

1 The project

1.1 Laying logical groundwork

Deductive

1. Paradigm or theory

2. Hypothesis

3. Observation

4. Confirmation

Inductive

1. **Observation**

2. **Pattern and/or generalizations**

3. **Hypothesis**

4. **Theory**

1.2 Things to think about

- Have I used terminology correctly? Terms like “analysis”, “claim”, “theory”, etc.
- Are there any hidden assumptions?.....
- Are there any fallacies? bookmark yourlogicalfallacyis.com

2 The proposal

2.1 Preparation

1. Check funder guidelines

- Eligibility: do you meet funder eligibility criteria? This is where the difference between “fellowships”, “scholarships”, and “research grants” comes in.
- Funder fit: does your research fit funder priorities?
- Is a personal statement required?..... Another special kind of academic writing specific to fellowships and scholarships
- Budget limitations: is the funding sufficient for your proposed research?..... Usually only needed for research grants

2. Quality of research proposal

- What is the research question/your idea/initiative? This should actually be in the form of a question in the proposal
- What is novel about it?
- What is your thesis/central premise?
- What is the evidence for the premise?
- Is there preliminary data/prior research this project will build upon?
- What is the research significance?

- Why should *you* study it?
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- Why now?
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- What are you going to do?
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- What is the aim of the project? What do you want to achieve?
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- How will you achieve it?
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- Why should the funder support your proposal?
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2. Quality of outcomes

- What are the intended outcomes of the research?
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- What will they contribute to addressing a problem/expanding knowledge in the field?
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3. About you

- Capability, qualifications and experience of the PI
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- Track record/performance in the proposed research area
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- Do you have any previous experience in this area?
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2.2 Proposal presentation: a final checklist

- Readability: does it engage your audience?
- Clarity: is it clearly expressed?
- Be explicit: have you said what you are going to do and why?
- Short sentences: is it succinct?
- Have you kept abbreviations to a minimum and defined them all?
- Avoid grammatical and spelling errors: have you proofread?
- Avoid jargon: is the language accessible?
- Have you provided as much specific detail as possible about your object(s) of study?
- Have you articulated a specific and substantive methodological or theoretical framework?
- Have you conveyed a sense of the structure of your thesis?
- Do the goals of your project sound feasible within the period of your award tenure?
- Have you emphasized how your research project will contribute knowledge that will be useful and relevant?
- Is your project interdisciplinary in nature? If so, have you specified how your research will contribute to a variety of fields and disciplines?
- Have you focused your project by providing a catchy, informative title?