

**Grants Academy**

**What is the Grants Academy?**

The Grants Academy is a coordinated development programme run by the Research Development Unit on behalf of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise & Internationalisation) for academic staff to:

1. increase understanding of the research funding environment;
2. increase the quality of their research funding proposals;
3. unlock staff potential, confidence and motivation;
4. enable staff to develop the skills required to design, write and structure a competitive, fundable research proposal; and
5. to then manage awarded contracts, effectively leading to further funding.

The Grants Academy provides for all types of funding application from commercial enterprise bids through to classic research council applications. Becoming a member of the Academy provides staff with access to a range of support services and advice not available to non-members and is open to staff of all grades with a range of experiences, not just junior colleagues.

**Academy activities**

There are three distinct strands to the Academy:

Strand One: BU-wide development and training programme linked in 2012/13 to

external grant writing support in the form of a contracted bid advisor. Strand One of the Grants Academy will be an intensive training programme run over two consecutive days, held off campus. Academics must attend both full days in order to join the Grants Academy. The sessions will be delivered by an external facilitator with support from the Research Development Unit. The first of these sessions will take place on **9th and 10th May 2012.** Subsequent sessions will be timetabled between August 2012 and July 2013.

Strand Two: Bespoke intervention for key research groups and clusters (e.g., Research Centres, BU Research Themes, etc.) based on a bespoke version of Strand One.

Strand Three: Post-Award support in the form of direct mentorship for new investigators with limited experience of research management and project delivery.

All participants of the Grants Academy will be required to work on a proposal after the session, using the resources and support listed below, and to submit this proposal for external funding within six months of completing the training programme. They may remain part of the Academy for a maximum of 18 months during which time they will be expected to have submitted a minimum of three external bids.

Completion of Strand One or Strand Two will result in individuals becoming members of the Grants Academy; as members they would be able to access additional training and development resources including:

* **An internal grants mentor:** This person will be assigned after the training programme and will be responsible for supporting the mentee with the writing and development of their proposal. In the first instance, the list of internal mentors will be the same as the list of internal peer reviewers for the RPRS and will be maintained by the Research Development Unit. A mentor will be required to read and comment in detail on all applications that their mentee submits.
* **Access to an external bid advisor:** The University will contract the services of a number of sector renowned and successful bid advisors who will be available to support Grants Academy members with the development of their proposals. We will ensure that the panel covers a range of different specialisms (such as RCUK, EU, commercial tenders, etc)**.**
* **Specific funder events:** The Research Development Unit will arrange specific funder events for members of the Grants Academy to find out more about funding bodies, for example, specific schemes, priorities, bid writing hints and tips, etc.
* **Funding drop-in surgeries:** These drop-in surgeries would be held fortnightly over lunch and would be facilitated experienced senior academics. They would offer members of the Grants Academy the opportunity to come along and to talk to experienced colleagues about their research, for example, getting advice on their ideas, how to strengthen their bids, etc.
* **Find a funder service:** This service will be provided by the Research Development Unit and will help to match academics and their research ideas and strengths with external funding bodies and open calls. The service will also advise on how proposal ideas can be tweaked so they are more closely aligned to funder priorities, and will also support academics in identifying researchers at other institutions who are researching similar areas for future collaborations.
* **Access to a library of successful bids:** The Research Development Unit will provide access to Grants Academy members to a library of successful bids, and provide support to academics in accessing this resource.
* **Access to a small travel grant to support academic networking.** Each member of the academy will have access to up to £250 to support travel in order to talk to potential collaborators, establish/join networks, etc.

The support listed above will only be available to those academics who have completed Strand One or Two of the Grants Academy.

**How do I become a member of the Grants Academy?**

Membership of the Grants Academy is limited. Academic staff interested in becoming a member of the Grants Academy must complete an application form. All applications must be endorsed by their Dean / Deputy Dean.

Applications will be assessed by the PVC and four senior academics. They will select those who they think will most benefit from becoming members of the academy.

**If you are interested in becoming a member please complete the application form and return to the RDU (****RDU@bournemouth.ac.uk****) by midnight, Tuesday, 17th April.**