



University of Crete
FACULTY OF MEDICINE



The art of writing grants

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Use grant writing to:

- **Organize data and come up with ideas for future investments**
- **Communicate the science and brainstorm with lab members**
- **Actively engage lab members in the process (great training)**
- **Get feedback**

Successful Grant Proposal Tips

- Clear hypothesis
- Clear Goals
- Specific and feasible deliverables
- Impact/significance
- Innovation (beyond-the-state-of-the-art)

More tips (non scientific ones...)

- Read the call very carefully !!!!
- Make sure your application is directed to the right call and thematic area
- Put yourself in the position of the reviewer...
- Do not get carried away trying to explain how you got to this point....
- Devise a story and present it as it makes sense, not necessarily in a linear or historic fashion....

Introduction

The introduction is a succinct outline of the project, including time-frame and goals.

- Ideally, this is the hook that **engages** your readers.
- You need to clearly explain here the **aims** of your study and in a short phrase say WHY it is important....

Background/Context

Provide some context for the project and the work that led the field to this point....

- This is your chance to demonstrate how your project ties in with the research in the general domain
- References are important here as they demonstrate your knowledge of the field
- It should be clear what are the **open questions** in the field that your proposal aims to elucidate
- In other words, what is the **added value** or as the jargon goes... **beyond the state-of-the-art...**

Problem /AIMS

Identify the problem the project will address and resolve. Include the time-line of the project and any other pertinent details.

Methodology

- Present the scope of the project as the solution to the problem.
- If possible, anticipate any objections, and address these issues in your overall plan
- Feasibility issues: take care to design your project so that its output can be realistic and not too ambitious
- Here you should be clear about the methodological approach, the sample, statistics, etc
- You should mention the particular equipment to be used, if pertinent
- You should explain that your institution has the necessary means (equipment, administration, etc) to help you carry the project

Work Packages: objectives, description of work, tasks, deliverables, milestones.

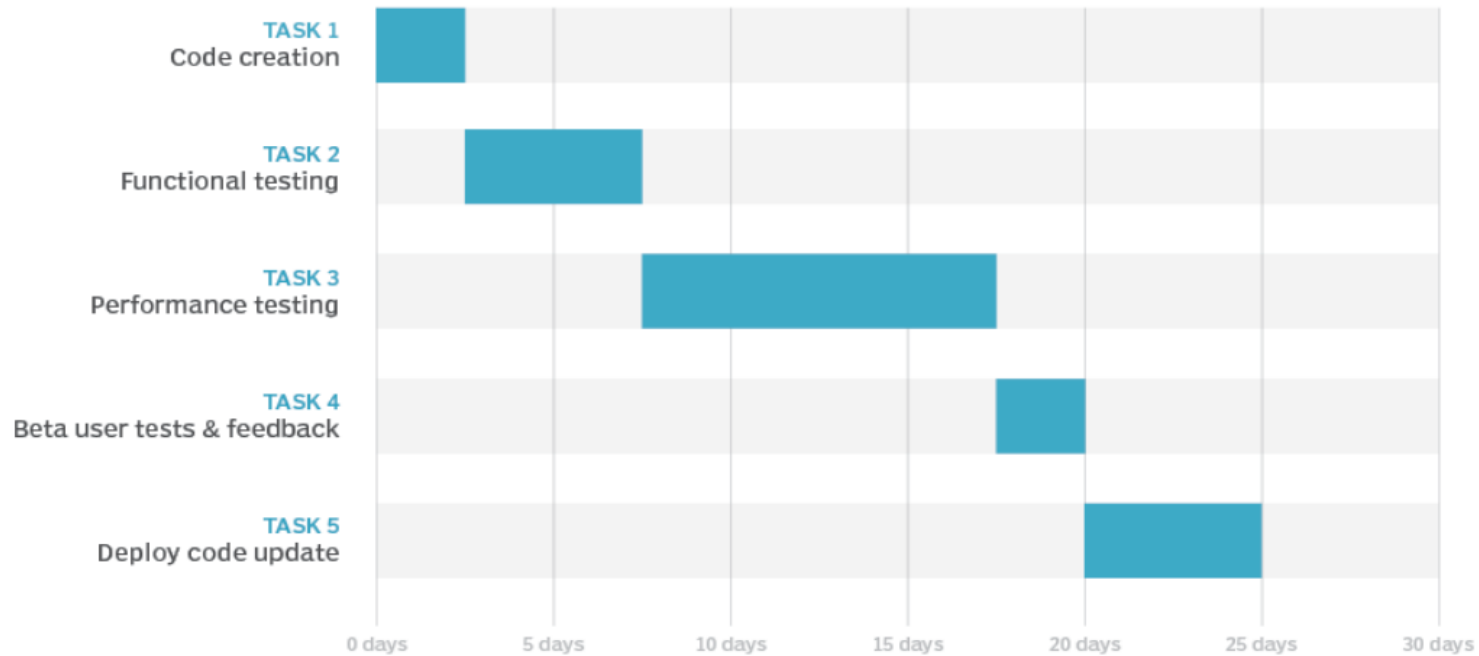
Should be succinct and no more than 1 page per WP

