

PEER SUPPORTED LEARNING TO SUPPORT RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT: ACADEMICS ANONYMOUS

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Introduction to Bournemouth University

development initiatives

- Grants Academy – enables researchers to develop the skills required to structure and write a competitive, fundable research proposal, with support from an external bid writer
- EU Academic Development Scheme (EUADS) – enables researchers to develop the skills required to aid the preparation of grant submissions to EU funding calls, through one-to-one mentorship and cohort group sessions supported by an external bid writer
- Bournemouth Researcher Academic Development (BRAD) – is a programme of events developed by combining the four key domain areas from the Vitae researcher development framework and incorporating the views of BU research active staff
- KTP Development – a new initiative and will also operate on a cohort basis to enable researchers to develop KTP proposals with an external bid writer and KTP advisor
- Internal Peer Review – BU academics review their peers proposals to be submitted for external funding

Value for money

	Members	Increased bid submission	Investment in training	Proposals submitted	Awarded
Grants Academy	102 (12 cohorts)	41% as PI and 20% as Co-I	£100k per year (averages £60k)	86 at >£4M	£537k
EUADS	15 (2 cohorts)	1000% as PI	£27k per year	34 at £8.8M	£1.36M

Grants Academy and its benefits

- Two days intensive training - external bid writer, cohort-based
- Mock peer review panel with cohort
- Access to expert bid writer
- Bespoke assistance in finding funding and collaborators, priority for funder events and training sessions
- Access to library of successful bids
- Access to travel grant

Grants Academy challenges

- Initial enthusiasm, wanes over time
- Maintaining cohort cohesion
- Obligation to submit ≥ 1 external funding proposal within 6 months, ≥ 3 proposals within 18 months
- Recruitment of appropriate individuals
- Addressing specific needs of members
- Meeting scheme targets through a collaborative approach
- Increasing researcher engagement for 18 months of membership

EU Academic Development Scheme and its benefits

- One day training – half with cohort group, half one-to-one with external bid writer
- Peer working – Group sessions held quarterly to share ideas and experiences
- Up to £3k funding to support bid development
- Access to specialist bid writer for one-to-one guidance and funder identification
- Mentorship – pastoral role to offer advice and review progress

EU Academic Development Scheme challenges

- Obligation to submit \geq one application to an EU funder within 12 months
- Meeting scheme targets through a collaborative approach
- Increasing researcher engagement for 12 months of membership
- Maintaining cohort cohesion

What we want to change

- Increase cohort working – peer support
- Increase collaborative working
- Introduce an annual conference of Grants Academy and EUADS members
- Increase writing retreats

Discussion topics

- Are cohort models the best way to support researchers?
- What methods work best, i.e. supportive or competitive?
- Should cohorts contain researchers from the same subject base or is cross-disciplinary more effective?
- Should the cohort work together for a common goal or should they cover a myriad of goals?
- What type of follow-on support works best for a cohort, i.e. continuing to meet on a less structured basis? Writing workshops for specific funding opportunities? Past cohort members' acting as mentors to new members? etc.