WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NEXT?

Academia/Research

Industry

Management

Where do I want to be in 10 years time?

How can I structure my training to achieve this?

Select a mentor.

Get your CV together and have it checked.

CV Structure

Limited personal details

Exam results and academic qualifications

Courses/conferences attended

Publications list

Graham et al (2018) Chemokines in the regulation of monocyte trafficking. For submission to *Nature.*

Graham et al (2018) Chemokines in the regulation of monocyte trafficking. In preparation.

CV Structure

Limited personal details

Exam results and academic qualifications

Courses/conferences attended

Publications list

Other outputs e.g. patents

A ‘Personal Statement’

Select a mentor.

Get your CV together and have it checked.

Think carefully about what you want to do and why.

Contact people directly if possible (not generic!).

Apply to as many places as you wish.

Visit the labs if possible.

Check out the primary supervisor carefully.

How to develop

Make your project your own

Read all the time!

Ask questions at seminars and meetings

Test your ideas out on people (criticism)

Start to write small grant applications

Focus

Believe in yourself!

HOW WILL YOU FUND THIS?

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

DIFFERENT TYPES OF FUNDERS

Research councils:	**MRC**
	BBSRC
	EPSRC
Scottish Government:	**CSO**
	MRS
Charities:	**CRUK**
	Bloodwise
	BHF
	ARUK
	WELLCOME
EU:	**Consortia and MCs etc**

THE APPLICATION

1) Summaries (scientific and lay)

2) Project description

3) CVs

4) Costings

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1) Submission deadline
2) Office assessment
3) External review/Rebuttal
4) Triage
5) Panel meeting
6) Feedback
7) Interview

THIS WHOLE PROCESS TYPICALLY TAKES 6 MONTHS!

WHY DO GRANTS FAIL?

GRANTSMANSHIP!

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GRANT APPLICATION?

1) Preparing the grant

Identify the appropriate funder

Speak to office staff

Liaise as early as possible with relevant University contacts

Up to 6 months work (never rush it)!

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GRANT APPLICATION?

2) The Grant

Clear hypothesis

Proof-read

Readable/Story

Proof-read

Stick to the format

Proof-read

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GRANT APPLICATION?

3) The proposal

Why is this important?

Cutting edge, creative, radical

Are the proposed approaches fully optimal

Outstanding grouping (applicants and collaborators)

Institutional support

Independence?

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GRANT APPLICATION?

4) Grant details

Finances (get the balance right!)

Ethics

CVs

Lay summary

Signatures

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GRANT APPLICATION?

5) Treat all applications with great respect!

6) Expect failure and react positively if it comes!

Contact office staff

Study reviewer's comments

Learn lessons!

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GRANT APPLICATION?

EXPOSE YOURSELF TO CRITICISM FROM AS MANY SOURCES AS YOU CAN!

THIS IS SCIENCE, NOT WEAKNESS!

REASONS FOR FAILURE

1) Careless proposal

Rushed submission (delay rather than rush)

Careless document

Poor quality preliminary data

Poor review of subject area

Double-dipping!

REASONS FOR FAILURE

2) Lack of credibility in the relevant research area

- Applying for funding for studies in which you have no history
- Lack of basic background knowledge
- Proposing technical approaches beyond your competence
- Poor quality grouping
- Overly competitive research area
- Independence

REASONS FOR FAILURE

3) Poorly thought through proposal

Not important question

Incremental science/stamp collecting

Lack of focus in the application (Project/Programme)

Not realistic

Value for money

Killer stop point!

THE COST OF FAILURE!

1) Block on re-submission for 12 months

2) Repeatedly unsuccessful applicants policy

3) You look to be of poor quality

4) Your host Institution looks to be of poor quality

GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST BE PERFECT!

Common reasons why applications fail

- Not clear how the research will add to what is going on internationally
- Unfocused, overambitious project
- Embellish on a hypothesis rather than answer a question
- Not clear how will directly tackle the killer question
- No plan to tackle the killer question until the end of the grant
- Methodology not sufficiently detailed
- Lack of preliminary data / appropriate experience
- Lack of good track record / publication record (for experienced researchers)
- Fellowships: Training element incomplete/unclear
- Fellowships: Centre not good standing in research area
- Fellowships: Lack of infrastructure/facilities in training environment

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

1) The project

Cohesive and logical project

Achievable

Technically realistic

Clear training element

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

2) The Host Institution

Good quality Institution

First class infrastructure

Excellent supervisors/mentors

Track record of excellence

Avenue to independence

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

3) Your responsibilities

Be involved in writing the project

Know the project inside-out

Be on top of all necessary technical know-how

Speak to, or contact, everyone involved

Carefully read and digest reviewers comments

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

4) The interview

Arrange a mock interview

Check out who is on the interview panel

Carefully plan your presentation to time

Do not re-hash the application!

Control the interview: do not be in ‘response mode’!

Be courteous at all points

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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