



ERC Grants

Writing Successful ERC proposals

The 2015 calls for ERC Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants were published in October and November of this year. Deadlines for 2015 are: February 3rd for ERC Starting Grants and March 12th for ERC Consolidator Grants. In this workshop we will discuss the ERC and panel specifics for the scientific proposal and Principal Investigator, with specific focus on how to write an ERC StG/CoG proposal.

To address the selection criteria, the applicant should define an ambitious overall aim with a clear set of objectives/research questions and explain how and why the scientific approach proposed is suited to address the objectives. Depending on the scientific scope the evaluation panels have different focuses. Most panels are selecting projects validating a novel hypothesis, generating high quality data and leading to fundamental insight into mechanisms and material and thereby contributing significantly to new knowledge. Other panels are selecting projects leading to a new theory, device or methodology valuable for different applications. In this workshop we will examine novelty, groundbreaking and impact related to the topic, concept and scientific approach, taking into account the panel specifics and the research field.

We will address project specific issues, like high-gain/high risk and feasibility and their interpretation by the different panels. We will look at the key steps in the proposal preparation and address questions such as: Have you thought about alternative approaches or mitigation plans? How can you convince the reviewer of the feasibility? Aspects of feasibility like clear project structure, intermediary goals, time schedules, contingency plans will be discussed.

We will also discuss the panel specifics concerning the quality of the CVs and track-record of selected PI's. What is the norm per panel and what does this mean for the CVs of the participants planning to submit under H2020? What "actions" do participants have to highlight or undertake, to bring their CV in line with the expectations of the selected panel?

1. Training objectives

- To provide researchers with a good understanding of:
- the evaluation criteria and how to analyze them;
 - an excellent PI according to the reviewers of the different domains;
 - how to write a high-risk/high-gain research proposal considering panel specifics and type of project.

2. Who should attend?

The workshop will be of value for applicants who want to submit a StG or CoG proposal under the ERC calls of H2020. Depending on the scientific backgrounds of the participants we will highlight domain specific issues.

3. Methodology

The seminar will be in English, with no translation. The trainer(s) provide practical information and discuss the requested information, the evaluation criteria and the best strategy for drafting the proposal with the participants. The workshop is highly interactive and includes discussions to promote exchange of views between participants and trainer(s).

Each participant is entitled to a hardcopy of the course material, which consists of a detailed guide to help researchers with their submission. It also includes a copy of the presentation. The course material covers in depth background information on the topics listed in the programme below.

Beside this print out of the course material extensive background material will be made available with regard to the overview of the selected projects per panel per year as well as the overview of the panel members per year.

4. Trainer

Lotte Jaspers of Yellow Research has extensive experience in running ERC workshops and in pre-submission review of ERC Grants. Yellow Research has successfully trained candidates for writing ERC proposals since the second call of FP7. Our knowledge and experience in pre-submission review of ERC proposals is an important aspect of our success in this training.

5. Programme

9:00	ERC grants in a nutshell
Part I	Evaluation procedure of ERC grants
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
Part II	Scientific Proposal Objectives, state-of-the-art, methodology, resources and approaches addressing novelty, originality, creativity and utility of the project will be discussed. In addition, we will address: 1) novel and groundbreaking aspects 2) the high gain and high risk balance and the link to feasibility 3) the envisioned impact on future research and possibilities of utility 4) methodology description 5) project plan and structure with intermediate goals and back-up plans and 6) how to match the evaluation criteria with the project template
Part III	Extended synopsis The extended synopsis is a 5 page summary of the Scientific Proposal with an emphasis on the ground breaking nature and feasibility of the proposal and how the outcomes of the research will impact further research.
14:00 – 14:45	LUNCH
Part IV	Principal investigator The key elements for Curriculum Vitae including Funding ID, Early Achievement Track Record and assessment of career achievements.
16.30	End of course

6. Date, Location, Contact

Dates	Thursday December 4, 2014
Time	9.00 – 16.30 hrs
Contact	sara.alfonso@madrimasd.org