

CRF tips

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Outline

- General tips for grant-writing
 - Specific experiences in undertaking the CRF proposal
 - CRF presentation tips
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General Grant-Writing Tips

1. Clearly state the hypotheses.
 2. Mention theory and practice.
 3. Write for both specialists and non-specialists.
 4. Underscore your qualifications for writing this proposal.
 5. Perfect your work.
 6. Learn and grow.
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1. Clearly state the hypothesis/hypotheses.

- Be as explicit as you can.
 - Try NEVER to talk about “exploring.”
 - Alternatively, compare 2 major (opposite) theories.
 - Expected findings should be quite clear.
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2. Whenever possible, link your proposal to both theory and practice.

- Consider both “scientific/scholarly merit” and “societal relevance/relevancy to Hong Kong”
 - Mark these: “Theoretically, this study will _” “Practically, this research can _”
 - If there is a “Chinese angle,” make sure you have considered it.
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3. Write (simultaneously) for both specialists and non-specialists.

- Reviewers will be from Hong Kong and around the world.
 - Ensure that your abstract is easy to understand.
 - Incorporate critiques
 - Be extra careful in the interdisciplinary realm
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4. Underscore your qualifications to undertake this proposal.

- Cite yourself or your CIs in the literature review.
 - Ensure that your short c.v. highlights your links to this particular area.
 - Previous grants, pilot testing, papers?
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5. Perfect your work. Give yourself time to revise it separately from the writing process itself.

Hayes/Flower (1980) model of writing in 3 stages:

- Plan
- Write (short time!
Interdisciplinary=hard!)
- Edit



5. Perfect your work (continued). Some of the many “double-checks” you should make include:

- Establishing that everyone who should/could be cited has been included
 - Ensuring your budgeting is well-justified
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5. Perfect your work. Some of the many “double-checks” you should make include:

- Ensuring that the timeline for the proposal is reasonable.
 - Detailing plans for data analyses
 - Making sure the formatting and word limits are adhered to
 - Planning for ethics approval early
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6. Learn and grow.

Remember that the more you try, the more you will both succeed and fail.

Accept critiques with thoughtfulness and resilience.

More specific CRF tips

- Assessment/selection criteria of the proposal
 - Why should you go for a CRF?
 - Powerpoint checklist
 - Surprises along the way
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Revised assessment procedure (RGC, December, 2013)

- ❑ 3 groups: Biology and medicine; Business, humanities and social science; Physical sciences and engineering
 - ❑ Single or cross-disciplinary teams of reviewers
 - ❑ Evaluations of technical and management sides for Central Board to finalize funding
 - ❑ Evaluations based on scoring but also applied vs. theoretical and other strategic considerations
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Selection criteria (previous but likely still applicable):

- ❑ Academic merits and scientific content
 - ❑ Long-term goal of the proposal and its potential to develop into an area of strength
 - ❑ Opportunities for effective synergy among the participating researchers, research groups, and institutions
 - ❑ Viability of the proposal in terms of project management (including governance and deployment of resources)
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Other issues to consider

- Creative and out-of-the-box cross-disciplinary projects
 - Focus on RGC institutions
 - Is your team among the best in the world? Team track record
 - Associate Professor and above
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Why should you go for this one?

- ❑ Those that make it to the interview stage but are not funded may receive additional seed funding from the university in some institutions.
 - ❑ Interdisciplinary research tends to yield stronger findings with more potential over time.
 - ❑ Prestige and potential for additional funding
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Checklist for powerpoint presentation

- Interdisciplinary/comprehensive?
- Record of collaboration?
- Clear/detailed work plan?
- Supplementary slides?
- Practically possible?
- What indicates that you are the best?
- Practice for timing
- Strategy for which CI accompanies PI
- Practice answering difficult questions

Surprises along the way

- ❑ Interview included over 30 people
 - ❑ Specific questions I could not answer
 - ❑ Interview day lasts from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. or later
 - ❑ Amount requested is often cut, not always clear why
 - ❑ How money is divided across universities is dicey
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