

## **Title: Planning & Writing a 1 million €grant**

*For:* Junior PIs & postdocs – 12 MAX.

*Overview:* The course aims to address the issues which arise when we need to sit down and start writing a successful grant application for our research. How can we convince the funding agency to invest 1 million Euros in our project?

Brilliant and original scientific ideas are the first step but they also need to be shaped and structured. We need to take into account several additional components: how much money will we need? How will we organize the workplan? What happens if something is not going as expected? How will we disseminate our results to convince the community that our research is going in the right direction? Is there any commercial application of our results?

The course will offer theoretical lectures from experts in grant applications and management as well as a hands-on exercise in the form of writing a max. 4 page proposal. The proposal will be evaluated by a panel composed of the participants and four group leaders from the PRBB. Participants will have to defend their proposal in a short interview at the end of the course.

*Agenda:*

- First week, **19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009 – 468 SEM1, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>

14:00-14:15	Introduction – quick overview of the course
14:15-15:15	How to find the right funding opportunities (national, European, International) – Bruna Vives
15:15-15:45	BREAK
15:45-17:45	How to plan your proposal 1 – abstract & structure (catchy summary, clear objectives, state-of-the-art, relevance & originality, impact) Michela Bertero <i>Practical 1:</i> writing an abstract

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

14:00-16:00	How to plan your proposal 2 – implementation (time planning, risk assessment, budget, management, dissemination) Carne Buisan (Techforce) <i>Practical 2:</i> budget calculation, etc.
16:00-16:30	BREAK
16:30-17:30	How to use your results – Transfer of Knowledge Xavier Rubies
17:30-17:45	Summary and Instructions

- Second week, **23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

The participants are assigned a template to write a max. 4 page proposal on their own project. Deadline is on Friday morning at a fixed time. The proposals will be circulated to the evaluators and all the participants.

- Third week: **30<sup>th</sup> March 2009** - 1 full day evaluation seminar (6 hours) – **473.1 AULA, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

A panel including the 4 PIs (Luis Serrano, Ben Lehner, Mara Dierssen) from the PRBB and all the participants will evaluate the proposals based on: Scientific and Technological Excellence, Implementation & Impact. Each participant will have max 20 min to present the project and discuss it with the panel. Full instructions for the project preparation will be given on Day 1.

*Template*

## **TITLE & SUMMARY**

### **PROPOSAL**

(max. 4 pages – excluding pictures and tables –, 1 cm borders, 12pt Times New Roman)

1. The project
  - 1.1 Background & biological significance
  - 1.2 Description of the objectives and proposed work
2. Implementation
  - 2.1 Time planning
  - 2.2 Budget to be committed
  - 2.3 Dissemination & Exploitation of the results
3. Impact

The course will consist of three components:

1. Two half day seminars of combined theory and practice.
2. A practical exercise in project writing to be undertaken in the student's own time.
3. A follow up 1 day seminar for evaluation of students' project proposals.

All course participants are expected to commit to attending the whole course (ALL 3 seminars) and to writing and submitting a proposal for evaluation which they will prepare during the week between seminars 2 and 3. Participants should also be prepared to read all the proposals (max. 11) submitted by their colleagues, prior to attending the 3rd seminar to ensure that everyone gets maximum value from the evaluation session.