

## **“HOW TO DEVELOP AND WRITE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION”**

Residential course on Grantsmanship for junior oncologists and scientists

*October 8-9-10, 2025 - Fondation Universitaire, Brussels, Belgium*

### **Introduction**

In the rapidly evolving field of science and oncology, the proficiency to write persuasive grant proposals is a crucial skill. The acquisition of grant funding not only propels scientific breakthroughs and advancements, but also nurtures professional evolution, independence, and a merit-based academic milieu.

This course is the inaugural residential event of the OEI Academy. It is specifically designed for junior scientists and oncologists, offering a comprehensive, practical dive into the essential aspects of grant writing. Participants will be guided through the comprehensive grant development process, covering all aspects of research proposal writing.

The primary goal of this course is to furnish each participant, particularly those in the early stages of their scientific careers, with the necessary toolkit to compile a compelling grant application.

### **Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, participants will have gained the ability to:

- Comprehend and implement the fundamental elements of a grant application.
- Formulate a well-organized research plan that includes a clear and testable hypothesis, defined aims (both specific objectives and long-term goals), a critical literature review, and suitable, feasible methodologies.
- Understand the essential principles of sample size calculation.
- Demonstrate that the proposed research is highly innovative and has significant implications for human health and society.
- Articulate the importance and relevance of the project for the funding agency.
- Craft an engaging biosketch and personal statement that effectively highlight one's qualifications and motivations.
- Detail the resources and infrastructure available at the host institutions, emphasizing how they will support the proposed research.
- Accurately calculate costs and formulate a realistic budget.
- Compose a compelling abstract and title that effectively capture the essence of the proposed research.
- Be familiar with the key elements of communication and dissemination plans: tools, and target groups that ensures the research findings reach the appropriate audiences.
- Handle rejections effectively, using feedback to improve and strengthen the proposal.

### **Target Audience**

Designed for junior scientists and oncologists from the OEI member institutions.

### **Course Structure and Learning Modules**

The course is an immersive three-day live session on-site from October 8 to October 10.

The learning journey is divided into three comprehensive modules:

- Lectures: These sessions will provide theoretical knowledge and insights from experienced educators.
- Group Work: Collaborative tasks designed to foster teamwork and facilitate peer-to-peer learning.
- Individual Work: Personal assignments to encourage independent thinking and application of learned concepts.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants for this course should:

- be active in cancer research;
- work in a member Institution of OEI <sup>1</sup>
- have obtained the PhD or completed medical residency *not earlier than December 31, 2018*. In case of an applicant with both Specialization and PhD degree, the date of the first degree received will be considered valid for assessing the eligibility.

### **Application**

To apply, please submit the following documents in a single PDF file to [academy@oei.eu](mailto:academy@oei.eu) *by July 15, 2025*:

- A completed application form, including your curriculum vitae in the specified template.
- A copy of your qualifying PhD/Specialization Diploma, clearly indicating the date the degree was awarded.

Important: applications submitted in any other format or through any other method will not be considered valid.

### **Bursaries**

OEI will allocate **25 full-bursaries** and **25 partial-bursaries** to the best-ranked applicants.

Full bursaries include:

- Accommodation in Brussels (from October 8 to October 10, 2025 – 2 nights);
- Travel costs (economy flight and/or economy long distance train/bus)<sup>2</sup>
- Two lunches, two dinners, four coffee breaks;
- Registration fee;
- Grantsmanship learning material.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oei.eu/Membership.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Taxi and other extra expenses will not be reimbursed

Partial bursaries include:

- Accommodation in Brussels (from October 8 to October 10, 2025 – 2 nights);
- Registration fee;
- Grantsmanship learning material;
- Two lunches, two dinners, four coffee breaks;

#### **Selection of the applicants**

The selection of the applicants will be done by the scientific committee and by members of the OECD board based on:

- Scientific profile of the applicant (max 5 points);
- Publication track in cancer research (max 5 points);
- Motivation statement (max 5 points).

In cases where applicants achieve the same total score, ranking priority will be given to those who submitted their application earlier and to those who attended the 3 webinars online.

#### **Acceptance**

Selected applicants will be notified by August 31, 2025. After acceptance, participants will be contacted by the OECD travel agency to arrange their travel and accommodation.

For more information about the course write to: [academy@oecd.eu](mailto:academy@oecd.eu)