

WRITING SUCCESSFUL FRGS PROPOSALS

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Presentation Outline

- What the grant is all about
- Writing a winning proposal
- An example of an FRGS proposal
- The evaluation criteria
- Some tips

The FRGS (an introduction):

Is about basic, fundamental research, which involves the exploration of new ideas, concepts or theories to generate **new discoveries, expansion of knowledge and technologies to deal with unresolved problems.**

The FRGS:

- Answers the questions **‘Why’** or **‘How’**
- This is different from applied research, in which scientific investigation is carried out to discover a solution to a practical problem.
- Survey, baseline and observational studies are not, in themselves, fundamental research, although it could constitute one of the methodologies.
- So projects should not be entitled, “A survey of....”

The Goal:

- The goal of the FRGS is to allow the researcher to gain or discover new knowledge and understanding of the physical world that may lead to:
 - **new theories or extending and refuting existing theories;**
 - **new models or new frameworks**
 - **policy recommendation**
 - **improving technology at the fundamental level.**

Expected outputs and outcomes:

Outputs:

- New theory or new knowledge
- Publication in Scopus or WoS indexed journals
- Human capital

Outcomes:

- Betterment of society, development of the economy, & the improved livelihood of the people



MAKE IT A WINNING PROPOSAL

Make it a winning proposal

- The first step in writing the proposal is to **read the guidelines** by the sponsor
- Sponsors may change their guidelines from time to time.

Make it a winning proposal (cont.d)

- Assemble a competent team. Provide evidence of past work to show their ability to execute the project successfully
- Write a **succinct, clear, logical, and cohesive** executive summary with a **compelling argument** as to why the study needs to be done.
- Ensure that your methodology is clear
- Show how important it is for national interest
 - (NPA, NKRA, National Education Blueprint??)
- Write clearly and convincingly.

Make it a winning proposal (contd)

- Make your proposal competitive:
 - How many articles in indexed journals?
 - State a reasonably competitive number
 - State the names of the indexed journals that you intend to publish in
 - Include when you plan to write the articles in your timeline
 - What is your budget?
 - Provide a reasonable budget. Don't have to go to the maximum
- **GIVE IT YOUR ALL!**

In summary, the elements of a good proposal:

- Informative title (describes the study);
- Convincing executive summary;
- Clear problem statement;
- Clear rationale;
- Appropriate research methods, with sufficient detail
- Realistic budget and schedule.

Reasons for rejection (common comments):

- Unclear and unfocussed proposal.
- The proposal is a routine application of a known technique or research.
- The proposer is not qualified or capable.
- The proposal is not of national interest.
- The proposal is poorly presented.
- Unrealistic and overly ambitious within the given time frame.
- Poor English.



LET US LOOK AT A PROPOSAL:



Let us look at the Assessment Criteria:

Assessment criteria:

- ◆ Track record of team
 - Evidence of previous successful research
 - Qualifications and rank of researchers
 - Well balanced team
- ◆ Quality of proposal
 - Meticulous
 - Proper use of language
 - Excellent presentation

The research team

- Position of leader (PI)
 - Professor, Assoc. Prof. & Senior lecturer, Lecturer
 - PI is an IIUM academic staff

- Co-researcher/s: researchers from IIUM as well as other universities. Try to include international universities and the industry.

- Previous research projects: Completed or ongoing research

- Academic publications: journal articles / proceedings / books

Assessment Criteria: Title

Reflects the fundamental issues to be studied, for example:

- ▣ **A new** Corporate Efficiency Performance measurement **Model** Based on the Data Envelopment Analysis Technique
- ▣ **A framework** for teaching critical thinking through critical reading
- ▣ **Modelling** the effect of governance in predicting financial distress.

Assessment Criteria

- Methodology
 - ▣ Sufficiently detailed description
 - ▣ Divide the study into several phases
 - ▣ Provide the flow chart and Gantt chart of the research activities
 - ▣ Milestones and dates
 - Highlight the output of the research activities

BUDGETING



Budgeting

- Vote 11 000 (salary and wages)
- Vote 21 000 (travelling expenses and subsistence)
 - ▣ Data collection and meeting within the country
 - ▣ Conference presentation
 - ▣ Lodging, food, flight and taxi fares

Budgeting

- Vote 24000 (rental): building, equipment, transport, etc.
- Vote 27000 (research materials and supplies): books, journals, papers, chemicals, animals, etc.
- Vote 28000 (maintenance and minor repair): sand, cement, building, lab, equipment, etc.
- Vote 29000 (professional services): printing, honorarium, consultation, training (<3 months), fees
- Vote 35000 (equipment): special equipment (e.g. camera, tape recorder), upgrading of existing equipment, computer, printer

Budget and Duration

- Budget capped at: RM 250,000
- Duration: 1-3 years

- BUT WE DO NOT HAVE TO ASK FOR THE
MAXIMUM

MAKE YOUR/OUR PROPOSAL COMPETITIVE!