

# How to win grants?

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# The road to winning grants starts with a strong CV

- ✓ MD (physician-scientist)
- ✓ PhD
- ✓ Publications in top 10% of the field
- ✓ Research funding
- ✓ Activity last 5-10 years
- ✓ Large international network
- ✓ International recognition
- ✓ Prizes



**TIP: Know what is needed and work proactively on your CV**

# Funding bodies

- Local: BOF, UGent, IOF, UZ Gent (HIRUZ), Faculty, consortia (e.g. CRIG)
- Regional (Flemish): FWO, iBOF, VIB, Flemish government, Foundations
- National: Government, Foundations
- European: H2020, Horizon Europe, Foundations
- Non-European: Foundations, Government (e.g. NIH)

**TIP: Keep yourself and your team informed**

**Visit websites and attend information sessions**

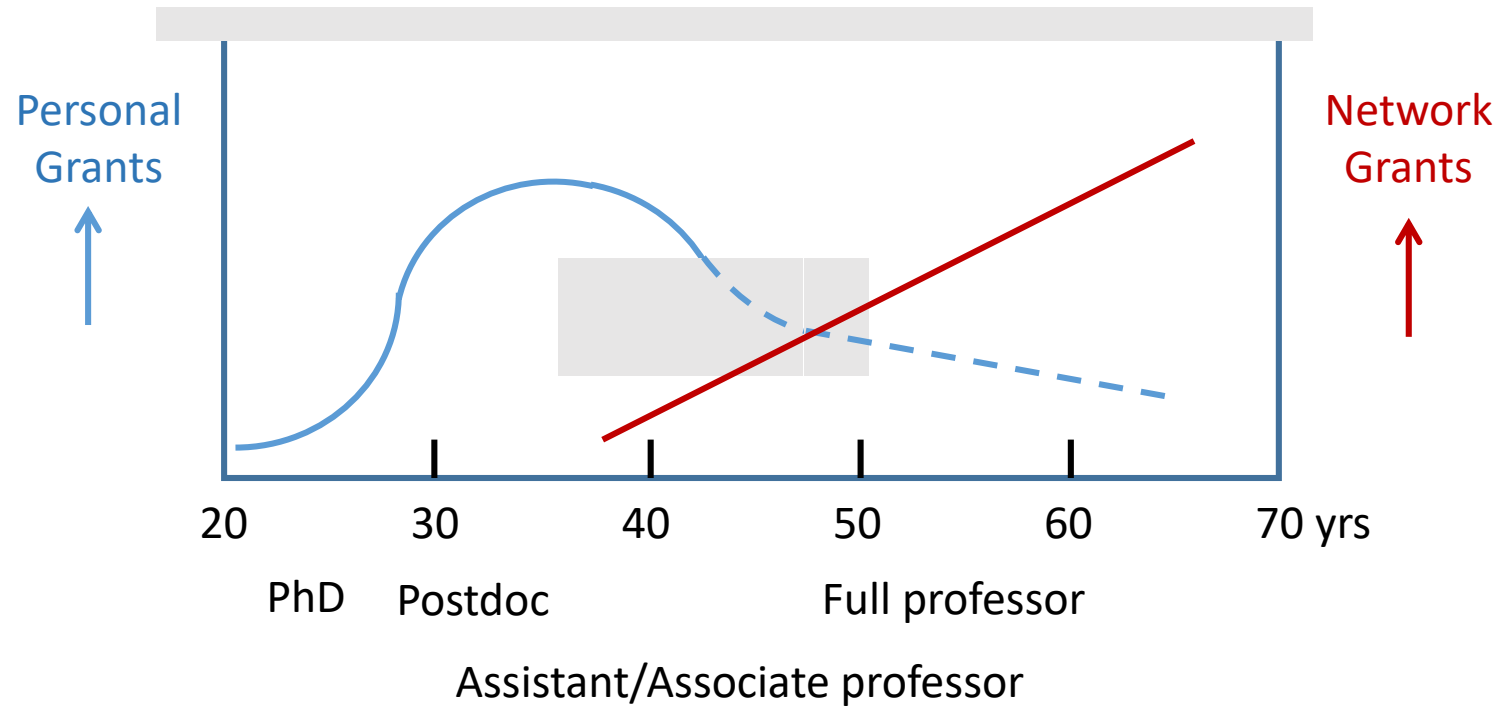
**Talk to representatives, contact points and grantees**

# Types of grant

- Travel: 1 – 2 k€
- Personal fellowship/grant: 50 – 2,500 k€
- Small/bilateral: 100 – 500 k€
- Networks/big personal: 500 – 3,000 k€
- Equipment: 20 – 500 k€
- Awards/prizes: 10 – 1,000 k€

**TIP: Don't shoot at random: decide what type of grant you & your team need now and the next 5 years**  
**Cherish all gifts and grants**

