

Writing Research Proposals

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WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL FOR?

Types of research proposal

- As part of a job application

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“The successful candidate will have a doctorate in a related field, a record of successful undergraduate teaching within the field, a publication record in a related field, and an ongoing programme of research.”

<https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/job-opportunities>

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e.g. Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship

*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual
Fellowship*

British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship

etc. etc.

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e.g. AHRC, Leverhulme, ERC etc.

AHRC RESEARCH FUNDING GUIDE

<https://tinyurl.com/ydyg2vq7>

The **content and the quality** of the grant application submitted to the AHRC determines whether or not the applicant is successful in receiving the funding for which they have applied.

To make sure that an application has the best possible chance of being funded, it is important that applicants, research officers and other staff, who assist them in preparing and submitting an application, have a **thorough understanding** of the application process and of what makes a good application.

**WHAT MAKES A GOOD
APPLICATION?**

AHRC guide

“a research proposal that is world-leading in terms of its scholarship, originality, quality, scope and importance, and demonstrate that it has transformative potential in the subject area and beyond”

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OUTPUTS

What will you have done at the end of the project?

AHRC guide again:

“the proposal must demonstrate that it will lead to substantial research outputs and outline what the planned outputs and outcomes of the Fellowship will be.”

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Tailor the outputs to the length of the project, and the number of people involved.

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For a solo scholar that means:

1 year: 2-3 substantial articles

3 years: monograph + related articles

What will you have done at the end of the project?

Give indications of:
where you might publish outputs;
how you will disseminate research (conferences, seminars, blogs);
what impacts your research might have.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Who is reading your proposal?

- specialists in your field
- a panel of classicists from different areas
- a panel of academics from arts and humanities
- a panel of academics drawn from all disciplines
- a non-academic audience

Who is reading your proposal?

- “I intend to work on Galen’s
Περὶ κρᾶσεων”
- “I plan an edition and commentary
of Valerius Flaccus
Argonautica 3. 1-248”
- “A re-evaluation of *CIL* 4 is
an urgent disederatum”

Who is reading your proposal?

Remember your readers are humans.

They may read a lot of similar proposals in a short time.

They may read selectively.

They may be pedantic.

They may be suspicious.

They won't know what you don't tell them.

GOOD LUCK!