Dos and don'ts for successful grant application

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PostDoc Funding

Exercise: Grant Proposal Review

Practical Advise and Recap

4 Steps to get detailed Insights…

Step 1 - Validate your Eligibility [1]

R4 - Leading Researcher (Researchers leading their research area or field)

R3 - Established Researcher (Researchers who have developed a level of independence)

R2 - Recognised Researcher (PhD holders or equivalent who are not yet fully independent)

R1 - First Stage Researcher (Up to the point of PhD)

International Scientific Community

[1] https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors

Step 2 - Find a suitable funding scheme [1]

https://personalwesen.univie.ac.at/en/jobs-recruiting/job-center/ **(AT; PP)**

https://grants.at/en/ **(AT; S)**

https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/fwf-programmes/esprit-programme **(AT; S)**

https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/service/fwf-job-market **(AT; PP)**

https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/ **(DE; S)**

https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships **(EU; S)**

https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search **(EU; PP)**
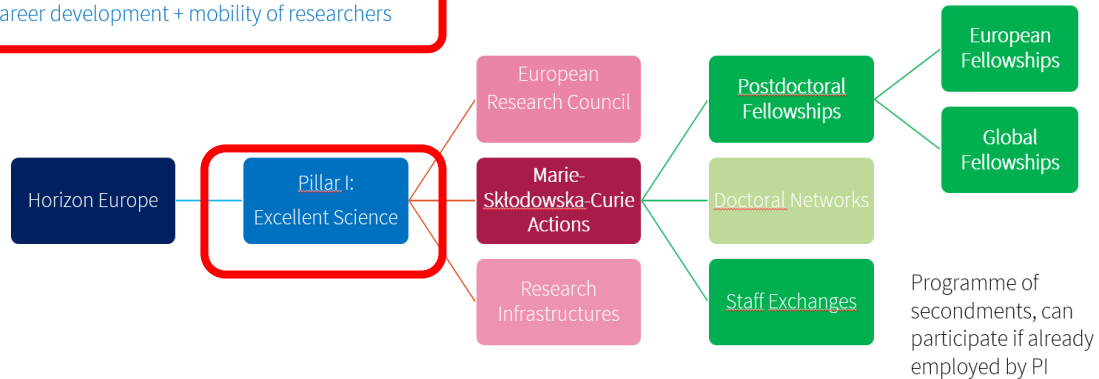
(1) S: Scholarship; PP: Project Position

Step 3 - Get the context of the scheme

Example: Marie Curie Actions [1]

Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) overview

Aim: support excellent research + training and career development + mobility of researchers

Apply for yourself with a supervisor

Programme of secondments, can participate if already employed by PI

(1) https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships

Step 4 - Follow the Guidelines (!!!)