# Your funding profile throughout your career



**TIP: Identify your funding profile**  
**Dynamic throughout your career, regularly recalibrate**

# Success rates for grants

- |                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Travel (FWO, FacMob):              | 50 – 100% |
| • Personal fellowship:               | 15 - 30%  |
| • Small/medium grant:                | 15 – 30%  |
| • Big grant/network (e.g. ERC, ITN): | 4 – 12%   |



**TIP: Don't shoot at random, weigh your chances and time**

# The writing process: overview

- Questions before you start
  - Applicant, project, context
  - Scoring parameters
- Oriented toward FWO fellowship
  - But can be extrapolated

# Why me? Applicant, CV

- **Submit now or next time?**
- Check the guidelines
- Scientific output: publication record, (shared) first authorships, other contributions, provide all information clearly in bibliography and project e.g. IFs, citations, rank
- Research ability
- Scientific potential
- Scientific independence



# Why me? Applicant, CV

- Experience with guiding research, the supervision of (PhD/)master/bachelor students
- Mobility: previous or planned
- Excellence: e.g. prizes, oral presentations, paper selected for editorial, for cover journal etc
- Assessment by the external referees
- Conclusion: SWOT-analysis of the applicant
- Subscore applicant

# Why this research? Project



- **Originality**

- Brilliant idea, innovative, knowledge gap, important problem
- Hypothesis-driven, avoid descriptive project ('fishing expedition')
- Translational (FWO FKM)

- **Feasibility**

- Don't duplicate an existing research project: you apply for a personal mandate, not for a project of a whole team
- Provide a realistic work plan
- In-house expertise, collaborations
- Equipment, team, matching funds
- **Risk assessment and contingency plan!**

- SB fellowships

- Economic finality

# Why this research? Project

- Focus
- Methodology
  - Proof-of-concept: **show preliminary data**
  - **Metrics:** numbers, power calculation
  - Expertise in house, necessary collaborations
- Style: **every detail matters**
- Assessment by external referees
- Conclusion: SWOT-analysis of the project proposal
- Subscore project

# With whom? Research environment

- How does this research **fit** with research environment
- In-house expertise: methodology, equipment, research topic, team
- Scientific **leadership and excellence**
  - Output, team, funding
  - International reputation and network



# Project proposal: general

- Choose the **right panel!**
- Involve your **team**
- Disciplines and keywords
  - Can help to find appropriate external referees and panel
- Summary in layman's terms
  - English and Dutch
  - Make it accessible: evaluators do speed reading
- Personal statement
  - Try to be inspiring
  - Emphasize new elements: motivation, research interests, competences, but also career development



# Final score

- Based on
  - Preselection: applicant and project
  - **Interview**: applicant and project
    - ! you can gain or loose a lot !
    - Practice practice practice
  - Proposal as a whole
- Scoring of a panel is '**comparative**'
  - Within the set of proposals during the ongoing application round
  - Scores reflect a comparison between the different applications
  - This is only a snapshot of you, don't feel offended



# Final score

- Range of scores: A to D
- Fundable (**outstanding, excellent**)
  - **A+**: top 5% of the proposals
  - **A**: top 10% of the proposals
- Fundable if the budget allows it (very good)
  - **A-**: top 20% of the proposals
- Below fundable range
  - **B**: top 50% of the proposals
  - **C or D**: lower half of the proposals
- Mostly 3 'pre-reporters' from panel: they advise on final score
- Check the score grids
  - preselection and interview
  - available on FWO website



# My grant proposal address book

- Read BOZI: bozi-online@ugent.be
- UGent BOF financing (DOZA): [BOF@UGent.be](mailto:BOF@UGent.be)
- UGent EU-financing (DOZA): [EU-cel@UGent.be](mailto:EU-cel@UGent.be)
- UGent Flemish and federal financing (DOZA): [vlaams-federaal@UGent.be](mailto:vlaams-federaal@UGent.be)
- Projectadministratie: funding by foundations!! [contractbeheer@UGent.be](mailto:contractbeheer@UGent.be) - [projectaanvraag@UGent.be](mailto:projectaanvraag@UGent.be) - [projectbeheer@UGent.be](mailto:projectbeheer@UGent.be) - [afsluitingen@UGent.be](mailto:afsluitingen@UGent.be)
- UZ Gent: HIRUZ <http://hiruz.be/service/ivu/> lieve.nuytinck@ugent.be
- IOF and TechTransfer: [iof@ugent.be](mailto:iof@ugent.be)
- FWO med panels: med@fwo.be
- KBS: <https://www.kbs-frb.be/>
- Horizon Europe: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en)
- Privacy officer UZ Gent & UGent
- EC UZ Gent, EC Commissie Dierproeven
- EU project officer (project specific)



# Take home messages

**TIP: Keep yourself and your team informed**

**TIP: Shoot many times but not at random**

**TIP: Know what is needed and work proactively on your CV**

**TIP: Learn from rejections and from successes**

**TIP: Cherish all gifts and grants**

**TIP: Identify your funding profile**

# Good luck!

Contact:

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