

PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

1. Course Title

How to write a postdoctoral research proposal

2. Proposed date(s)

9th, 12th April & 7th June 2024

3. Course Language

English

4. Course Leader(s) and very brief summary of relevant qualifications and experience (no more than 2 lines for each trainer)

Natalia Dave has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, several year experience in research in life sciences and research management. She is currently the deputy head of the [International and Scientific Affairs office](#) at the CRG.

Marta Salles has a degree in biology and several year experience at CRG in research management, particularly in funding for PhD Students and postdocs. She is currently the fellowship advisor of the [International and Scientific Affairs office](#) of the CRG.

5. General description of the course (relevance and context for the PRBB)

The course is organized in two parts. The first part (9th and 12th April) combines theoretical lectures from experts in fellowship applications as well as hands-on exercises. During the second part (7th June), participants have the opportunity to write their own application. They will have approximately 4 weeks to prepare and write a short fellowship proposal (3-4 pages). The proposal will be evaluated by a panel composed of two group leaders from the PRBB. Participants will defend their proposal in a short interview at the end of the course on the 7th June). **If a quorum of 4 participants submitting a proposal is not reached, the evaluators will provide only written feedback.**

6. Course Aim

Are you planning to apply for an EMBO, Marie Curie or other fellowships? The course will offer key tips and strategies to write a successful application.

7. Learning objectives (what new skills, knowledge &/or attitudes will participants go away from the course with?)

Overview of funding agencies and schemes, knowledge and practical tips on how to write different parts of a fellowship proposal (abstract, state-of-the-art, objectives, etc.), brief overview of science-related issues to cover in an application (ethics, dissemination, exploitation, open science, data management, etc.), sharing of several “real-life” examples of applications.

8. Training methods

Theoretical lectures and hands-on exercises, including writing your own fellowship proposal.

9. Target group in PRBB (Senior scientists, postdocs, predocs, management/admin staff, all residents)

PhD students and junior postdocs

10. Number of participants (maximum)

12

11. Total course hours (Please specify: a) direct training with instructor present b) required self-study.

a) 8h direct training with instructors (organized in 2 mornings) + evaluation session on the 7th June

b) Participants will write their own proposal – it is difficult to estimate the self-study hours, maybe around 4-5h distributed over almost 4 weeks.

12. Distribution of course (hours/days)

- 9th April: 9:30 -13:00
- 12th April: 9:30-13:00 – Participants will write a short proposal with deadline May 10th
- 7th June: 9:30 -13:00

13. Course programme (outline of topics to be covered)

- Planning a fellowship
- Overview of funding agencies (missions, rules, evaluation, etc.)
- Fellowship proposal structure (abstract, objectives, methodology, research data management, etc.)
- Ethics, Intellectual property and exploitation, dissemination, gender aspects in research
- Evaluation of “real-life” fellowship proposals

14. Pre-course preparation (what preparation should participants do before the course – reading, online study, prepare ideas etc.?)

Participants should send a title and abstract of their project (max 250 words) when they apply. Sending the abstract is a prerequisite to attend the course.

15. Material participants need to bring (laptops, etc.)

None

16. Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials

None