

Provisional title:

FROM RESEARCH IDEAS TO WINNING GRANT PROPOSALS: A WORKSHOP

Becoming a scientist does not only entail conducting research, approaching new problems, looking for solutions, and making discoveries. Another aspect is unfortunately much more mundane and bureaucratic - after all the funding for your project does not come from nowhere. One has to apply for support and convince a particular agency to grant the funds. But how is it done so successfully?

This workshop is an opportunity to look at grant writing from a broader and more complex perspective, not only at its technical aspects (how to identify, develop, and submit a proposal) but also at the enormity of possibilities that it gives you (facilitating research, building scientific independence, enhancing your employability) - either from being among the winners or from experiencing a refusal of funding.

Module 1 – The DNA of a grant proposal

[1 hr]

This module is intended to be quite interactive with audience participation encouraged. It will start with questions about the actual knowledge of the gender of the grant proposal, its structure, aim, and importance.

The main objective is to describe in two parts what a winning grant application looks like:

- a) The skeleton of a grant application and a description of its essential components (subject, objectives, state of the art, work plan, novelty, impact, etc.)
- b) An overview of the key questions behind each grant proposal.

Here we will introduce two concepts which will be our keywords for the workshop (and we will discuss - why those?): PRESENTATION and JUSTIFICATION.

Module 2 – The CV trajectory

[30 min]

The goal of this module is to look at one's CV from a career-oriented perspective in which grants are a necessary part of one's scientific path.

Ideally one project leads to another, the results turn out to be ground-breaking, our research becomes internationally recognized by others, and we always know what (where and how) our next step will be. What if this is not the case (and it usually isn't)? What should we keep in mind when things do not exactly go according to plan? How can we build our scientific futures?

Coffee break

[30 min]

Module 3 – Funding institutions, scientific partners, and supervisors

[1 hour]

The aim of this module is to highlight the importance in writing a winning grant proposal (and in a broader sense for future careers) of carefully observing the nature and purposes of the funding institutions to whom we are applying.

This part will include key information on current major national and international grant offers for doctoral students and postdocs (such as: PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA, MINIATURA from NCN; Iwanowska, Bekker, Ulam programmes from NAWA).

Advice will also be given on identifying the right institution and the right partners/supervisors.

Module 4 – Looking for qualified help

[30 min]

Applying for grants is not an easy job. While for a few it can be quite a motivating and energizing task, for others it is usually a stressful and exhausting undertaking.

There are special units, institutions, foundations and people who offer their help for researchers applying for grants. Knowing about their existence and asking for their support will not only increase your chances of winning, but can also turn the application process into quite a great experience.

During this module we will present some of these resources and provide tips on how to look for extra help.