WQB Nov 2020

1. How much time does it take to prepare a grant proposal?

* 2.5 weeks of 8 hours a day
* Maybe 6 months if needed to work for a very good one
* Most PIs spend 4 weeks. Should be 6-8 weeks min for junior researchers.
* Depends on how prepared you are & if you’ve done a lot of reading & have a good idea
* 120 hours
* 1-ish month
* Forever
* 2 weeks
* 2 months
* 1 hour
* Months
* It’s typically correlated to the amount the grant is worth - more $ more time!

1. Is it okay to ask others for examples of their grants? (Poll)

* YES: 158 NO: 6

1. Who should I be asking to help write a grant?

* People who are good at writing (even if they haven’t got grants) to check clarity of doc
* Supervisor (x2)
* Your PI
* No
* PI, postdocs, senior students
* Supervisor, committee members, past winners, peers - all can help edit at the very least!
* Your advisor or any colleague who wish to contribute to the project
* Advisor, other grads, people who recently graduated, other mentors

1. How can you find grants that are outside the big “well-known” funders?

* Most universities have licenses to Pivot or other searchable databases
* Johns Hopkins University has a really good compilation of various pre/post doctoral grants
* Johns Hopkins website has big spreadsheets of grad and postdoc fellowships
* Grants mentioned at the end of papers and talks
* Ask colleagues. And scan twitter. I found twitter very helpful to find small grants
* Search within your niche research area (e.g. tons of autism societies fund students)
* Financial aid offices/ young PIs

1. Does a lit review for a grant application need to be comprehensive or can it just be an overview? (Poll?)

Overview: 59% Comprehensive: 41%

1. What are my options if my grant is rejected? Can I submit a revised version to another grant call?

* Yes
* Resubmission addressing the reviewers comments on the next cycle reach out the the PO
* Absolutely you can submit it again to different funding options, tweaked for that grant
* You absolutely can! I have done that before and one of my grants received the 2nd round
* You can resubmit but maybe make some changes
* Yes!
* Submit elsewhere with modification
* Yes submit to another
* Former program officer. Set up time to talk if agency allows. Helps reapplication
* Depends on funding agency - for NIH do a resubmission and talk with your PO on comments
* It depends on the grant. Some allow it others don't
* Depends on the scheme, but usually you can’t resubmit. But you can repurpose for another scheme.
* Yes
* Cry. Thats what I did. Then moved on to a different one.
* Probably can resubmit with more data in a different grant cycle
* Reuse, reduce, and recycle!
* I think so

1. How can you get over imposter syndrome around applying for competitive grants? I never know how to sell myself? Are there courses you can do?

* Trying to be honest
* Talk to program officer about fit to program prior to application if agency allows.
* Pretend you’re writing it for someone else!
* Know that grants are a lottery not a reflection of worth. You’ll never win if you don't take part!
* It took me not thinking of myself and only the science. Once I removed emotions and ego, that is.
* Have a friend/colleague read and edit your personal statement or CV!
* Apply multiple times b/c sometimes all it takes is a random factor to make/break it
* It definitely isn't fun getting rejected but sometimes grant reviewers give helpful feedback
* Taking a marketing class

1. As a grad student is it better to focus on a few small grants or one larger grant? (Poll?)

A few smaller: 69% One larger: 31%

* If you do the larger one you can take pieces of it and use for the smaller one

1. Where can I find out about potential costs besides my PI?

* No answers

1. Should you build in an extra margin for costs/inflation of some costs? (Yes/No Poll?) Why?

Yes: 32 No:1

1. What are different ways to explain a lack of literature behind your project?

* Understudied area because of lack of suitable data
* Your project is novel/innovative

1. Are there specific small grants you can apply for to do investigatory work? (Yes/No Poll?)

Yes: 18 No: 3

1. How could you phrase a conversation/email with a potential collaborator about applying for a grant?

* A Zoom/coffee meeting
* An email with a quick mention that you’re interested in this grant - then say you’d discuss this over coffee