



Virtual Peer Reviews

Advancing technologies such as the Internet and cloud computing are increasingly providing easily-shared, lower-cost options for conducting virtual peer reviews.

Qualified reviewers who participate remotely can evaluate grant applications and proposals without impacting the integrity of the review process. ORAU's virtual peer reviews provide a platform for collaborating efficiently by sharing real-time information across geographically dispersed locations.



Why use ORAU virtual peer reviews?

When you consider the cost of travel, hotel, audio/visual and other miscellaneous logistics, the price tag for 10 subject matter experts to attend a one-day, onsite panel review in Washington, D.C. totals nearly \$40,000. Recognizing that many funding agencies are operating with stagnant budgets—and in some cases, completely eliminated travel budgets—ORAU peer review specialists have established a virtual peer review platform that reduces operating costs without jeopardizing the integrity of the review process.

Benefits and features

- Reduce the cost and time associated with face-to-face panel reviews
- Access sessions easily without needing an additional download
- Join meetings and reviews from mobile devices
- Remove and mute participants if necessary
- Access ORAU staff for mitigating technical difficulties
- Transmit audio and video over a Secure Socket Layer encryption
- Protect sensitive data through password-protected access
- Communicate privately in a special presenter-only area
- Share files and Internet browser links with attendees
- Record attendance
- Gauge awareness through chat, Q & A, and polling features

Who could benefit from virtual peer reviews?

Government agencies, philanthropic groups and other organizations that grant money to individuals or companies may use virtual peer reviews for:

- Distributing materials electronically to selected reviewers for examination prior to an upcoming peer review
- Conducting small panel reviews for the purpose of evaluating research, development, and other applications and proposals
- Providing reviewers with an alternative to meeting in-person when external variables prevent them from traveling

Maintaining the integrity of virtual peer reviews

Remote Panel Reviews

In the virtual peer review environment, participants can join the meeting easily as no download is required to use the tool. The high-quality video conferencing enables moderators and reviewers to collaborate face-to-face.

Partially Remote Panel Reviews

When illness, inclement weather, lack of travel funds or some other variable prevents a handful of reviewers from attending an in-person panel review, ORAU can



keep the discussion moving forward by allowing that individual to participate remotely.

Other uses

- Virtual collaboration and planning
- Webinars
- Online training
- Broadcasting meetings
- Recording meetings for future viewing

How to work with ORAU

ORAU is a non-profit organization and government contractor that can use a variety of contract vehicles to make contracting easy, such as U.S. **General Services Administration** (GSA Schedule) contracts or direct contracts. For more information, visit www.orau.org/contracts or contact Nicole Phillips (ORAUVirtualMeetings@orau.org or 865.574.6182).



For more information
or to schedule a demo:

Nicole Phillips, technology services
section manager
865.574.6182
ORAUVirtualMeetings@orau.org
www.orau.org



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