Deliverables: report, data, publications, conference presentations
Public or restricted...indicate time to be delivered....

Milestones: A milestone is a **specific point within a project's life cycle used to measure the progress toward the ultimate goal.**
Milestones are used as signal posts for a project's start or end date, external reviews or input, budget checks, submission of a major deliverable, etc.

SWOT analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats or otherwise

Gantt chart



Benefits: efficiency, teamwork, tracking, versatility, *visual*

Limitations: lack of dependencies, quantity of work

Presentation of the **research team**

Explain the **expertise** of the group

Explain **how/why each member is assigned to a particular t**

Budget

Need to justify your needs and be realistic!

A Winning Tone

- The tone of your project proposal is a crucial element of the document.
- You want your readers to be able to relate to your message and get on board, so **engagement** will be the key.
- Above all, you want to establish yourself as an expert with the experience necessary to launch and see the project through to fruition.
- Be careful not to come across as condescending though, especially for other people's work....
- Your proposal should be able to answer your evaluator's question of why this work is important and necessary....

There are definitely **a few things to avoid** when writing your proposal:

- Writing a project proposal can be a competitive endeavor.
- Make sure your proposal hits the target by avoiding a few common pitfalls.
 - Never submit a generic proposal without specific details
 - Keep your proposal **succinct** and as brief as possible.
Provide the required details directly without excess fluff.
 - Proofread your proposal carefully to make sure it's free of typos and errors.
Even small errors give the reader/evaluator the impression of carelessness...

INFORMATIVE TITLE

Proposal's Category	II
Proposal's Title	MOLECULAR AND FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF <i>in vivo</i> MODELS OF DECREASED INHIBITION IN THE MOUSE CEREBRAL CORTEX
Proposal's Acronym	INTER_RAC
Scientific Area	LIFE SCIENCES
Scientific Field 1	Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
Scientific Field 2	Neurobiology
Project's Duration (in months)	24
Total Budget (€)	199,840 Euros
Principal Investigator (PI)	Domna Karagogeos
Host Institution	FORTH
List of Cooperative Organization(s) <i>(if applicable)</i>	BSRC Alexander Fleming

What in my view made this proposal successful

- Significant question, preliminary data, step forward
- State-of-the-art approach
- Clarity in objectives and value added
- Good research team with proven competence and related publications
- Choice of institutions

SAME PRINCIPLES OF GRANT WRITING APPLY TO FELLOWSHIPS

ONASSIS

BODOSAKI

Πολλά κληροδοτήματα (ανά περιοχή καταγωγής συνήθως...)

