

Effective grant-writing for young scientists

Date/Time:

- March 12th, 2018: 0900-1200
- April 9th, 2018: 0900-1500
- Full grants are due by May 7th, 2018
- All grants reviewed by June 8th, 2018

Organizer/Lecturer: Drs. Michael Toscano/Jeremy Bailoo

Venue: Länggassstrasse 120, Bern

Limitation: 20 students

Credits: 0.5 ECTS

Registration deadline: Feb 19, 2018

Registration via contacting the course organizer:

Michael.toscano@vetsuisse.unibe.ch

Background:

Writing grants is a difficult process but essential for modern day researchers whom wish to have a successful research program. The process is even more critical for young investigators whom are seeking to differentiate themselves from their colleagues and need to demonstrate independence from their supervisors while developing their own novel ideas and concepts. The course will seek to provide an engaging environment for doctoral students whom will be provided a 3-hour lecture on basics of grant-writing and then required to write a brief four page grant application or summary. The application will then be reviewed by the lecturers and class peers in a second meeting to provide relevant feedback. After this second meeting, students will be required to submit a final proposal which will be graded by the lecturer.

The class will consist of:

- Approximately 3-h of preparatory reading
- Two class sessions
- Submission of a final grant application to be evaluated and evaluated by the lecturers

Summary

This course is really intended for small funders so no CERN, 6.2 million CHF grants needed. Small Swiss charities, UNIBE internal grants, UFAW, etc, e.g., less than 60K which we think is a where young

students should be aiming for to enhance their CV. Grants for research projects or conferences would be fine. We'll ask you to share the website and application materials with me so I can prepare as well. Once identified (and ideally before as I will stress in the class), you should have the basic idea for what you are seeking funding. We'll also distribute an article on preparing for applications which you would be expected to read in advance as well as initial draft of a grant developed by someone within our group which we think has some key structural problems and we will use as a prop for the first lecture.

The first lecture would be a lecture from Dr. Toscano on what I see as core steps in developing the application. The steps will vary with the idea, funder, and your status, but should be present for all efforts. From there, our plan would be for you to develop your core idea which is then presented to the group (including the lecturers) for feedback at the second lecture. You would then make a full draft of your application which you would hand in as a final exam, and if you like, we will review for you and provide comments. Students would receive a Pass/Fail mark where the Pass would require attending both lectures in entirety and submitting a reasonably sound application.