Getting Research Funded
Research and Enterprise Services Presentation
What’s in it for you?

1. Have you had any **experience** of applying for external research funding?
2. Define the **purpose** of your funding application / research in 20 words or less
3. Who are the **key audiences / beneficiaries**
Research & Enterprise Services
Falmer House

http://www.sussex.ac.uk/res/
Definition of Research (HEFCE)

“Original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding. It includes scholarship (i.e. the creation, development and maintenance of the intellectual infrastructure of subjects and disciplines, in forms such as dictionaries, scholarly editions, catalogues and contributions to major databases); the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances and artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products and processes, including design and construction.”
Sources of funding: the national context

- **BIS**: £2894M
- **Charities**: £768m
- **Research Councils**: £1,150m
- **Learned societies (Royal Society, British Academy)**: £35m
- **European Commission**: £503m
- **Industry**: £290m
- **Overseas bodies**:
- **Other UK central government, local authorities, health and hospital trusts**: £607m
- **Funding Councils HEFCE**
  - **Block Grant**
    - QR = £1460m
  - **HEIF**: £120m
  - **RCIF & other capital**: £164m

**University of Sussex**
Sources of Funding: Institutional Breakdown 2010-11

Sussex University Research Income by Category

- £31.3m

- Research Councils
- UK Charities
- UK Government
- UK Industry
- EU Government
- EU Other
- Other Overseas
- Other Sources

QR HEFCE block grant = £16m
Research Councils

- **AHRC**: Arts and Humanities Research Council
- **BBSRC**: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences
- **ESRC**: Economic and Social Sciences
- **EPSRC**: Engineering and Physical Sciences
- **MRC**: Medical Research Council
- **NERC**: Natural Environment
- **STFC**: Science and Technology Facilities

*Peer reviewed / 80% funded / independence...*
Charities

• Medical Charities:  www.amrc.ac.uk
  - Wellcome Trust
  - Cancer Research UK
• Leverhulme Trust:  www.leverhulme.ac.uk
• Nuffield Foundation:  www.nuffieldfoundation.org
• Joseph Rowntree Foundation:  www.jrf.org.uk
• Esmée Fairburn Foundation:  http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

and many other smaller charities...

Peer reviewed... but not fully funded
European Union

• **FP7**: Seventh Framework Programme for RTD (2007 – 2013)
  – Cooperation: multi-national collaborative projects
  – Capacities: infrastructures / SMEs / regional clusters
  – People: Marie Curie Fellowships
  – Ideas: European Research Council

• **Horizon 2020** (2014 – 2020)

• **OTHER**: EuropeAid / Tenders (expert advice)

*Peer reviewed, funding variable, management and administration...*
Government Departments

- **BIS**: Business, Innovation, and Skills
- **DFID**: Dept for International Development
- **DEFRA**: Dept of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- **Ministry of Defence**
- **Transport**
- **DECC**: Energy and Climate Change
- **National Assemblies**
- **Local Government**

*Peer reviewed? Fully funded in principle*
• National and Regional level
• Specialist research
• Focus on NHS strategic priorities
• **NIHR**: National Institute of Health
• Collaboration with an NHS Trust essential

http://www.nihr.ac.uk/

*Peer reviewed; 80% of FEC but cap on funding...*
Industry

- Formal / open research programmes?
- Companies wanting to commission research
- Individual academics contacts: relationship building
- Contract and deliverables based / IPR / control of work / publications
- “Third stream” opportunities
- Research Council Knowledge Transfer schemes
- Technology Strategy Board (TSB): http://www.innovateuk.org/

FEC in principle / Independence / Peer review?
Other

• **British Academy:**  [www.britac.ac.uk](http://www.britac.ac.uk)
• **Royal Society:**  [http://royalsociety.org/](http://royalsociety.org/)
• **Public Corporations / Agencies eg:**
  - Food Standards Agency
  - Environment Agency
  - Ordnance Survey etc
• **JISC:**  [www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)
• **British Council:**  [http://www.britishcouncil.org/](http://www.britishcouncil.org/)
• **Overseas... UN, NIH, NSF, Rockefeller Foundation**
Some Sciences Schemes

- **BBSRC** – David Phillips Fellowships; New Investigator Scheme
- **MRC** – Career development award; Clinical research training fellowship; New Investigator Research Grant
- **Royal Society** – University Research Fellowship or Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship
- **EU Marie Curie** Fellowships
- **CRUK** – Career Development Fellowship; Career Establishment Awards
- **WellcomeTrust** – Sir Henry Dale Fellowship; Research Career Development Fellowships; Early postdoctoral training fellowships for clinician scientists
Some Social Sciences Schemes

- British Academy - Postdoctoral Fellowship
- Leverhulme Trust - Early Career Fellowship
- Marie Curie Fellowships
- AHRC Fellowship (early career route)
- ESRC Future Leaders Scheme
- Nuffield Foundation
Before you start

What
- What do you want to do?
- Does it fit with the Dept/School?