Example: Marie Curie Actions

Horizon Europe Programme

Standard Application Form

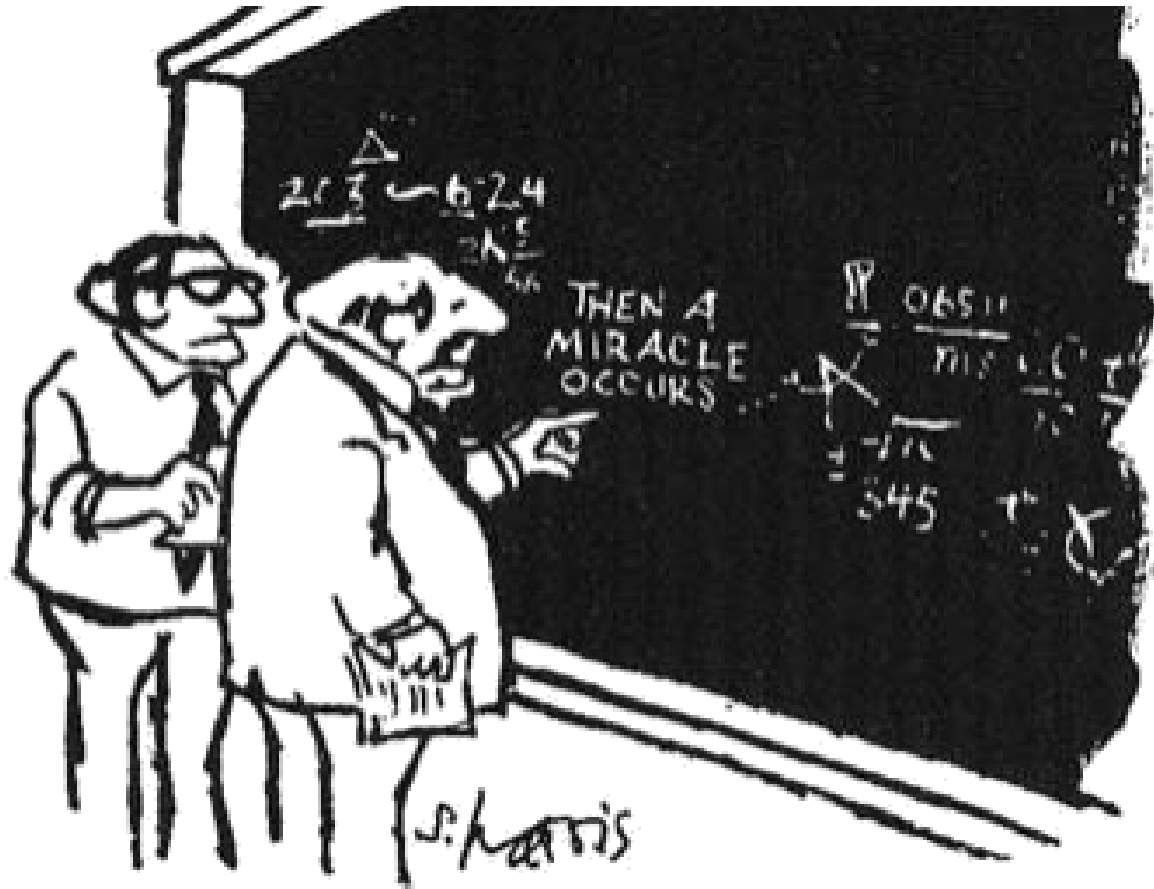Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions -
Postdoctoral Fellowships (HE MSCA PF)

Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)

Version 1.1
05 May 2022

Instructions, please remove

Further questions?
→ Get in touch with the national contact point and/or host institution (1)

(1) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp
UniVie: msca.fsnf@univie.ac.at | https://forschungsservice.univie.ac.at/en/funding/msca-pf/

Dos and don'ts for successful grant application

I think you should be more explicit here in step two...

Dos and don'ts for successful grant application

Aims of the Exercise

- **Read application (proposal/workplan/CV/institute description)**

- **No in-depth understanding neccessary**

- **Take notes on the main outstanding topics (next slide)**

- **Briefly discuss them in groups and present the most relevant pros/cons**

→ We will then compare your results to the offical reviewers comments (APPLICATION SUCCESSFULL?)

Aims of the Exercise

Whats your impression on...

- **Current State of Research?**

- **Research Questions?**

- **Originality & Relevance?**

- **Work Plan?**

- **Applicant?**

- **Scientific Environment?**

Evaluation 1. Current State of Research

R1: As for transnational intellectual and university history <u>she surely has</u>. As for migration history, there are <u>some deficiencies [...]</u>. Especially the theoretical and typological work by [...] (..., <u>2013</u>), [...] (..., <u>2009</u> and <u>2011</u>). As does [...] et al. <u>2011</u>.
Given the central questions and research design she will have <u>little trouble hooking up</u> with these new approaches.

R2: ...clearly has a tremendously <u>strong understanding of the relevant histories</u> along with a <u>real sense of the contribution</u> she will make to it. I am very <u>impressed with her control of the materials</u>.

Evaluation 2. Research Questions

R2: …*absolutely clear*. Even more importantly, there is a *genuine gap which will be filled* by Ms. XYZ's research

R1: *In general, yes*. But […] she could profit very much by *using new approaches and typologies*…

R3: Yes, these are all quite *clear and valid*.

Evaluation 3. Originality & Relevance (1)

R1: …_highly original_ research project and _fits very well in the new directions_ in migration history…

R1: …possibility to _link up with recent work_ on cultural industries […]. When _embedded in these new directions_ it has the potential to become _really cutting edge._

R2: …truly exciting research project, _bringing together_ the history of anthropology, the history of migration, …

R2: …will _greatly contribute to our understanding_ of the history of the behavioral sciences in general, and its transnational aspects in particular…

Evaluation **3. Originality & Relevance (2)**

R2: Having <u>myself worked on the transnational aspects</u> in the history of German anthropology [...], I am truly <u>excited about this innovative proposition</u>.

