

How to Write Winning Grant and Fellowship Proposals

Grant Writing for Graduate Students in Science

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Workshop Outline

Writing research proposals to secure grants and fellowships is widely considered as the most critical and important part in a research career by most graduate students. This grant proposal writing process, however, is an extremely challenging and difficult task for most students and young researchers. This mini-workshop will provide guidance to graduate students who are facing the challenge of writing grant proposals in the field of science. Discussion topics will include: the need for proposal writing, identification of projects that meet the requirements of the funding sources, and application of web resources for preparing successful proposals.

At the end of this workshop, participants will learn:

- the key steps involved in grant applications;
- the way to prepare an attractive and fundable grant application; and
- successful strategies, i.e., collaborative or single applications, choice of collaborators, and degree of innovation.

Through previously funded grant proposals and small group discussions among the participants, the workshop will provide insights and practical advice on two aspects of the scientific publishing process: how to choose the most appropriate funding source and to write the proposal in a style that impresses the funders (e.g., making effective graphics, presenting a remarkable research track record, and structuring a feasible work plan with a realistic budget).

About the workshop leader

Dr Rajan is working as an associate professor of marine science at the Swire Institute of Marine Science and School of Biological Sciences of HKU. He is also serving as Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning in the HKU's Faculty of Science. He is an interdisciplinary researcher and has been collaborating with more than 30 Hong Kong and overseas scientists specialized in ecology, engineering and biomedical science, which has given him cross-disciplinary research experience and has allowed him to publish more than 100 research articles in the past 15 years. As the principal investigator, he has achieved a 100% success rate for research grants from 2008-2016 and has been awarded six prestigious and highly competitive General Research Fund grants in a row. Notably, he has been regularly organizing and running research grant proposal writing workshops at departmental and faculty levels in the past several years.