Core Skills For Scientists

Introduction to Grant Writing

Course Synopsis

This course is an introductory course to grant writing. It covers a typical grant call, and a specific one. Concerns of the grant reviewers and grant providers are highlighted through the systematic analysis of both the grant application document - in particular the grant title and abstract - and the written instructions given by the grantor to its grant reviewers. The course exposes the main reasons for grant rejection or grant award based on the study of past grant applications. It covers the process of grant preparation, grant evaluation and grant writing.

Career Opportunities

Grant writing skills lead to better patent writing, better research partnerships and better funded research. Clarity in grant writing bears witness to the quality of a researcher and of his/her organisation; it naturally influences career promotion.

Target Participants

Researchers interested in getting familiar with the process of grant writing, for public funding, for internal project funding, or for industry-funded partnership.
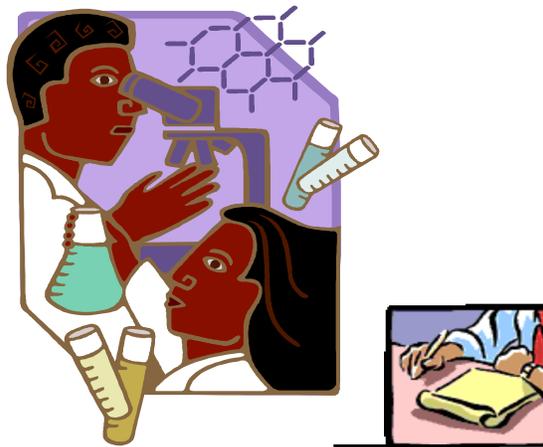
Course structure

Module 1: Grant terms; The human side of grants, namely the grant team and the grant sponsor; and the constraints faced by the applicant: time, money, environment, and knowledge, and by the topic:
Module 2: Understanding the grantor and the reviewers' concerns (novelty, appropriateness, feasibility) by analyzing a grant call, and identifying which grant information the reviewer uses to fill in the evaluation form.
Module 3: Analyzing a model grant, and in particular a typical abstract and title.

Mode of Assessment

Each participant uses the A*STAR provided, or downloaded grant application form, analyses it, and annotates it to highlight the expectations of the people issuing the grant call.

Duration

One day

Class prerequisite

Each participant should visit the "Grant Calls" page in the funding agency website and download a grant form of interest.

Class Size

From 20 to 36 participants

Your Trainer

Jean-Luc Lebrun has managed research programs while working at Apple Computer in its Advanced Technology Research group for over ten years. He subsequently invested his energy in the commercialisation of research at Kent Ridge Digital Labs, a Singapore-based IT lab.
For the past ten years, he has been conducting courses for A*Star* on grant writing, scientific writing, scientific presentation, grant writing and pitching science to the public.

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