EARLY CAREER RESEARCH FIRST GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

TOP TIPS

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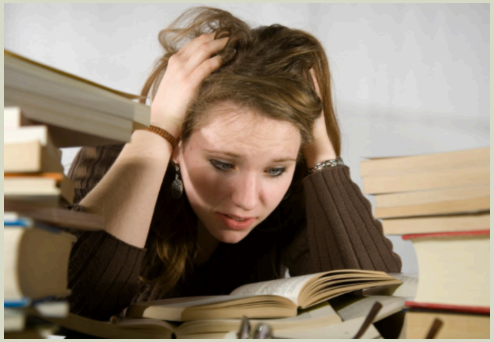
1: ALWAYS LEARNING



Training (UG / MSc / PhD)	Consolidation (Postdoc)	Independence (Running a Group)	Collaboration (Scale / Partnership)

2: INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

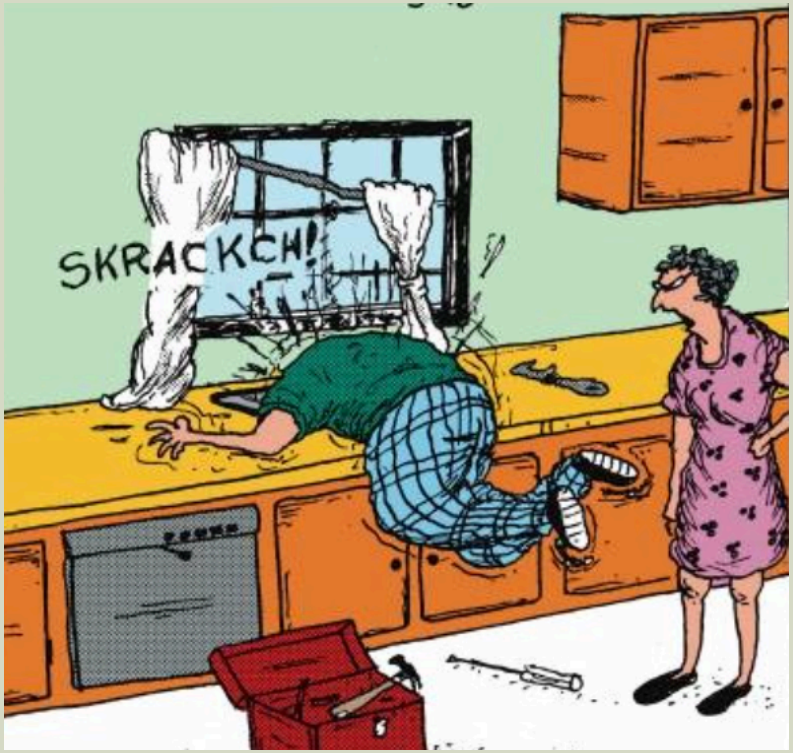
- Look at and talk to funders:
  - What schemes are you eligible for?
  - Which funder supports your research as a strategic priority
  - What are their expectations in terms of your career achievements?

- Example Grants:
  - Look at successful and unsuccessful grants
  - Recognise the importance of writing for a non-specialist audience
  - Understand the rationale for different sections:
    - Lay summary
    - Case for support
    - Justification of resource
    - CV and researcher team
    - Environment

3: GET INPUT FROM EXPERTS

- What do I mean by an expert?
  - Scientific expert: someone in your field who understands the current state of knowledge, and the key needs to progress the area [idea; level of ambition; hypotheses]
  - Technical expert: someone who is knowledge about the methods you wish to apply, if they are new to you [technical feasibility; training]
  - Grant expert: someone who knows the funder / scheme you are applying to [strategy, research fit and how long to write it]
  - Funder expert: advice from the funder around research fit, their expectations of different schemes [fellowships level]

