

Grant Proposal Writing Online- How to design and communicate your project convincingly

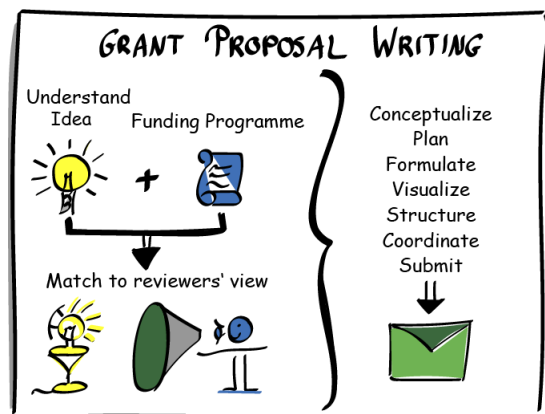
Workshop Description

Motivation and Objectives

Successful grant proposal writing is a fundamental basis to fund a career in research. There are plenty of national and international funding programmes with different funding schemes. Each scheme has its individual context and thematic focus, eligibility and funding rules, submission and evaluation process, and evaluation criteria. Thus, the detailed features and aspects of a successful proposal in one funding scheme are naturally differing from those of a successful proposal in another funding scheme. However, the process of how to work out these details is a common denominator to the different funding schemes. It requires skills way beyond the ability to work out a research idea in detail.

The overall proposal writing starts with the generation of a new research idea and the identification of an appropriate funding scheme. This requires knowledge on funding programmes and their scientific, political or societal background. Here, documents and professionals from contact points and funding authorities may be of much help.

For an excellent grant proposal, it is necessary to match the research idea with the evaluators' view on what is wanted by the funding scheme and what is considered fit for funding. This usually requires work on the details of the idea and the specific research context.



After this has been concluded, the work on the actual project and proposal can be started. A concept needs to be developed, ideas, workplan and the approach have to be visualised, the budget needs to be planned and the overall proposal has to be structured and formulated. If other project partners or institutions are involved, the submission of documents has to be coordinated.

Therefore, the objective of this workshop is, that students obtain an overview on funding opportunities, understand the core aspects of winning grants and know how to adapt the proposal writing process to their funding scheme of choice.

Depending on the duration of the training, exercises are focused on different process steps and required skills.



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Workshop Contents

SESSION 1: Funding programmes and how to read the documents

- The triangle of projects
- Overview on funding opportunities
- Background information on funding programmes and evaluation processes
- How to read the official documents
- The funding scheme fingerprint

SESSION 2: Develop your idea into a work plan

- Elements of a work plan
- The Disney method
- Developing your idea for a research project into a first work plan
- Visualization of the work plan

SESSION 3: Communicate your project convincingly

- Matching your idea to the funding programme of choice
- Communication with the reviewer
- Objectives and how to get the details to make them SMART
- Innovative aspects

SESSION 4: Impact and Budget

- Where to put which information in the proposal and how to write about it?
- The eagle's perspective on research projects
- Impact
- Budget calculation
- Coordination of the grant proposal writing process

Methods and Workshop Language

This is an online workshop including presentations, group work and individual work. Some “homework” will be provided for those, who want to use the time between the sessions to work on their grant proposal. There will be the opportunity to obtain some feedback – either in the group or individually – on the homework.

The workshop will be held in English or German. However, slides and other documents are provided in English only.

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Technical and Other Requirements for a Successful Participation

Workshops in a virtual room have their own technical challenges. Please make sure, that you have prepared

- an idea for a research project, for which you have not written a grant proposal yet. If you do not have one you can work on your current research project.
- a computer or laptop with a monitor (mobile phone is too small)
- a headset.

Documentation

Each participant will receive a detailed training manual in English covering all topics of the training. Furthermore, the workshop documentation will be sent to the participants within three weeks after the workshop.

Target Group

This training is dedicated to PhD students and postdocs.

Duration and Group Size

This workshop has four sessions à 3.5 hours duration.

Results to take home

At the end of the workshop, the participants will have the following results:

- An overview on funding possibilities and helpful sources of information
- A list of contact points, websites and phone numbers, which provide support and detailed answers to questions
- A set of tools for efficiently developing research ideas into research projects and designing them to a funding program of interest
- Commented examples on proposal building blocks
- Concise building blocks for different parts of a proposal: work plan, Pert-diagram, objective, innovative aspects, impact.