

Starting a Grant proposal: from idea to practice

Lake Como School of Advanced Studies, July 18-22, 2022

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The "Starting a Grant proposal" Lake Como Summer School will offer an interdisciplinary workshop for PhD students and early-stage researchers with the aim to explore how to write a successful grant proposal and to enhance interdisciplinary research.

Grant writing is a key requirement for research scientists. It is a complex task which requires skills to organize the workflow, a methodological approach to prioritize information, and writing experience that are all difficult to acquire during the course of the PhD program.

The school will provide insights about which aspects are usually more valued by reviewers and are essential to achieve high scores. Activities and lectures will cover all the steps necessary to convey a successful grant proposal, from conceptualization to writing. The interdisciplinary spirit of the Summer School is aimed at enhancing cooperation among researchers working indifferent fields of research. This will be a tremendous opportunity to create a network of researchers that may share knowledge and widen each other's perspective on how to approach grant writing. Our goal is to leverage the value of contamination between disciplines in the discovery of innovative tools and solutions. To this aim, the school will encourage the creation of small multi-disciplinary groups that will work in synergy to create innovative and interdisciplinary grant proposal ideas that will be evaluated at the end of the summer school. Established multidisciplinar speakers will share experiences and suggestions to understand how to nurture and strengthen a research proposal by opening our frontiers to other fields of research and that might enhance our probability of success. The starting point and common thread are the Bicocca Starting Grants projects funded by the University of Milano-Bicocca, which represent a practical example of cooperation among researchers from different backgrounds.

A final evaluation will give the possibility of achieving ECTS credits.



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Invited Speakers

Speakers

Prof. Giovanna Iannantuoni,

Rector – University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Prof. Guido Cavaletti,

Vice-Rector for Research, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Prof. Salvatore Torrisi,

Vice-Rector for Research Valorization and Technology Transfer, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Prof. Giuseppe Citerio,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Prof. Gianfranco Pacchioni,

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Prof. Chiara Gabbi,

Humanitas Medical Care, Milan (IT); Karolinska Institute, Stockholm (SE)

Andrea Riccio,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Chiara Casella,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Fiorenza de Micheli,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Balthasar Kenda,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Prof. William F. Martin,

University of Düsseldorf (DE)

Maria Cristina Mangano, IMEDEA, Islas Baleares (ES); Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Palermo (IT)

Andrea Orlandi,

Sapienza University of Rome, Rome (IT)

Prof. Hellas Cena,

Pro-Rector for Third Mission, University of Pavia, Pavia (IT)

Prof. Giuseppe Ristagno,

University of Milano, Milan (IT)

Prof. Massimo Grassi,

University of Padua, Padua (IT)

Antonia Bruno,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Paola Alberti,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Carlotta Lega,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Laura Vacchi, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Davide Maggioni, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Sara Giunti,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Emanuele Rezoagli,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Elena Lucchese,

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)

Simone Fontana,

Alessio Malacrida, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT)



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Organizing Committee

Scientific Direction:

Prof. Guido Cavaletti, MD, Vice Rector for Research, University of Milano-Bicocca.

Committee members:

Antonia Bruno, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Davide Maggioni, PhD University of Milano-Bicocca;

Paola Alberti, MD, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Carlotta Lega, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Sara Giunti, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Emanuele Rezoagli, MD, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Elena Lucchese, MS, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Laura Vacchi, Psy.D, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Simone Fontana, PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca;

Alessio Malacrida PhD, University of Milano-Bicocca.

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Programme

Monday, 18th July 2022 - afternoon

14.00-14.30 Welcome

14.30 – 15.00 Prof. Giovanna lannantuoni, Rector, University of Milano-Bicocca (IT)

15.00 – 15.45 Prof. Guido Cavaletti, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Milano-Bicocca (IT)

15.45 – 16.30 Prof. Salvatore Torrisi, Vice-Rector for Research Valorization and Technology Transfer, University of Milano-Bicocca (IT): How Useful is Science? The Societal Impact of Research

16.30 – 17.10 Coffee break

17.10 – 17.30 Prof. Giuseppe Citerio, University of Milano-Bicocca (IT): Where and how to publish your research

17.30 – 18.15 Prof. Gianfranco Pacchioni, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, University of Milano-Bicocca (IT): *The Overproduction of truth. Passion, competition, and integrity in modern science*

18.30 Aperitivo

Tuesday, 19th July 2022 – all day

One day about grantsmanship, from background to practice.

Chiara Gabbi

Humanitas Medical Care, Milan (IT); Karolinska Institute, Stockholm (SE).

9.30 – 10.15 Understanding the grant review process: writing for success

10.15 – 11.00 Background and Review of literature – Hypothesis – Aims

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.15 Preliminary Results – Study design – Methods

12.15 – 12.45 Potential Pitfalls and Alternative Strategies – Expected Outcomes – Future Directions

12.45 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00 - 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 15.15 Principal Investigator Profile and Team

15.15 – 15.45 Facilities and Infrastructures

15.45 – 16.00 *Discussion*

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.00 The budget and its Justification

17.00 – 17.45 Significance – Innovation – Relevance for the funding agency

17.45 – 18.00 Discussion and conclusion

Wednesday, 20th July 2022 – all day

EU project landscape – Special focus on ERC and MSCA – Digging into proposal template and project structure – Hands-on exercises.

Andrea Riccio, Chiara Casella, Fiorenza de Micheli & Balthasar Kenda Grant Office of the University of Milano-Bicocca (IT).

9.30 – 10.00 EU project landscape: Horizon Europe

10:00 – 10:30 Overview of the ERC programme

11.00 – 12.00 ERC very successful stories. William F. Martin, University of Düsseldorf (DE): Fifteen minutes of motivation: The many reasons why to write an ERC grant proposal, and why the reasons not to do it are unfounded

(online talk)

12.00 – 13.00 Exercise session: finding calls (practice)

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 16.00 Proposal structure: Excellence – Impact – Implementation (theory and practice) part 1

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00 Proposal structure: Excellence – Impact – Implementation (theory and practice) part 2

Thursday, 21st July 2022 – all day

EU project landscape – Special focus on ERC and MSCA – Digging into proposal template and project structure – Hands-on exercises.

Andrea Riccio, Chiara Casella, Fiorenza de Micheli & Balthasar Kenda Grant Office of the University of Milano-Bicocca (IT).

9.30 – 11.00 Project structure: exercise session (practice in small groups) part 1

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30 Project structure: exercise session (practice in small groups) part 2

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.30 – 15.00 Transversal methodological aspects

15:00 – 15:30 Basic Budget elements (theory and practice)
15:30 – 16:00 Overview of the MSCA-PF call

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 18:00 MSCA successful stories: Maria Cristina Mangano, IMEDEA, Islas Baleares (ES); Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Palermo (IT) & Andrea Orlandi, Sapienza University of Rome (IT) (online talks).

19.30 Social dinner

Friday, 22nd July 2022 – morning + early afternoon

Closing Lectures

10.00 – 10.30 Prof. Hellas Cena, Pro-Rector for Third Mission, University of Pavia (IT)

10.30 – 11.10 Prof. Giuseppe Ristagno, University of Milano (IT): The value of translational projects in competing grant calls

11.10 – 11.40 Coffee break

11.40 – 12.30 Prof. Massimo Grassi, University of Padua (IT): The way we were and the way we'd like to be: Open Science, towards a shift in the scientific paradigm of empirical sciences

12.30 -14.00 Lunch

14.00 -15.00 Bicocca Starting Grant winners – Examples of projects funded by the Bicocca Starting Grant 2020: The value of interdisciplinarity.