

GRANT APPLICATION – POINTERS FOR APPLICANTS

When putting together an application for funding under any grant schemes, applicants need to read and consider carefully the application guidelines provided, and address all criteria on which the application will be assessed. The following questions should be considered when preparing an application to any research grants scheme:

- Have I/we answered the “**so what?**” question?
- Have I/we demonstrated the **significance** - intellectual, technological, scientific and strategic - of the research proposal?
- Have I/we clearly explained **why** I/we want **to do the research**; and why I am the best-qualified person (or we are the best people) to do it?
- Have I accounted for where this particular research proposal **fits in with what is known**, and also **where it is going to take us**?
- Have I/we shown how the **research plan links up with the clearly stated aims of the proposal**?
- Have I/we clearly detailed **how the research project will be conducted**, using information presentation tools such as timelines or flowcharts?
- Have I/we listed **potential research outcomes** (publications, conference papers, external grants, etc.)?
- Have I/we indicated how the project will **contribute to the profession**?

Whom are you writing for?

Make sure that your writing style is strategic and easy to understand (i.e., not filled with technical jargon and acronyms, unless these are explained):

- start with a clear statement of the research project;
- capture the reader’s imagination;
- explain what gap in current research your project is going to fill;
- most importantly - test your proposal on an ‘educated layperson’ – if it doesn’t make sense to them, you will need to re-write it until it does!

!!! GOOD LUCK !!!