Why
- Why is your research important?
- Why YOU should be doing this research?

Who
- Who funds this type of research?
- Are you eligible?
- Who can HELP?

When
- When is the deadline?
Writing your proposal

How to write a good application

Content

Why / who
Aims / objectives?
Methodology
Management

Study funding source
Aims / objectives
Regulations

Check details
Start date
Page limits
Spell check
Signatures
Appendices
THE HAZY QUESTION

• **THE STUDY:** The purpose of this study is to determine the major concerns of women after a Cesarean delivery
A CLEARER QUESTION...

- **THE STUDY:** The purpose of this study is to determine the PSYCHO-SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL / MEDICAL concerns of women IMMEDIATELY after a Cesarean delivery.
Writing your proposal

How to write a good application

Content

Why / who
Aims / objectives?
Methodology
Management
Dissemination / Impact

Study funding source

Aims / objectives
Regulations

Check details

Start date
Page limits
Spell check
Signatures
Appendices
Impact
How to write a good application

Presentation

Plain English
Text size
Headings

Justify costs

Details
Be realistic
Value for £

Content

Get advice
Prepare draft

Allow time

Study funding source

Aims / objectives
Regulations

Check details

Start dates
Page limits
Spell check
Signatures
Appendices

Why / who?
Aims / Objectives
Methodology
Management
Dissemination / Impact
Main reasons for rejection

• Wrong funder (journal) – no fit!
• “Who” – audience mixed
• “What” – purpose unclear
• “Where when” – no context
• “How” – unanswered / unconvincing
• “Why” – So what? Who cares?
Ten commandments

1. Be clear, concise & focused
2. Ask yourself “why now” & “who cares”?
3. What is the need? Gap-filling...
4. Is the solution already available?
5. Address the funder’s “agenda”
6. Address the broader picture (Impact)
7. Sell yourself
8. Ask for feedback
9. Sell it in the first two minutes
10. Don’t give up!
Try it

1. Define the **purpose** of your research (application) in 20 words or less
2. Who **cares**? – key audiences / beneficiaries
3. **So what**? – impact and outputs

*What I wish I had known / done differently then...*
Case study - review and discussion

• Applicant’s experience in the field / suitability
• Did you understand the abstract?
• Were you convinced of the need to fund this research?
• Did it engage you? Did it convince you? If not, why not?
• Does the programme of work seem realistic / achievable? Were the deliverables clear?
• Do the requested resources seem appropriate for the planned activities?
• Do you think it is worthy of funding?
• If not, what would improve it?
Application timeline

Idea
• Speak to mentor
• Speak to RES
• Which funder?
• Guidelines

Proposal Development
• Support from RES / D&KE
• Start budget

Internal Project Review

Internal authorisations

Submission
Research & Enterprise Services

http://www.sussex.ac.uk/res/

School Research and Enterprise Co-ordinators (RECs)
Areas of Support: Research Development team

- Research planning
- Funding intelligence
- Liaison with funders
- Customers, and partners
- Proposal development
- Internal liaison
- Contract development, review and negotiation
- ePortals

- Costing & Pricing
- Award acceptance and establishment
- Project management
- Promotion and communication
- Development of innovative ideas and IP
- Training and resources
- Governance & Ethics
- Assessment

http://www.sussex.ac.uk/res/1-6-1-5.html
Scottish universities risk penalties if they fail to meet government targets
Northern Ireland to increase PhD places by 60 per cent

http://www.researchprofessional.com/
Sources of information

• www.researchprofessional.com
• Post-doc funding: www.FindAPhD.com
• VITAE: www.vitae.ac.uk
• EU Funding info: UKRO www.ukro.ac.uk
• RCUK: www.rcuk.ac.uk
• Medical/health research: http://www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/Home.aspx
• Job hunting: www.jobs.ac.uk
Next steps

• Personal research plan / strategy
• Identify key people in the University
• Subscribe to Funder e-Newsletters
• Sussex Direct Research Development workshops
• Consult our library of successful applications
• Network
And remember: our aim

- Obtain Funding
- High Achievement in REF
- Fulfil Personal Career Goals
- Happy academic