will likely focus on formal/general aspects (structure and relationship between aims, contingency plans, clarity of novelty). Make sure these are clear in presentation and answers.
- Novelty must be **Crystal clear**: your lead reviewer will need this to convince other panel members.
- You can't control the outcome no matter what you do. So try to relax and enjoy it!