

NWSA Student Grants Committee Policy for Conflict of Interest
March 2, 2022

The NWSA Student Grants Committee has a structured policy for dealing with Conflict of Interest related to the funding we provide to student research. A Conflict of Interest is present when personal, professional, financial, or other private interests compromise, have the potential to compromise, or are perceived as compromising the exercise of professional judgment.

Our policy is as follows:

1. When student grant applications are received, the Student Grants Committee reviews the applicant list and identifies any potential or actual conflicts of interests. Each committee member reports out e.g., if they know an applicant, if they are their supervisor, if they have worked with the individual, have worked on the project related to the applicant.
2. The Committee discusses any identified actual or potential Conflicts of Interest and determines where there is a true, direct conflict. In most cases this occurs when a Student Grants Committee member is the supervisor or academic committee member for an applicant.
3. When a direct conflict of interest is identified, the Committee member is recused from evaluation of the pool of candidates related to the applicant in question. E.g., if the applicant is in the MS pool, then the Committee member is assigned to evaluation of the PhD pool. The Committee member neither ranks the pool, nor participates in discussion of the pool in panel session.