Writing targeted grant proposals

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Aiming for…

Your interest

Their interest

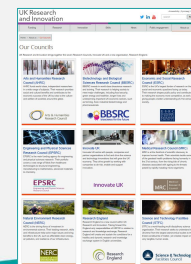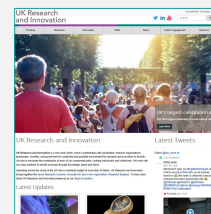… the perfect fit.

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Q1 Who gives money away?

Government funded research bodies

UKRI

- Formed April 2018

- Brings together the research councils, Innovate UK and Research England

- Control ~£6 billion (2017-2020)

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Q1 Who gives money away?

Government funded research bodies
European Union
Companies
Charities
Professional bodies
Trusts
Individual philanthropists – some small – some huge
Crowd Funding

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Search facilities

www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk
www.researchconnect.co.uk

www.researchprofessional.com
www.researchresearch.com
info.researchprofessional.com/research-fortnight/

www.mendeley.com/funding   Elsevier Publishing Campus

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How are they realising these impact factors?

- Continued focus on sustainable R+I environment:
  ethics, integrity, reproducibility, careers and skills
- More focused, challenge-led and strategic calls
  e.g. GCRF, ISCF, E3, I3
- More funding calls lead by or including industry
- Focus on collaboration, interdisciplinary for novel solutions,
  working alongside stakeholders
- Sharing resources, data, infrastructure
- Short call deadlines
- Whole project lifecycle - it's not over until the impact is fully
  realised, evidenced and reported

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What is the range of grants?

Program grants	- Large, multi-year, multi-person, may even build you a building
Project grants	- Big, multi-year, multi-person
Research grants	- Normally one person, - Sometimes multi-year
Equipment grants work	- Top-up funding to support existing
Travel grants	- Help you get networking

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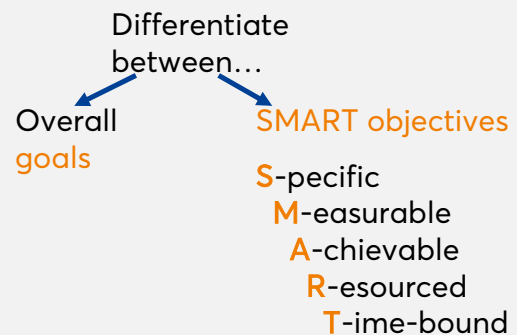## How can you get to know a grant awarding organisation?

Talk with them	- At meetings - In e-mails
Look at their website	- Currently funded work - Press releases - Lists of previously funded work - Annual reports
Talk with colleagues	- esp. if they have previous grant
Read acknowledgements	- Can give strong guide
Read online CVs	- Declare grants

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Differentiate between…

Overall goals

SMART objectives

S-pecific
M-easurable
A-chievable
R-esourced
T-ime-bound

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Try to distinguish between…

… SMART objectives that you will definitely meet, and

… SMART objectives that you will *also* meet if things go really well.

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Budgets

Make sure that items are linked to deliverables.

Make sure costs are real – reviewers are aware.

Make sure ask for enough – bidding low looks silly.

? Consider adding a contingency element (5-10%)

- But don't add a miscellaneous line

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item	setup	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Salary	£5,000	£45,000	£46,500	£47,750	
					£144,250
New kit A	£10,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
New kit B	£10,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
					£26,000
	£25,000	£47,000	£48,500	£49,750	£170,250

Things to consider in a budget

- Salaries (includes NICO + pension)
- Capital costs / Equipment / Consumables
- Research travel / Conference travel
- Training
- Publishing costs

- Full economic cost (indirect and state costs)
- Inflation
- Currency fluctuations / Bank charges

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Why have they asked for each section?

What do they want to discover?

Name: looking for track record

                  - papers, grants, qualifications etc

Dept: looking for reputation and support

                  - are you alone, or part of a team?

…its about reducing their risk.

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How much do they want to know about each issue?

Count: Characters

                Words

                Paragraphs

                        but also   References

                                        Figures - Graphs

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Memorable Title

- SMART
  - **S**omatotrophics, **M**emory, and **A**ging **R**esearch **T**rial

- TALC
  - **T**reatment of **A**dvanced **L**aryngeal **C**ancer study
  - **T**iotropium Bromide as an **A**lternative to Increased Inhaled Corticosteroid in Patients Inadequately Controlled on a **L**ower Dose of Inhaled **C**orticosteroid

- COMPASS
  - Effects of **C**ombination **O**f bosentan and sildenafil versus sildenafil **M**onotherapy on morbidity and mortality in symptomatic **PA**tient**S** with pulmonary arterial hyperten**S**ion

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Memorable Title

Colons : can create a 'handle'

Malaria mesh size: a multi-centre trial: investigating the effectiveness of different sizes of mesh in anti-malarial bednets.

