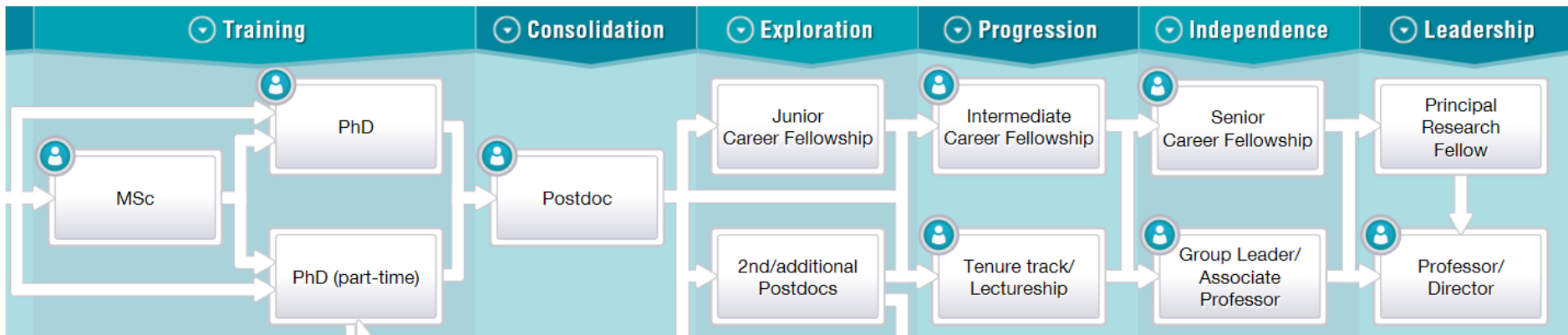


Applying for research funding: What support is available?

Dr Anett Kiss, Research Development Officer
Research and Enterprise Services



Find the right funding opportunities



Many types of funding:

- Research Fellowships
- Visiting Fellowships
- Research Grants
- Travel Grants
- Exchange Programmes
- Public Engagement/Outreach
- ... etc.

And many sources:

- National Research Councils
- Charities
- Societies
- Associations
- International Organisations
- European Union
- Commercial companies
- Internal funding...etc.

Fellowships – a specific type of funding

What is a Fellowship?

- A research based training role
- It is NOT a Research Grant
- Personal award aimed at developing an academic career
- A bigger picture than just research: where will you be in 5 – 10 years time and how will this Fellowship take you there?
- Limits on eligibility (career stage, research area,...etc.)

It is about the **Person, Place & Project**

Fellowships – What are funders looking for?

Evidence of:

- Independence
- Potential for leading a research group in 5-10 years
- Commitment to research career
- Outstanding research ideas
- Leadership potential

PERSON

- Publication record
- Independence
- Visibility

PLACE

- Research environment
- Training environment
- Institutional commitment
- Mentoring

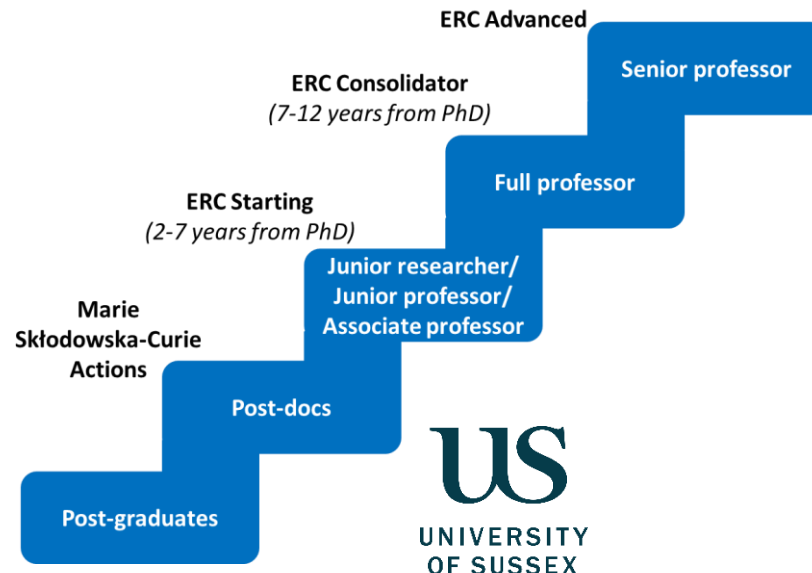
PROJECT

- Internationally leading
- Independent

Building up your own strategy

- Plan years ahead: from fellowships to research grants – the years can fly by
- Take into consideration re-submission rules, e.g. European Research Council (ERC)

Example of European Research Funding Opportunities for Career Development in Horizon 2020:



Funding streams not necessarily linked to job titles!

Building up your own strategy

- Distinguish yourself from your supervisor
- Build up a Funding ID: take advantage of local or smaller funding mechanisms to prove you can manage budgets – **RSA Grant Schemes!**
- Keep visible in your community: public engagement, dissemination
- Build up contacts with non-academic partners
- Learn the language of the funder and current 'buzz words': e.g. Innovation, Impact, Gender dimension, Open Science...
- Become an evaluator – learn from other people's successes and mistakes
- Research the key players – Who has been involved in previous projects?
- Use resources available to you: research support function within your organisation, academic mentors, information days...etc.

It takes a village...

Do not work in isolation, look for support:

- Academic Supervisor(s), Mentor(s)
- Colleagues: academic as well as professional services
- Research Support Services
- Representatives relevant to your work
- Friends, Lay people
- Funder – often you can talk to them directly

What support is available?

Development:

- Finding funding opportunities
- Planning funding strategy
- Proposal development
- Training, workshops
- Knowledge of funders, schemes, submission platforms
- Previous examples of successful proposals
- Institutional information, e.g. standard texts, templates, Letter of Support...etc.
- Critical review – from lay point of view
- Internal procedures (e.g. costings, approvals)

What support is available?

Specialist Support:

- Governance/Ethics
- Data Management
- Research Impact
- IP Exploitation/Commercialisation
- Legal Advice on Research Contracts
- Post-Award Financial Management

Bottom-line: **allow plenty of time** – there is more involved than “just” writing a proposal.

Writing tips

- Address the scheme objectives
- Read all the guide documents in advance
- Use clear, concise language
- Explain country-specific jargon
- Help the evaluators by educating them
- Provide evidence
- Pay attention to every part of the proposal – it all needs to be excellent
- Get your proposal reviewed by several people: specialist as well as non-specialist, with the evaluation criteria in mind

And most importantly:

DO NOT GIVE UP!