
OVERVIEW

Outlined in this document are web-based resources to aid in the preparation of grant applications. Resources have been separated based on their relevance to: finding funding, peer review process, grantsmanship, common errors found in grant proposals and specific peer review information. Each resource is briefly described and rated out of 5 stars. ★★★★★ The colour coded designation found to the right of the title (CIHR, Health, General) indicates whether the resource is structured to provide advice about a specific funding agency.

Additionally the symbols indicate whether the resource is written word 📖, a PowerPoint 📄, audio 🎧 or video 🎥.

Please note that some users have found that the below links are not compatible with older versions of internet browsers (ex. Internet Explorer). We recommend that links be accessed using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox.

There are many University of Alberta developed resources available for download at the **University-wide Support for CIHR Applications Repository** - Visit: <http://hdl.handle.net/10402/era.23211> Available are valuable workshop materials and resources (i.e. templates, guidelines, checklists). This repository will continue to expand and modify its resources to provide up-to-date and helpful information to CIHR applicants.

Please visit www.cihr.ualberta.ca for other valuable information relating to CIHR

PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Communication Module: The Review Process ★★★★★ 📖 Health

A very basic overview is provided on the review process for grant applications.

Visit:

http://www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca/en/profdev/~media/Faculty%20of%20Graduate%20Studies/profdev/communication/Comm_ReviewProcess2011.pdf

Author: Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Alberta

The Process of Peer Review ★★★★★ 🎥 CIHR/Health

This short 2 minute video discusses the peer review process and what reviewers are looking for in a successful grant.

Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC9iPiTx3WQ>

Author: Pierre Chartrand, Former Vice-President and Chief Scientific Officer, CIHR

GRANTSMANSHIP (General)

How Not to Kill a Grant Application, Part Five:**The Facts of the Case Thus Far**

Health

This article summarizes a five part series that published as a part of Career Advice from the journal of Science. Although the articles were published in the year 2000 and are written with reference to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) they are still relevant today to many health funding opportunities.

Visit:

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/0490/how_not_to_kill_a_grant_application_part_five_the_facts_of_the_case_thus_far

Authors: Vid Mohan-Ram

Top Eight Things to do to Write Great Grants; The Role of Your Previous Supervisor and If you Didn't get Funding: The Guidebook for New Principal Investigators

Health

This guidebook is intended for all researchers (new and experienced) who write grant applications in any area of health research, including basic biomedical research, clinical research, the social sciences and the humanities. This guidebook provides tips about applying for a grant as a Principal Investigator (PI); writing papers; building and managing your research team and laboratory and managing your time.

Visit: <http://www.irsc.gc.ca/e/27491.html>

Authors: Roderick McInnes, Brenda Andrews and Richard Rachubinski

The Art of Grantsmanship

Health

The goal of this document is to assist both new and established investigators through comments, suggestions and recommendations about general grantsmanship. The grant components are specifically discussed, a general timeline for grant preparation is supplied and common errors are listed.

Visit: <http://www.hfsp.org/funding/art-grantsmanship>

Author: Jack Kraicer, former Director of Research Grants at HFSP: University of Toronto

How to Write a CIHR Operating Grant

CIHR

This document addresses general grantsmanship when writing a grant application for CIHR. It also discusses briefly the various sections of a CIHR Operating Grant and provides specific advice on the best way to tackle each section. Although this information is very useful, care must be taken as this document was published in June 2004. Equipment is no longer an allowable expense on CIHR Open Operating Grants and CIHR will make the final decision on which peer review committee will review each application.

Visit: [http://med.ubc.ca/files/2012/02/How To Write a CIHR Operating Grant.pdf](http://med.ubc.ca/files/2012/02/How_To_Write_a_CIHR_Operating_Grant.pdf)

Author: Hugh Brock, CIHR Scientific Officer, BMB (2000–2004): University of British Columbia

Grant Writing Tips ★★★★★



CIHR

This webpage is a very basic introductory resource that lists three simple and broad steps to completing a grant application. The “Do’s and Don’ts” of writing for CIHR have been compiled and summarized.

Visit: <http://staging.muhc.ca/research/page/grant-writing-tips>

Author: Nicole Bernard, PhD, Director, Grants Review: McGill University Health Center

You Can Get the Grant ★★★★★



General

General advice is given on how to be successful in applying for grants. The relationship between positive attitude and success is explored.

Visit: <http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2010/01/11/walters>

Author: Mary W. Walters, former awards facilitator, University of Saskatchewan, Inside Higher Ed

Submitting a Grant Application to CIHR ★★★★★



CIHR

This PowerPoint outlines suggestions for selecting an idea, the track record dilemma, building a team, developing a proposal, packaging a proposal and developing a budget.

Visit:

[http://www.research.uwaterloo.ca/grants/documents/CIHR Grant writing Paul Stolee Jul09.pdf](http://www.research.uwaterloo.ca/grants/documents/CIHR_Grant_writing_Paul_Stolee_Jul09.pdf)

Author: Paul Stolee, University of Waterloo

“While You’re Up, Get me a Grant” a Guide to Grant Writing ★★★★★ Health

Although this article was written in 1996 it still contains relevant advice today on preparing a grant application and specifically speaks about the overt and covert purposes of an application.