Project titles: The sweet smell of success

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Map out the entire document

Create a step-tree

- looks like a mind-map
- but is driven by structure rather than content
- once you have the structure, you can fill in the content, mapping the entire document
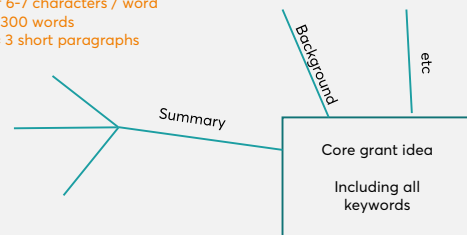
21

Summary

For example
2000 characters
'Wordcount' one of your docs to get your average character/word
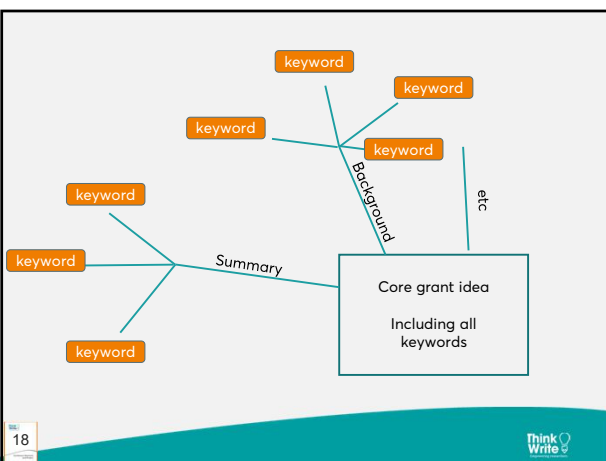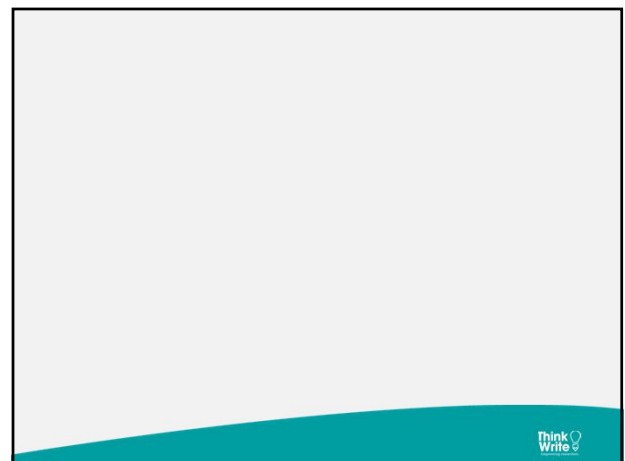If 6-7 characters / word
~300 words
= 3 short paragraphs

Background

etc

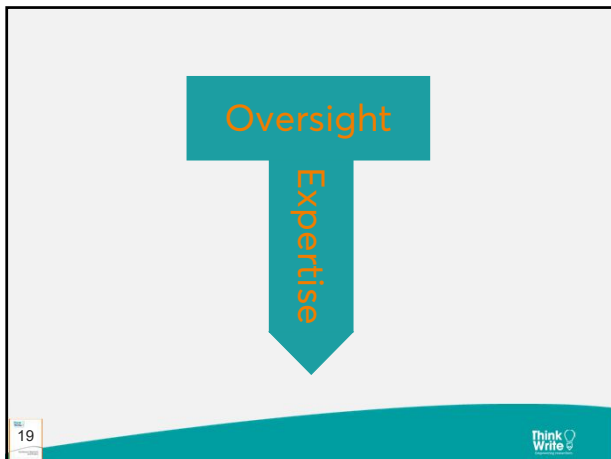Summary

Core grant idea

Including all keywords

22

keyword

keyword

keyword

keyword

keyword

keyword

keyword

Background

etc

Summary

Core grant idea

Including all keywords

23

24

Oversight / Expertise

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Staff / Team / Institution

- Are internationally renowned staff available to help / advise?
- What constellations of expertise do you have that no one else shares?
- Is there expert or technical support on hand?
- Does your institution have a track record of success in this area?

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Matched or in-kind funding

- Show how their money can go further in your hands
- Have you negotiated free time on a machine?
- Is there expert or technical support that you can call on at no cost?
- Is a company prepared to sponsor some part of the work if you get the core funding?

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Bibliographic track record

It is your job to show just how successful you have been in the past:
- Papers
- Citations of those papers
- Compare with others in the field

- Conference presentations
- Letters to journals
- Etc.

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Dissemination activities

- Papers
- Conference presentations / posters
  - Make this a deliverable that needs funds
- Seminars / Workshops / conferences
- Website - Podcast

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Letters of support

- You may need to draft them
  - But the named person needs to sign them

- Make sure it refers exactly to this project, and address the letter to the review panel for this application. Don't make it look generic.

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The importance of a plain English summary

NIHR 'make it clear'

« Go back

Plain English summaries in NIHR funded research

INVOLVE has been leading on work with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Programmes, the Research Design Service (RDS) and others to review plain English summaries in NIHR funding applications.

A plain English summary is a clear explanation of your research. Many reviewers use this summary to inform their review of your funding application. They include clinicians and researchers who do not have specialist knowledge of your field as well as members of the public. If your application for funding is successful, the summary will be used on National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and other websites.

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Don't forget - there are three parties in this relationship…

Your interest

Their interest

… remember that the grant will be made out to your Institution.

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Who is on your grant-writing team?

- Mentor
- Finance office
- Other researchers
  - Bounce ideas off
  - Show drafts
  - Read their successful applications
- Head of Department/School
- …

Role	Name	email	Tel	Time needed

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