

QRS Conference Policy

This document explains the conference policy regarding diversity, ethics, and integrity.

Chair Selection:

The Steering Committee maintains a list of exemplary scholars whose research interests align with the conference scope, focusing on software quality, reliability, and security. These candidates are identified through various metrics, such as their h-index, the venues where they have published, and their experience chairing other conferences. The list also includes top scholars who are familiar with the conference processes, including PC members with h-index, frequent authors, and prior keynote speakers. The Steering Committee also welcomes nominations, particularly from those with multidisciplinary backgrounds, such as a combination of traditional software engineering and emerging fields like AI and machine/deep learning. Members of the steering committee and the General and Program Chairs of recent QRS conferences will discuss these potential candidates and make appropriate selections.

Diversity aspects are always taken into account, particularly in relation to gender issues and geographical balance in conference organizations.

It is often that the conference has more than one General Chair. In this situation, one of the Co-Chairs will be a senior professional with good experience in conference organization and a high scientific reputation from the country where QRS will be held.

Regarding the Program Chairs, QRS has adopted a policy since 2020 to have three program chairs from different regions. In general, one Program Co-Chair will be from North America, one from Europe, and one from Asia.

For the Program Committee, the conference invites domain experts from academia, industry, and government agencies, as well as from different countries, including both male and female members.

Paper Review:

Issues related to ethics and integrity are carefully addressed during the paper review process. Following the best practices adopted by many international conferences, a tool, START2, is used to manage paper submissions, reviews, and online discussions.

Each submission will be peer-reviewed by at least three members of the Program Committee and evaluated on originality, contribution, soundness, presentation, and relatedness. Reviewers' identities are not only not revealed to the authors but also not to other reviewers. An online discussion, monitored by the Program Chairs, will be conducted to resolve potential inconsistencies and discrepancies among the different reviews. The program committee as a whole will make final decisions about which submissions to be accepted for presentation at the conference and publication in the proceedings. Reviewers should follow the standard confidentiality rules to protect the intellectual property of the papers they review. They should also use their best judgments to avoid reviewing papers with which they may have conflicts of interest.

The QRS conference enforces a strict plagiarism policy. It also does not accept self-plagiarized texts. Submissions with higher than 30% overlap with published refereed articles will be desk rejected.