



Writing a grant proposal: From idea to funding

Science is expensive. Successful applications for external funding are essential to give you the freedom to do what you want and to be competitive on the job market. One of the biggest challenges in writing successful grants is that everything seems to happen behind closed doors: the rules are not always clear, and there are few available examples of successful proposals to learn from. In this workshop you will learn what those hidden rules are, and how to improve your chances of winning at the game.

Strategic and logistic challenges. What kind of funding suits my project? How do I analyse funding initiatives to understand what is required? What are reviewers looking for? How do I strike the right balance between novelty and feasibility? How do I write the proposal to best sell myself, my idea and my work? How do I reach both the generalist and the specialist reviewer? How do I prepare for a grant interview?

Improve your potential to win the game! We help participants to understand the strategic challenges and potential pitfalls in writing a grant proposal. During the course you will analyse examples, swap perspectives between applicant and reviewer, and write and receive feedback on parts of your own proposal. You will also be able to identify and critically analyse the central hypothesis of your own and others' proposals, and to use this knowledge to structure and deliver your message.

Here is an example of the content for this course, in a three - day format (each day 9.00 - 12.30; 13.30 - 17.00). Longer and shorter versions of this course are possible, and the content can be adapted to your requirements. If you have questions, please contact us at leonie@science-kitchen.net

Day 1 Strategy

- Finding the right programme: What funding fits my idea?
- Common requirements for all grant proposals
- Why me? Why this topic? Why now?
- Requirements of specific funding programmes
- Behind the scenes: How are grant proposals reviewed and evaluated?

Day 2 Selling yourself and your past work

- Selling yourself and your past work
- Assignment: write a personal statement
- CV workshop
- Writing paper summaries for the generalist reviewer
- Assignment: Write paper summaries

Day 3 Selling your proposal

- How to sell your proposal: Novelty and excellence
- Defining the central hypothesis
- Assignment: Define and present your central hypothesis
- How not to oversell your proposal: Feasibility, time and budget plans
- Risk analysis and contingency plans
- Selling your proposal equally well to the generalist and the specialist reviewer
- Final discussion