

Writing a Marie Curie Proposal

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Disclaimer

A very personal view. Might not be applicable to everyone.

My IEF was one of the last ones of FP7 – no warranty for anything in H2020.
(You might ask me about ERC proposals with H2020).

Key facts

PECULIJETS is about precision jet simulation.

Ran from November 2014 to October 2016 as an Intra-European Fellowship within the Marie Curie Actions of the Framework Programme 7, hosted by IPPP Durham.

Motivation/outline:

Logical continuation of the NLO effort I have started in Herwig to extend the simulation in several aspects, particularly geared to multijet topologies, uncertainties and photons. Including development of MC methods extending previous development.

- strong basis to build on, mainly independently built up by myself
- but also uses and interfaces to work of the other Herwig's
- excellent opportunity to broaden my expertise in event generators

A bit of personal history towards the application

After two years at DESY, and with the perspective of another two years there, I was looking for several grant opportunities to continue my research programme within the Herwig effort.

Marie Curie was one of them, with a few obvious hosts.

As a more detailed outline of what I wanted to propose had settled, it was clear that Durham would be the most appropriate host, based on a personal rating of potential success of the proposal.

General remarks

Can't say this often enough: It's not as easy-going as it looks like in the first place, especially if one is not experienced in writing project proposals, so **reserve enough time - it's a lot of stuff to write.**

Judge your draft proposal:

- Should be ambitious but feasible with realistic milestones and concrete time-lines.
- Does the project contain enough opportunities for “training”, i.e. broadening the own horizon, acquiring new knowledge etc?
- Does it have significant impact on your community?
- Is there exchange with other institutions?
- Will the results be communicated at workshops and conferences (concrete examples!)?

Preparing the application

Preparatory to the full application:

- Contact **EU support staff** at the host institution.
- Work out timelines and milestones. **Project planning** is important!
- Make an outline of the application, fill with keywords.
- **Get hands on a successful application**, preferably from another field.
- Contact referees for **letters of support**.

For the full application:

- Set up **participant portal account** and sort out bureaucracy.
- Set up a distributed version control repository (git, hg, svn) to **get your scientist in charge involved**.
- Start formulating full paragraphs, get the “Quality of host” etc. bits from the EU support staff of the host institution.
- Reserve one week of intense work to finalize, but well ahead the deadline.

Technicalities/Misc

Use figures and illustrations!

Do not use the RTF/Word/whatever templates by the EU and use LaTeX – assuming you're all much more familiar with the latter this will speed up the whole process.

Use the bibliography to highlight own preliminary work, highlight your authorship on these publications.

Make sure you got Acrobat Reader running (watch out, Linux users!): All of the Participant Portal forms are only friends with this proprietary piece of software! (Can someone please report to the EU people that this is just annoying?)

Thank you.

Please ask anything you ever wanted to know about this!