



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Tips and Traps - for NHMRC Investigator Grants

Research Showcase 2019
Department of Surgery

MDHS Research Development

November 2019





Understand your audience

The Assessors: who are they?

- Academics, likely to be your peers (ie EL up to 10 years post PhD; L 10 years plus PhD)
- those with fellowship review experience and not
- those who have had fellowships and not
- those who have assessed a lot but not on a fellowship scheme
- those who have never assessed any grant or fellowship scheme
- a group of 5 who all read and score your application in isolation
- may not be discipline experts:
 - *NHMRC indicated expectation that assessors are judging their career and the pathway, not the area. Acknowledge that because of this, assessors don't need expertise in area*
- Assessors will have limited time to review your application



Influencing the assessment

- Select Key Words carefully (help NHMRC select your assessor)
- Write your Synopsis for the assessor (help an assessor determine their suitability to assess your application)
- Read the NHMRC guidelines, understand what is needed for each section
- Read and understand the assessment criteria and associated category descriptors for each section
- Read MDHS Guidance for Prospective Applicants document ([MDHS intranet](#))
- RIC review for eligibility & compliance ([RIC webpage](#))
- Get others from outside your discipline/expertise read and provide some critical feedback



Publications (35%)

You have 5 publications to highlight that you are the best person for the research proposed in your Research Gain section

- Why it is best for you in terms of the impact on others (for you; for others; for your discipline; for other disciplines; beyond science)
- Why is this an impactful paper; why did it lead to impact
- Abbreviate publication citation: name indicating author position, journal, year
- Context for author position; for the journal
- Demonstration of significance of results/key finding
- Includes indicator/evidence of impact (eg metrics; peer acknowledgement; media; user acknowledgement)



Research Impact (20%)

Define the Research Program as a summary of the impact

Why do you do what you do?

What was the key objective and who benefited

- What are the key results that you have contributed to?
- Can any of these key results be grouped together and summarised as a journey towards a particular end goal, or milestone towards an end goal?
- Who cared about these results?
- What did someone else do with the results?
- How do you know this?

Consider the evidence to guide your decision on which impact area(s) to select



Research Impact (20%)

Statement + Evidence

Define the Research Program as a summary of the impact

Why do you do what you do

What was the key objective and who benefited

“Them”

What and who changed because of the results, and how

“We”

What were the immediate results; who was involved; how you fit in

“I”

What did you do to help get the results

Reach and significance of their claimed research impact (7%)

Contribution of their research program to the research impact (6%)

Contribution of the applicant to the research program (7%)



Leadership (15%)

Why are you a leader - define leadership for yourself

How are you a leader?

What do you lead?

1. Research Mentoring

2. Research Policy and Professional Leadership

3. Institutional Leadership

4. Research Programs and Team Leadership



Knowledge Gain (30%)

Highlight that you have the best research idea and are the best person for the research proposed

- Not a Project Grant, not an Ideas Grant
- Your vision of a Research Program for 5 years
- Your Research Program justified as a series of aims/approaches and what resources you will leverage – a Pathway to Impact.

Significance of the research

- Gap in knowledge: this is where we are now, this is where we need to be in the next 5 years (that underpins human health issues)
- Why it is important: to you; to the research community; to science/academia/discipline; to beyond science
- What will this knowledge change/enable, and for who?

Quality of the research

- Who are the people that are going to achieve this?
- What are they going to do?
- What are you going to do?
- What are the methods/approaches that need to be used to achieve this?
- What do you have access to?
- How much time will it take?
- How much will it cost?
- How and who will you communicate the results to?



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Thank you

MDHS Research Development

Email: mdhs-grants@unimelb.edu.au

Online resources: <https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/mdhs/research-development/research-collaboration-and-funding/fellowship-mentoring>