4: DO WHAT YOUR EXPERTS SAY



I told you it was a bad idea to fix the waste disposal with a tie on

5: COMMON MISTAKES

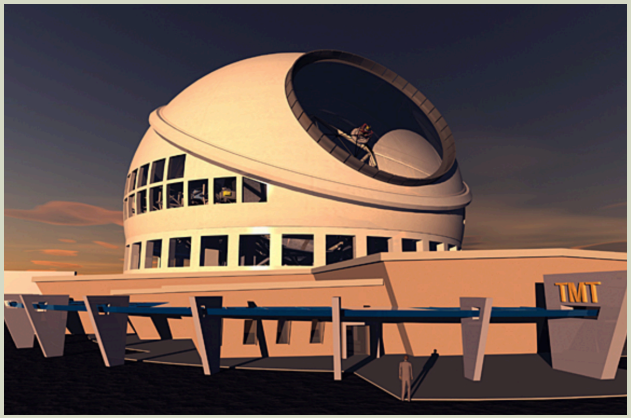
- No pilot data
- Researcher doesn't have the relevant skills
- Over-ambitious - too many techniques and / or too many projects
- No clear hypotheses or outcomes
- No risk management (e.g., if Project 1 doesn't work, Project 2 and 3 are worthless)
- Not competitive - work being doing by well-funded other groups
- No obvious career development - doesn't build on prior experience
- Lack of institutional support - mentoring (first grants)

6: PROJECT, PERSON AND PLACE

Good interesting idea that will progress the field

Got to be the right person with right skills to deliver the work

Got to be in the right environment, with right support and facilities

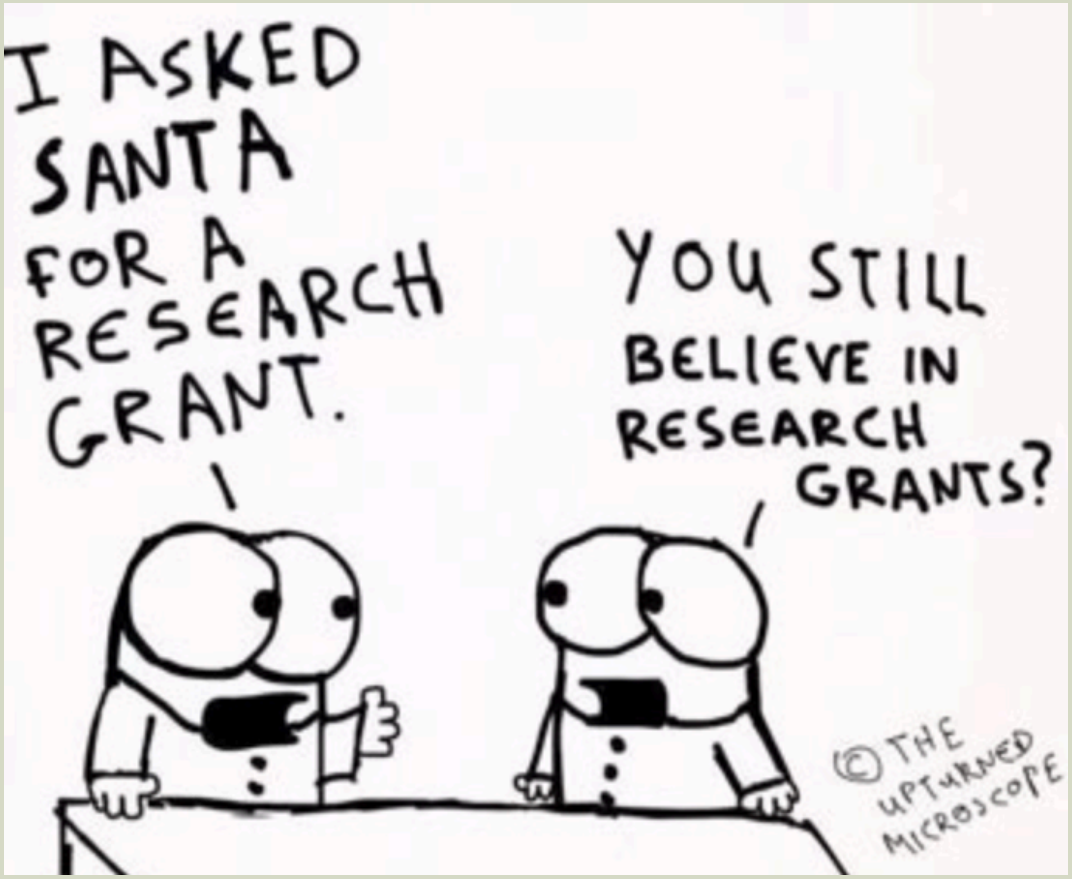


7: REVIEWERS AND INTERVIEWS

- Get expert advice and input into the writing of your response to reviewers: critical component of the assessment process
- Prepare for interviews well in advance via discussions about reviewer responses, talk practice and mock interviews
- Prepare to answer questions about independence; technical details; preliminary data (feasibility)

- Lots of blogs / information online about experiences and how to prepare

8: GOING TO FAIL, TRY AGAIN



WHY,

BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS LEARNING