



VALUING NATURE

Writing a successful research proposal

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International Summit

Writing a successful research proposal

The ingredients:

- Have a great idea!
- Read the call guidance
- Build a team
- Write for the reviewer
- Plan your impact
- Manage the proposal process



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Economic
and Social
Research Council



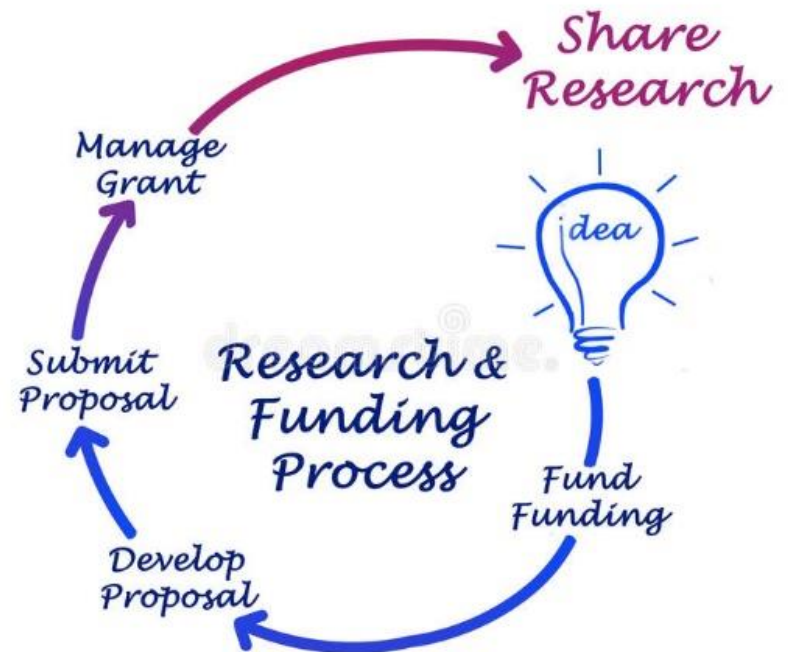
Arts and
Humanities
Research Council



Natural
Environment
Research Council

What makes a proposal fundable?

1. Asks an important question;
2. Offers a realistic chance of a solution within the stipulated timeframe;
3. Be led by someone who knows what they are doing.



Read the call guidance

- And read the call guidance again!



Build a team

- Skills & expertise
 - Academic partners
 - Project partners
 - Wider stakeholders
- Co-design the proposal together



Write for the reviewer

A well-structured proposal:

- Articulates the importance and goals of your research,
- How you plan to achieve those goals, and
- What you will do with the results.



The MRC Peer Review Process

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= DErve4a0IA>

Keep the reviewer engaged



Bored reviewer:



Engaged reviewer:

Proposal structure

- **Promise** - what is the research proposal aiming to do?
- **Importance** - why is it important and how will it advance the state of art.
- **Problem** - what is the specific problem or objective you want to address, or hypothesis you want to test? Break this down into one overarching problem with three sub-problems or objectives.
- **Implementation** - describe what activities you will undertake and the overall project.
- **Next** - what outcome will the results of your research lead to?

Grant writing resources

<https://parkerderrington.com/resources/>

Proposal structure

A clear, concise proposal:

- Does not use jargon,
 - Adhere to the font type and size
 - Use white space!
 - A picture tells a thousand words!
- Makes the job of a reviewer, or moderating review panel member, much easier.

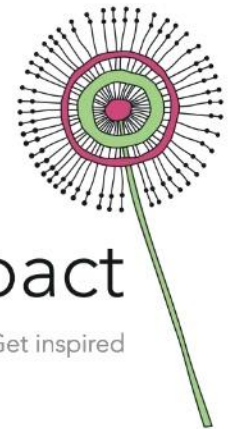


Engaged reviewer:

Research uptake & impact planning

Impact planning:

- Who will benefit from my research?
 - How will they benefit?
- Many tools to support impact planning



Fast Track Impact

Get more impact | Get your time back | Get inspired

DFID Research uptake guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514977/Research_uptake_guidance.pdf

Fast Track Impact resources

<https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/resources>

Development, Impact and You


<https://diytoolkit.org/tools/theory-of-change/>

Proposal management

Plan the proposal development:

- Proposal team kick off meeting
- Proposal checklist – who does what by when
- Regular team catch-up to monitor progress
- Plan to budget

Checklist

				
Project Reference		PI		
Client		BC		
Project Title				
Clarifications Due		Deadline		
Proposal Section	Owner	Completed	Reviewed	Finalised

Summary

- Devise a fundable proposal that fits the call
- Write with the reviewer in mind
- Consider any other requirements such as impact planning
- Manage the proposal development well
- Training and mentoring



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Thank you