

2nd Athena Swan Career Development Workshop: Thinking about applying for a research/teaching fellowship?

Session I: Application Tips & Support Opportunities

Fellowship Applications:
General tips and specific advice for non-clinical academics

Division of Medicine
13th January 2015 @ 2.00pm
2nd floor Seminar Room, Rayne Building



Independent Fellowships

'Research idea into a Fellowship with a good chance of being funded'

- Stepping stones for an early career researcher keen to become an academic
- Prestigious awards highly competitive
- Researchers with potential or outstanding researchers
- Specific for a particular stage of your career (from PhD)
 - Depending on scheme:
 - ✓ Post-doctoral, Foundation, Early or Immediate Fellowships
 - ✓ Career progression, development or Intermediate Fellowships
 - ✓ Senior Fellowships
- Establish independent research career



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The Criteria for most Fellowships include assessment of 4Ps:

- The Candidate
 - Potential, and track record (grants and papers)
- The Research (Excellence, Concept, Ambition & Impact)
 - How good is it (Science) and is it exciting (Novel)
 - Training aspects (What will you learn?)
 - Likelihood of success/relevance (SMARTA)
- The Environment (Best and most appropriate)
 - The Institute and group (Research, education and career development)
 - Sponsor/supervisor
- Pathway to establish independence
 - Institute support



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Key points to consider

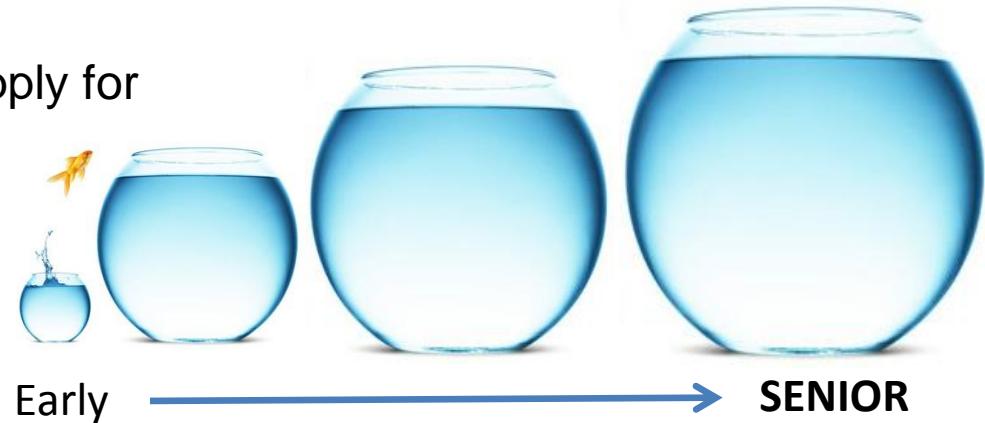
'A Fellowship is for YOU - this time it is personal'

- Think of an idea and formulate your Fellowship

- Literature, meetings and symposia
- Discuss ideas with trusted experienced colleagues
- Preliminary Data (a strength)
- Hypothesis- Aware of the strengths and weaknesses
- Risk management



- Identify the correct Fellowship to apply for
- Check eligibility requirements
- Opportunity for progression



Important areas to think about

'Questions you should consider and try to answer about you and the research environment'

- Why are you the best person for the work?
- Why should support be invested into your career?
- How will the fellowship transform you into a world leader?
- Have you chosen the best Sponsor/Supervisor and why?
- Have you chosen the best Host Organisation and why?



The Application

‘ Why should it be funded?’

- Is your idea - interesting, feasible, or topical and if so why?
- Has a hypothesis and clear objectives
- Often require an abstract and/or research summary – these can be key!
- Strong and persuasive preliminary data
- Realistic aims, feasible and with sensible time-lines
- Strong statement and career plan
- Describe the nature and input from collaborators
- Use schematics to provide overview and context

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Final thoughts

'A fellowship should be an Adventure'

- It takes time to write a Fellowship
- Ideas likely to evolve over time
- Look at successful proposals/Committee members
- Accept advice and criticism positively
- Assemble the expertise (The 'World leader')
- A must to have several mock interviews/presentations
- Collaborate Internationally
- Broaden your Horizons
- Spend some time abroad to acquire expertise and techniques



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You will find 'Grant writing without failure ' under fiction