

Research proposal and grant writing for development impact

Session 2: Designing for impact and writing successful grant applications

Thursday 11th February, 3.30pm to 5.30pm (120 minutes):

**Preparatory work**

Before the workshop we recommend reading the following:

* Why Academics Have a Hard Time Writing Good Grant Proposals- Robert Porter  <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ902223.pdf>
* ESRC Guide to Demonstrating support for Impact in your Research Proposal: <https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/developing-pathways-to-impact/>

**Pre-workshop activities** (should take no more than 1 hour)

**Q1**: Look for a funding opportunity that you might be interested in applying or either now or in the future – it can be a small or a large grant (Try looking on websites such as [Terraviva Grants](https://terravivagrants.org/funding-news/), [Funds for NGOs](https://www2.fundsforngos.org/), [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/), [Early Career Central](https://ecrcentral.org/), [Opportunity Desk](https://opportunitydesk.org/) or [UKRI Opportunities](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/)).

After looking at the proposal, think about how you would plan your time and resources to get your application submitted on time. Make a list of **five important things** you need to remember when you plan for your successful and timely grant application. We will share and discuss good examples in the workshop.

**Q2**: Think about how you can ‘sell’ your research project to a potential funder. In one sentence explain why your research is innovative or significant.

**Q3**: What is the one thing that you struggle with the most in grant writing?

Once you’ve made a note of your answers, please enter them on mentimeter – go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and type code **96 66 57 9** or use this link <https://www.menti.com/vqi5y1coa6>

Please complete this activity by the end of Wednesday 10th February

**Programme for session 2**

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| **Time** | **Session description** |
| 5 mins | Welcome, introductions and overview of programme for workshop |
| 10 mins | Presentation: Designing research projects for impact |
| 30 mins | Interactive presentation  Understanding the requirements of a funding call   * *Before you write – understanding requirements, checking your eligibility* * *Doing your research on the funder and aligning your proposal* * *Making your CV stand out*   Key components of a successful proposal   * *Grant writing essentials and tips* * *Working with collaborators* * *Highlighting innovation, significance and sustainability* * *Dealing with rejection* |
| 10 mins | *Q&A and discussion* |
| 15 mins | *Coffee break* |
| 35 mins | Collaborative group activity: Structuring your grant proposal according to a scoring framework |
| 10 mins | *Group feedback* |
| 10 mins | * *Final Q&A and wrap up* |

Recommended additional background reading:

* UKCDR Top 20 Development Research Impact Stories  
  <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/what-we-do/the-impact-of-uk-research-for-development>
* ESRC Developing a Communication and Impact Strategy <https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/developing-a-communications-and-impact-strategy>
* Every Proposal Needs Six Elements: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How.   
  <http://seliger.com/2008/07/21/every-proposal-needs-six-elements-who-what-where-when-why-and-how-the-rest-is-mere-commentary/>
* Research funding: 10 tips for writing a successful application (The Guardian): <https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2013/apr/19/tips-successful-research-grant-funding>
* CSR Insider’s Guide to Peer Review for Applicants <https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/InitialReviewResultsAndAppeals/InsidersGuide>
* ESRC – What makes a good research application (video) <https://youtu.be/2EnvA4Wh6-8>
* Fast Track Impact – resources on writing a grant proposal: <https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/im-writing-a-grant-proposal>