

Marie Curie / Early grants advice

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Who am I?

- Phd 2011 (University of St Andrews, UK)
- Mostly field researcher
- Postdoc ever since:
 - Fyssen foundation: 2011-2013
 - Marie Curie Fellowship: 2013-2015
 - SNSF Postdoc/Scientific Collab: 2015-2020
- Raised over 1,000,000 CHF in grant money
 - Fyssen, Marie Curie, Advanced.Postdoc as PI
 - SNSF Project as co-PI

How did I get the Marie Curie?

- I don't know...
 - Checked all the 'Do-not-do'
 - Project very related to my PhD project
 - Project very connected to my Fyssen postdoc
 - Project hosted by my PhD adviser
 - But:
 - Good CV
 - Different location than PhD
 - Good project (the usual 'high risk'/'high gain')
 - Did not only focus on research: career path, teaching etc..

B1 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL QUALITY (MAXIMUM 8 PAGES).....1

- Research and technological quality, including any interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal.....1
- Appropriateness of research methodology and approach.....5
- Originality and innovative nature of the project, and relationship to the 'state of the art' of research in the field.....6
- Timeliness and relevance of the project.....6
- Host research expertise in the field.....7
- Quality of the group/scientist in charge.....7

B2 TRAINING (MAXIMUM 2 PAGES).....9

- Clarity and quality of the research training objectives for the researcher.....9
- Relevance and quality of additional research training as well as of transferable skills offered, with special attention to exposure to the industry sector, where appropriate.....10
- Measures taken by the host for providing quantitative and qualitative mentoring/tutoring.....10

B3 RESEARCHER (MAXIMUM 7 PAGES WITH A CV AND A LIST OF MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS).....11

- Research experience.....11
- Research results including patents, publications, teaching etc., taking into account the level of experience.....12
- Independent thinking and leadership qualities.....15
- Match between the fellow's profile and project.....16
- Potential for reaching or reinforcing a position of professional maturity.....17
- Potential to acquire new knowledge.....17

B4 IMPLEMENTATION (MAXIMUM 6 PAGES).....18

- Quality of infrastructures/facilities and international collaborations of host..... 18
- Practical arrangements for the implementation and management of the research project 18
- Feasibility and credibility of the project, including work plan..... 19
- Practical and administrative arrangements, and support for the hosting of the fellow.....23

B5 IMPACT (MAXIMUM 4 PAGES).....24

- Impact of competencies acquired during the fellowship on the future career prospects of the researcher, in particular through exposure to transferable skills training with special attention to exposure to the industry sector, where appropriate..... 24
- Contribution to career development, or re-establishment where relevant..... 24
- Benefit of the mobility to the European Research Area..... 25
- Development of lasting cooperation and collaborations with other countries..... 26
- Contribution to European excellence and European competitiveness regarding the expected research results..... 26
- Impact of the proposed outreach activities..... 27

B6 ETHICS ISSUES (NO PAGE LIMIT).....28

A few last thoughts

- What seems 'just the same as usual' might not be for your examiners
- Do not propose the same as you did in your PhD with a different packaging, it will just annoy the reviewers
- *Despite what is written*, continuation is ok if there is a real leap that can advance your career (e.g. proposing establishing a new field site)
- *Despite what is written*, interdisciplinarity is not always well received: see success rates with fellow academics in your discipline
- Go with your guts about what is a good project, rather than what you think will please the committee/would make your profile better
- But be attentive to what the current hot topics are because people will pay attention to that too