Πολλές ευκαιρίες για ανταλλαγές

Erasmus+

FENS (NENS), IBRO

Εμπειρίκιον Ιδρυμα <http://www.empirikion.gr/>

- **Basic research –all scientific domains**

- National: ΕΛΙΔΕΚ

- Marie Curie Actions (Individual fellowships, Training Networks, very competitive <10% success rate)

- European Research Council grants (very competitive, self-selection, ~ 15% success rate)

- Human Frontier Science Program Grants (super competitive, ~ 3% success rate)

- Foundation Santé

- National Institutes of Health (NIH) –very competitive <10% success rate

- EMBO Young Investigator Program

- **Applied research –more funding opportunities**

- National: Ερευνώ-Καινοτομώ, Εμβληματικές δράσεις,

- European Innovation Council (very competitive, < 10% success rate)

- The majority of European Commission calls welcome applied research and industrial partners

- Major companies also offer funding for specific subjects

- Disease oriented private foundations (e.g. National Soc for MS, UK MS, ARSEP, ELA, Simon's Foundation, Michael J. Fox Foundation, Alzheimer's Foundation etc.)

Postdoctoral fellowships

- IKY
- Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation
- AXA Post-doctoral Fellowships
- Fondation Sante
- EMBO Long-Term Fellowships
- FEBS Long-Term Fellowship
(possibilities for summer fellowship,
follow up research fund and Long-Term
and Return-to-Europe Fellowships)
- FENS (NENS) 3 month stays within Europe

Postdoctoral fellowships

- HFSP Long-Term Fellowships
- MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE Actions
- Welcome Trust Sir Henry Welcome Postdoctoral Fellowship (for early post-docs based in the UK)
- Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships for Canadian Citizens
- Canon Foundation –Research Fellowships (Japan and European exchange)
- Fondation de la recherche médicale
- Fondation Fyssen (postdoctoral fellowship for 2years, postdoc to be carried in France)
- German Research Foundation (DFG) –Research Fellowships
- SNF (early and advanced postdoc mobility–for people that had their PhD in Switzerland and want to go abroad)
- Royal Society Newton Fellowship (for non-UK early-stage scientists who wish to conduct research in the UK)
- FULLBRIGHT (for researchers, faculty members, possibly senior postdocs...)

Research Grants

- Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF): Translational and Clinical Research on Alzheimer's Disease
- Alzheimer's Research UK (UK only)
- Alzheimer's Society UK (UK only)
- BBSRC Bioscience for the future (UK only)
- Fondation Jérôme Lejeune (Genetic neurodevelopmental disorders)
- Fontation Sante
- Horizon Europe (the main funding instrument of the European Commission, multiple types of grants)
- Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation
- Human Frontier Science Program
- Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA): Human Biology Project
- March of dimes (work on development)
- MRC Medical Research Council (UK only)
- Brain and Behavior Research Foundation
- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), (Netherlands only)
- NIH international program
- Norwegian Research Council (RCN), (Norway only)
- NY Stem Cell Foundation
- Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
- Parkinson's U.K.
- Research Foundation Flanders FWO, (Belgium only)
- Royal Society Research Grant (For scientists in the UK who are at an early stage of their career and want to purchase specialised equipment and consumables)
- Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), (Turkey only)
- SFARI Simon Foundation Autism Research Initiative (both pilot and research award)
- US Army: US Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences BAA for Basic Research
- Wellcome trust (UK and oversea applicants)
- Wings for life (spinal cord injury)

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Από Γιώτα
Ποιράζη

<https://praxinetwork.gr/orizontas-evropi/>

HFRI (ΕΛΙΔΕΚ)

[HFRI Portal](#)

<https://portal.hfri.gr>

EU portal

If possible, find previously successful proposals for the call of interest (from colleagues, local grant's office) and study them carefully.

Attend online webinars with information about your call of interest (EC / PRAXI / National Contact points organize these regularly)

Experience the reviewer's side: evaluate other proposals yourself (those of colleagues, national / EU agencies –register on expert database)

THANK YOU!