

Research Grant Writing Skills, Trends and Tricks

post award management

- there will be paperwork!
- finance – revising budget, management of accts
- contracts – funding agency, collaborators
- recruitment – HDR students and research staff
- ethics approvals – often required before project can start
- reporting
 - progress and final reports on projects outcomes and expenditure
 - these will impact future funding opportunities
 - administrative support is usually available to help you manage

typical sections in a proposal

- understand the difference between assessment criteria and the different sections
- addressing the assessment criteria is ESSENTIAL
- understand what you are being asked to address
- understand your audience – engage the reader so that they understand and are excited by your proposal and want to read it

characteristics of LOW ranked

- too much technical jargon
- grandiose and implausible claims about outcomes
- emphasize data collection rather than solving problems
- set a negative or depressive tone about the state of the subject in australia
- contain spelling mistakes and grammatical errors
- text may not make sense to reader

characteristics of TOP ranked ARC applications

- they are argumentative – issues are compellingly argued not just described
- the appropriate approach – you have the expertise, technology, methods to test the ideas
- they are well prepared – well structured with no spelling or grammatical errors
- a strong track record
- present problems/controversies and explain how they will solve them
- show how Australian work fits into the international picture
- carefully moderate ambitious goals with plausible approaches
- CI's have strong international track records
- present excellent progress reports on previous grants

understanding grant schemes

- once you have located a funding source, educate yourself about the scheme
- make sure the scheme provides what you need
- check the eligibility criteria
- know deadlines
- review before you submit: leave enough time for advice and comments by peers and colleagues
- find out what kinds of projects have been funded before
- find out about the pool of funds available and the average values of grant
- be aware of assessment criteria
- find out about assessment process, who will be reviewing and ranking your application?
- you may need to write your proposal for people who are not experts in your field

how do i find funding opportunities

- Newspapers advertisements
- Subscribe to newsletters
- Memberships of associations/societies
- talk to research colleagues
- Research Office
- DEST Australian Competitive Register
- Search funding opportunities databases

where to start as a new researcher – the typical

- internal funding schemes
 - external funding
- develop research projects and research profile

ARC Research Fellowships

- Discovery projects
 - APD – Aust Postdoc Fellowship
 - ARF/QEII Aust research fellowship
 - Aust Professional Fellowship
 - federation fellowship
 - you can request funding as a research associate
 - if you already have a salary you can apply as CI
- linkage projects
 - aust postdoc fellowship – APDI
 - you can request funding as a research associate
 - if you already have a salary you can apply as CI
- Linkage international fellows – ARCIF } no other salary funding – only fellowship

Aust Post-doctoral fellowship

- within 3 years of award of their phd or who are about to submit
- provides funding for
 - salary and on-costs [3yrs 100% research OR 4 yrs 75% research/25% teachign and
 - project costs –equipment, maintenance, travel, etc

Early career Researchers

- within 5 years of award
- only recognized under the discovery projects
- the arc identified a target level of funding within DP for ECR only proposals