FAQ's for the common call 2019

1. General questions

Is the Max Planck Common call only open to scientists from Germany?
No. The Max Planck Society is looking for the most talented scientists worldwide. Thus, submissions from national and international applicants are equally welcome.

Can I nominate more than one candidate?
Yes, you can submit more than one candidate given their scientific excellence. Please be aware that you need to submit each candidate individually.

Can I nominate someone that I already nominated in one of the past calls?
Yes, you may submit this nomination again.

Is there an age limit to submit a nomination?
No.

Does the nominee need to fulfill any formal criteria?
Yes. A doctoral degree and substantial experience and/or achievements in your field of research are a prerequisite.

Is a Nomination stronger than a Self-Nomination?
No, we will treat both equally.

How will the nominees be evaluated?
All nominations will be forwarded to the respective Institutes in agreement with their fields of research. Candidates will be evaluated by the board of directors based on their scientific excellence and suitability to the institute’s vision. Suitable nominees will be contacted by the respective institutes. However, no information on reviews, nor any other feedback will be send, even on request. We ask for your understanding that we cannot inform every nominee that was not selected. For nominations of others: we ask for your understanding that we will not communicate the outcome of the nomination.

Should I contact the MPI that I am interested in before sending a nomination?
There is no need to contact the Institute, as the nomination will be forwarded to the respective institute(s) of your research field(s).

How should my research proposal be structured?
There is no strict format for your proposal. However, it is important to get an overview of your research achievements as well as an idea of your scientific vision. The overall proposal should not exceed two to three pages in length.

For nominations of others, how many pages should the letter of support consist of?
There is no strict format. However, it is important to get an overview of the nominee’s research achievements, his/her scientific vision and why you think the candidate is suitable
for the Max Planck Society and/or a specific institute. The overall letter should not exceed two to three pages in length.

**To whom should the nomination letter be addressed?**
You may either address the letter to the board of directors of the MPI of your choice or “To the Scientific Members of the Max Planck Society”.

**Must the nomination be written in English?**
Yes. Only nominations written in English will be accepted due to the diverse international background of our scientific members.

**Can nominations be submitted on paper?**
No. Only online applications submitted via the nomination portal will be considered.

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**2. Questions specific to the nomination portal**

**Do I have to choose an institute?**
No. This is optional. Whether or not you name a specific institute will not influence the outcome of the nomination.

**Why are not all Max Planck Institutes (MPI) listed on the nomination portal? Can I submit a nomination for any MPI?**
The institutes listed on the nomination portal particularly invite to submit nominations. Nevertheless, we are always looking for the strongest and most creative scientists. If the Institute you are interested in is not listed this, we still strongly encourage you to submit your nomination.

**I have trouble uploading the files. What can I do?**
Please make sure to submit only pdf files. In addition, make sure that your files end with “.pdf”.