

## PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

---

**1. Course Title**

How to write a postdoctoral research proposal

**2. Proposed date(s)**

12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> May & 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**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 (12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May) combines theoretical lectures from experts in fellowship applications as well as hands-on exercises. During the second part (7<sup>th</sup> July), 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 7<sup>th</sup> July). **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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)**

- 12<sup>th</sup> May: 9:30 -13:30
- 14<sup>th</sup> May: 9:30-13:30 – Participants will write a short proposal with deadline June 5th
- 7<sup>th</sup> July: 9:30 -13:30

**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
- Responsible use of AI tools in proposal writing
- 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