Visit: Can J Psychiatry 41, 137-143

Author: Davie L Streiner

Elements of a Successful Proposal ★★★★★



Health

This resource provides general points to consider when preparing a grant application. As well, suggestions are made regarding writing of the proposal and preparing the budget. Examples of both weak and improved proposal titles are also given.

Visit: <http://roads.mcmaster.ca/roads-help-centre/faq/elements-of-a-successful-proposal-elements-of-a-successful-proposal> **This link must be copy and pasted into your web browser.**

Author: Office of Research Services: McMaster University

Proposal Structure**Health**

General suggestions are provided on what to include and how to write the various sections of a proposal.

Visit: <http://www.grantfacilitation.ubc.ca/process/proposal-structure/>

Author: Grant Facilitation, University of British Columbia

The Key Ingredients of a Good Grant Proposal**General**

6 key points of a good grant proposal are discussed. Clever examples of how address these key points are provided.

Visit: <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/keyingredients.pdf>

Author: Jocalyn Clark, PLoS Medicine/Grand Challenges Canada

Top Grant Writing Tips**General/Health**

These three minute videos have different experts speaking to their three top tips in grant writing. Experts include reviewers from CIHR and the Gates Foundation as well as experienced professors.

- Steve Buchsbaum, Deputy Director of Strategy, Global Health Discovery, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naSnU2BkZcM>
- Pierre Chartrand, Former Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, CIHR http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynL_VdSEI74
- Yu-Ling Cheng, Director, Centre for Global Engineering; Professor, Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, University of Toronto <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlsODIRqX0I>
- Michael Clarke, Director, Information and Communication Technologies for Development, International Development Resource Centre (IDRC) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acUNmU_E1S0
- Anita McGahan, Associate Dean (Research), Director of PhD Programs and Rotman Chair in Management, Rotman School of Management <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smbG9Vn-1BA>
- Andrew Serazin, Senior Program Officer, Global Health Discovery and Family Health, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUj0u_kX_N4
- Yu-Ling Wong, Program Officer, Global Health Discovery, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vt48WHU5WME>

Writing a Winning Application**CIHR/Health**

Top 10 good practices for writing a winning application provide general guidance for applying to CIHR.

See: <http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/42093.html>

Author: Dr. Patricia D'Campo, Director, the Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital; Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health Sciences.

How to Write Clearly**General**

This guide will help you to write clearly for many different types of documents. This document contains hints, not rules, and when applying them you should take into account your target readers and the purpose of your document.

See: http://ec.europa.eu/translation/writing/clear_writing/how_to_write_clearly_en.pdf

Author: European Commission

SUMMARY PAGE PREPARATION

Preparing a Summary Page for CIHR OOGP**CIHR**

Key points to keep in mind while preparing the Summary Page for the CIHR OOGP competition are outlined. This information is for both new and established researchers.

Visit:

http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/media/CIHR_Summary_of_Research_Proposal_Primer.pdf

Author: Office of Research Services: University of Manitoba

SELECTING RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Picking a Research Problem**Health**

Although this article is more than 15 years old, the advice on selecting research questions is still relevant today. This resource will be most useful to post-doctoral fellows and new investigators. The publication outlines the two characteristics of outstanding research questions and the “10 commandments for picking a research project”.

New England Journal of Medicine May 26, 1994 pages 1530-1533

Author: C Ronald Kahn

The Craft of Research – Part 1**Tri-agency****Chapter 4: From Questions to Problems**

The Chapter *From Questions to a Problem* discusses how to turn a research question into a problem worth solving. It outlines the common structure of a problem including topic, question, and significance and then delves into how to communicate the significance of this question effectively to the audience.

Authors: Wayne C. Booth, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago; Gregory G. Colomb, Professor, Department of English, University of Virginia; and Joseph M. Williams, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Chicago. University of Chicago Press.

Writing Resources (General)

The Craft of Research – Part 1 ★★★★★



General

Chapter 16: From Introductions to a Conclusion

The Chapter highlights the features of successful introductions and conclusions through the use of examples.

Visit:

Authors: Wayne C. Booth, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago; Gregory G. Colomb, Professor, Department of English, University of Virginia; and Joseph M. Williams, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Chicago.

Coping with Writer's Block ★★★★★



General

Tips and tools to overcoming writer's block are discussed. A number of different approaches are addressed and examples are provided.

Visit: <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/keyingredients.pdf>

Author: Jocalyn Clark, PLoS Medicine/Grand Challenges Canada

Visual Design Resources

The Craft of Research – Part 1 ★★★★★



General

Chapter 15: Communicating Evidence Visually

This chapter suggests how to choose the best graphic form to help readers understand the data and how the data support your argument.

Authors: Wayne C. Booth, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago; Gregory G. Colomb, Professor, Department of English, University of Virginia; and Joseph M. Williams, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Chicago.

COMMON ERRORS IN GRANT APPLICATIONS

New Investigator Awards and Operating Grant ★★★★★



CIHR

Most Common CIHR Applicant Mistakes

The ten most common errors made in new investigator and operating grant applications are outlined. As well, some tips regarding formatting to adhere to space constraints are given.

Visit: http://med.ubc.ca/files/2012/02/Common_CIHR_Applicant_Mistakes.pdf

Author: University of British Columbia