

Grants Academy

The Grants Academy has been described by members as *'brilliant'*, *'excellent'*, *'extremely educational and stimulating'* and *'very beneficial'*. It has also increased bids submissions from members acting as a Principal Investigator by 41% and 20% as a co-Investigator. Members have significantly increased their funding successes too and obtained funding from organisations such as the AHRC, European Commission, ESRC, British Academy, English Heritage and Burdett Trust for Nursing.

How does the Academy work? Members attend an initial two day training course off campus, facilitated by an external expert bid writer with a well-developed draft proposal. The training days will cover the art of proposal craftsmanship, the rules of the writing game and other invaluable information to help you perfect your proposal during the days. Feedback on these days from existing members have been very positive: *'the workshop was the best I have ever attended'*.

Members can then further develop their proposal over a couple of weeks, gaining unlimited support from the external facilitator in doing so and the cohort re-gathers for a mock peer review panel of each other's applications. This gives a unique insight into this process in a supportive environment and helps further refine the proposal. One member has described this session as *'[I now have] profound insights in[to] how the system works...and to realize how that must be for professional reviewers'*.

What other support is given? Throughout the 18 month membership of the Grants Academy, members benefit from UNLIMITED support from the external facilitator (and in some cases additional external reviewers) which has been invaluable in helping members secure external funding *'[His] input enabled me to produce a clearer, more logical and convincing proposal. He also alerted me to issues I had not previously considered and encouraged me to think about 'impact' and value for the UK in new ways'*. Members also have assistance from R&KEO in finding funding and collaborators and access to a library of successful proposals from BU. They are able to access a small travel grant and are entitled to apply for pilot funding of up to £2000 through the Grants Academy Small Grants Scheme.

How do I apply? Deputy Deans for Research are invited to nominate Faculty members for the Grants Academy. The cohorts are already full for 2014-15 but DDRs will be asked to nominate individuals for the 2015-16 cohorts in Summer/Autumn 2015.

What's the small print? When making your application, you must ensure that you are available for the following dates in their entirety. Membership is only obtained once all training days have been attended. Obligations of membership are that at least one proposal for external funding must be submitted within the first six months of membership. As the training days are attended with a draft proposal, this should be obtainable. Within 18 months at least three proposals for external funding must have been submitted. Failure to meet these obligations will lead to membership being revoked.

If you have any questions about the Grants Academy please get in contact with Jennifer Roddis, Research Facilitator leading on the scheme.