R3: ...<u>fits into current trends</u> in both the history of science as well as history more generally,

R3: <u>My only advice</u> [...] would be not to limit the study to a East-West exchange but to be aware of the broader circulation [...]

Evaluation 4. Work Plan

R1: <u>No problems here</u>, as far as I can judge.

R2: …project is <u>clearly articulated</u>, especially in regard to the various archival collections that need to be consulted […] fact that <u>some of those are not even open to the general scholarly public</u> is particularly exciting.

R3: Yes, I see <u>no problems</u> with the time line or the proposed methods.

Evaluation 5. Applicant

R2: *...brings a <u>strong set of experiences and expertise</u> to her research...*

R2 *...<u>excellent training</u> in [...], which is <u>essential to her success</u>...*

R2: *What shows [her] readiness most clearly, however, is her **research proposal**, which [...] shows <u>tremendous understanding of the stakes of her project</u>.*

R3: *Judging from the **quality of the proposal** she also has the ability to write up a high quality paper as well.*

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Evaluation 6. Scientific Environment

R1: _Excellent_ […], she could easily turn to the group […] at Vienna University, who have an _excellent track record_ …

R2: _I cannot think of a better constellation_ of scholars and institutional resources for this project.
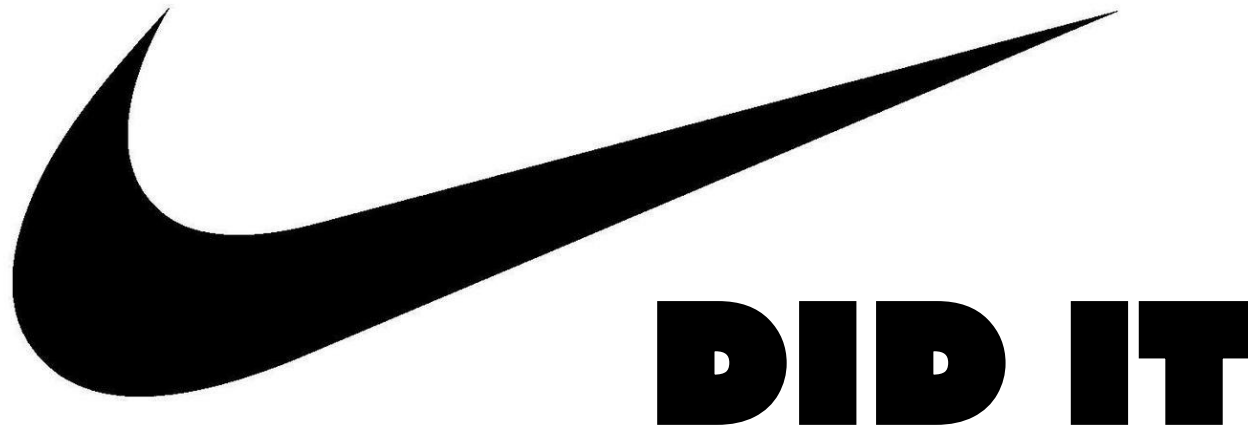
R3: _These are good choices_. Adding to them would not necessarily enhance the project.

Evaluation **7. Overall Evaluation**

R1: **I recommend _preferential acceptance_.**
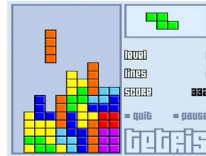
R2: **I recommend _preferential acceptance_.**

R3: **I recommend _preferential acceptance_**.
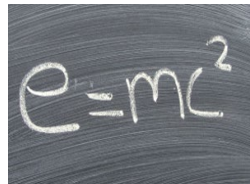
DID IT

Proposal (1)

Follow the Guidelines

Structure your Text

Show Project-Significance

Write: "Actively und Positively"

(1) also refer to the trainings of Prof. Melita Kovacevic and Ass.Prof. Kamila Borsekova!

Dos and don'ts for successful grant application

Application

"Total package" must be OK = No "side topics"

Aims of the funding scheme?
e.g. Impact on Science + Society + You(!)

Close collaboration with
supervisor(s) and host institution

Dos and don'ts for successful grant application

Various

Deadlines vs. Time Requirements

Highly competitive → Failure is an option

Listen to reviewer comments

(Inter-)national Review = Diplomacy

Thank you for your attention!