



Excellence in grant applications

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The researcher

- Experience: past accomplishments
- Creativity: ability to see beyond the obvious
- Intellectual capacity: can develop ideas, crack problems
- Reliability & commitment: will deliver on promises
- Independence vs. team work:
not all articles with the same coauthors
- Old vs. new collaborators for project
Why do you want to come/go specifically to Karlsruhe?
- MSCA Individual Fellowship: career development,
e.g. to attain professional independence

No false modesty, but remain credible

The project

- Quality and credibility of research
- Level of novelty
- Explain why your scientific approach is feasible
- Explain why the methodology your propose is appropriate
- Have a clear end goal for your project
 - but also visions beyond
- Show why the project helps solve an important problem or fills a need, e.g. in the experimental community
- Acknowledge a dynamic world; targets may shift
 - If new physics is found at the LHC, then . . .
- MSCA Individual Fellowship: quality of training and supervision

Set ambitious but realistic targets

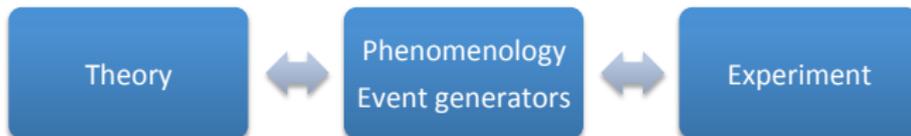
The presentation

- **Who is the reader?** What spread of levels?
- Smooth transition from popular introduction to expert level.
- Place your work in context: show the state of the art and originality of your project
- Show why your experience and potential equips you to deliver your project
- Don't ignore the competition – show why you are better
- **Take help to check presentation**

Tell a credible story

Layout and language

- Clear, organized structure (easy to find your way, to go back)
- Headings, subheadings, bulleted lists, ...
- Avoid excessive *italics*, **boldface** or underline in running text
- Spacious impression: font size, page size
- Pictures, diagrams, tables to highlight key points



- Clean & legible figures (older readers → reduced eyesight)
- Cultivated but still accessible language (get → obtain)
- Take help to check language (especially if non-native)

Should be readable and flow well

- Good title + good acronym
Collider Phenomenology and Event Generators \Rightarrow MorePheno
- Refer to the guidance and evaluation criteria when you are writing your proposal – approach these like exam questions
- Budget: if more than your salary, then table with numbers, but also legible brief summary near the end of the running text
- Work packages or not? Convenient for big collaborations, but straightjacket for the smaller project. Subprojects?
- Distribute full application to writers of recommendation letters
- Start well ahead of deadlines, rewrite, get input, re-rewrite

Take grant writing seriously