

What is the Conference Model?

As outlined in the report, the conference model works similarly to a scientific conference where several competition meetings would be occurring in parallel streams (see figure below). The membership of the Sections would be configured to ensure the best possible match of available expertise (from a larger pool of members) to a set of applications. These combinations would change as necessary at fixed points through the competition week. This model has been implemented by four grant selection committees and will be expanded to all disciplines. This system will provide increased flexibility as members can participate in Sections regardless of the Group to which they were originally appointed. It will eliminate the need for the consultation process between two GSCs as applications requiring such input will be reviewed by a joint Section and benefit from a larger pool of expertise than in the current system. It should be noted that proposals will be discussed by smaller numbers of members, thereby reducing the workload.

