

Parker Derrington Ltd

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One Day Research Grant Writing Workshop

Overview

The workshop is designed to start you working on an extremely efficient approach to writing a research project grant, such as a research council standard grant, that makes it possible to produce a case for support [in 2 weeks](#). The case for support is the central component of a grant application. All the rest of the information in the application should derive from the case for support.

If you have a fundable project in mind at the start of the workshop, you should have a rough draft of the skeleton of the case for support, in the form of [10 key sentences](#), by the end of the day. If you don't have a fundable project in mind at the start of the day you will practise the skills of writing the 10 key sentences with a dummy project.

Programme

10:00	Welcome and Coffee The grant-writing game
10:15	What makes a good grant application: why you need a magic formula.
11:30	The recipe
12:00	Putting together the ingredients:- sub-projects and key sentences 7-10.
13:00	Lunch
13:30	More ingredients:- key sentences 3-5.
14:00	More ingredients:- the perfect opening sentence.
14:45	Coffee
15:00	The final ingredients: key sentences 2 & 6.
15:30	Using Key sentences to structure a case for support.
16:00	Close

Preparation

There are three things you need to do to prepare for the workshop.

- It is essential for several of the exercises that you come prepared to talk about a research project. Ideally this will be a project for which you intend to write a grant application. If you don't have such a project you can use a piece of research that you have already or one that somebody else has already won support for.
- Be prepared to participate actively in discussions.
- Be prepared to write. There will be some writing exercises. How you write is immaterial. The important thing is that you are prepared to write, whether it be on a tablet, a laptop or on paper. Grant-writing skill depends on practice. An important aspect of the workshop is that it offers you the opportunity to practise some of the relevant writing skills.

Presenter



Andrew Derrington has in-depth experience of the research funding process. He obtained his first research grant, a Beit Memorial Fellowship for Medical Research, while he was writing his PhD. His research was continuously funded by fellowships, project and programme grants for the next 30 years. He served on research grant committees for The Science and Engineering Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust. His book, [The Research Funding Toolkit](#), which he co-wrote with Jacqueline Aldridge, research manager at Kent Business School, is the definitive guide to grant writing for early career academics and research professionals. It is based on Andrew's analysis of how grants committees make funding decisions.

Andrew has worked in eight Universities including two in the world top ten. He has led a School of Biology in a Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering. He has been Dean of a Faculty of Social Sciences and Pro Vice Chancellor of a Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Andrew has also worked as a journalist. Over several years he wrote two successful columns in the Financial Times. *The Nature of Things* covered science – from astrophysics to zoology. *Psych Yourself Up* was a guide to the different psychotherapies available in the UK.

Testimonials

Andrew blends easy authority and extensive experience with humour and approachability. The result is a workshop full of practical, memorable advice on how to compete more successfully for research funding.

Professor Peter Clegg, Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease, University of Liverpool

I attended one of Andrew's workshops when I was a senior lecturer. The hands on advice about how to structure my applications in a really appealing fashion enabled me to win a grant of nearly £600K the next year. I still implement the advice that I received in that workshop, and pass it down to junior colleagues. I find that Andrew's advice has a high success rate!

Prof Theresa Gannon, University of Kent

I still use the tips you gave me for my successful Wellcome SRF application. Your advice on "12 key sentences" is spot-on and helps people focus on the aspects of the proposal that are critical to success instead of getting bogged down in reams of text.

Prof Mark Baxter, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Andrew's grant-writing workshops teach you how to convince the world that it needs your research. They are the most useful training events I have ever attended. His advice about how to sell the big idea without compromising on the science was critical to the success of our £9.3 million ESRC application.

Prof Julian Pine, University of Liverpool

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