

# 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 seeks to attract the best and most creative scientists regardless of nationality or country of origin.

### **Can I nominate more than one candidate?**

Yes, we welcome multiple nominations. Please be aware that a separate nomination is required for each candidate.

### **Can I nominate someone that I already nominated in one of the past Calls?**

Yes.

### **Is there an age limit for the nominee?**

No.

### **Does the nominee need to fulfill any formal criteria?**

Yes. A doctoral degree, substantial experience and outstanding research achievements are required.

### **Is a nomination stronger than a self-nomination?**

No, both will be considered equally.

### **How will the nominees be evaluated?**

Nominations will be forwarded to selected institutes based on the nominee's field of research. The nomination will be considered by an institute's board of directors. Due to the confidentiality, no information on the review process, nor any other feedback will be shared with the nominees or those who nominated them, even if formally requested.

### **Should I contact the MPI that I am interested in before sending a nomination?**

There is no need to contact specific Institutes directly.

### **For self-nominations, how should my research statement be structured?**

The research statement should provide an overview of prior research achievements as well as a scientific vision for future efforts. The overall statement should not exceed two to four pages.

### **For nominations of others, how detailed should the letter of support be?**

The letter should cover the nominee's key research achievements, his/her scientific vision and explain why 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?**

Please address the nomination "To the Scientific Members of the Max Planck Society".

### **Must the nomination be written in English?**

Yes.

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### **Can nominations be submitted on paper?**

No. Only online applications submitted via the nomination portal will be considered.

## **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?**

Institutes currently inviting nominations are listed on the portal's start page. Nevertheless, we are always looking for the strongest and most creative scientists. We strongly encourage you to submit your nomination regardless of whether a specific Institute is listed on the portal.

### **I have problems 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”.