

Crafting Award-Winning Proposals

Insights for Early Career Researchers



Advancing human progress together

Our speakers



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The Elsevier
Foundation, VP
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Chioma Blaise Chikere

Professor and Head of
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Microbiology,
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Nigeria

About the Elsevier Foundation

- We are a catalyst for inclusive research and health partnerships, convening and spotlighting impact makers to accelerate early-stage interventions that advance inclusion in research and health.
- Contributed over \$18 million in grants to support over 100 partners in more than 70 countries around the world.
- Corporate not-for-profit, funded by Elsevier
www.elsevierfoundation.org

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Impact Report 2024

The Elsevier Foundation

20 years of catalyzing impact, inspiring change



Advancing human progress together



Partnering for action to support green & sustainable chemistry solutions

- Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge: nearly a decade of collaboration with Elsevier Chemistry journals
- Projects using green and sustainable chemistry solutions to tackle challenges in low- and middle-income countries.
- Projects must include a focus on climate change and gender equity
- 2 winning projects receive \$25,000 each
- 18 winners across 17 countries

Building a community of innovators through the Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge



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Agenda

- Welcome and opening remarks
- General grant writing tips
- Adapting your proposal for Interdisciplinary research
- Impact of grants and awards on professional development
- Panel discussion
- Q&A with audience

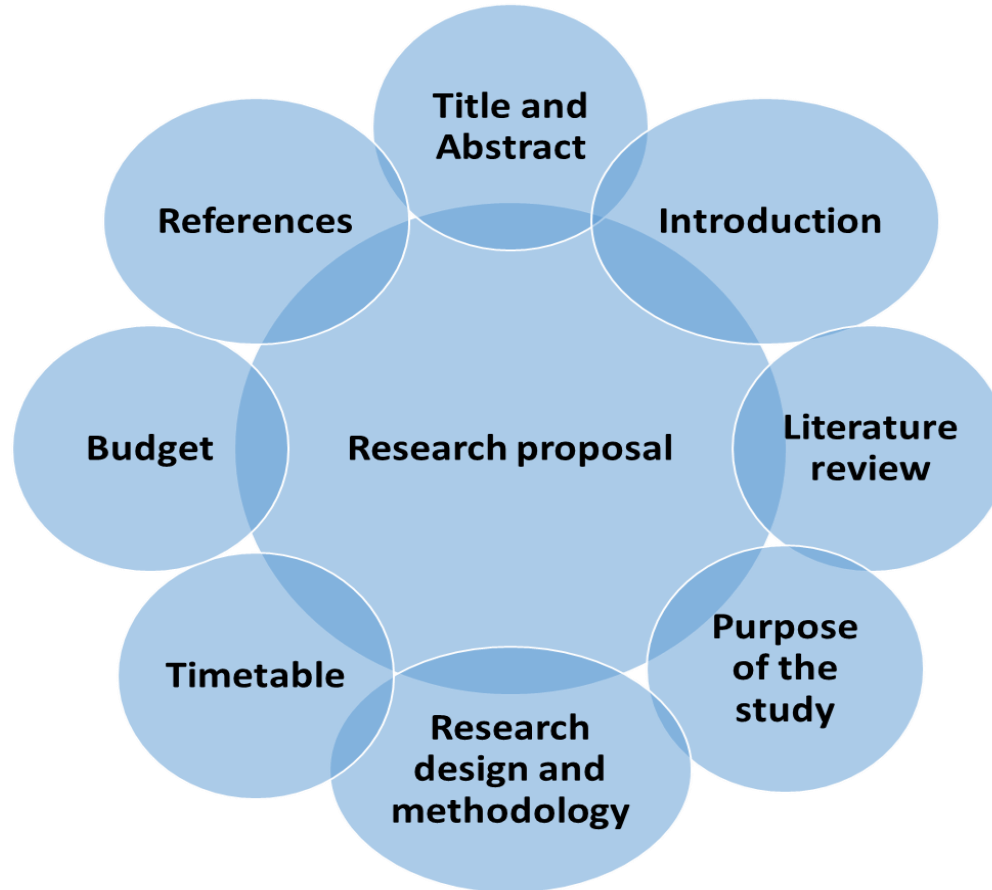
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General grant writing tips



Research grant contents

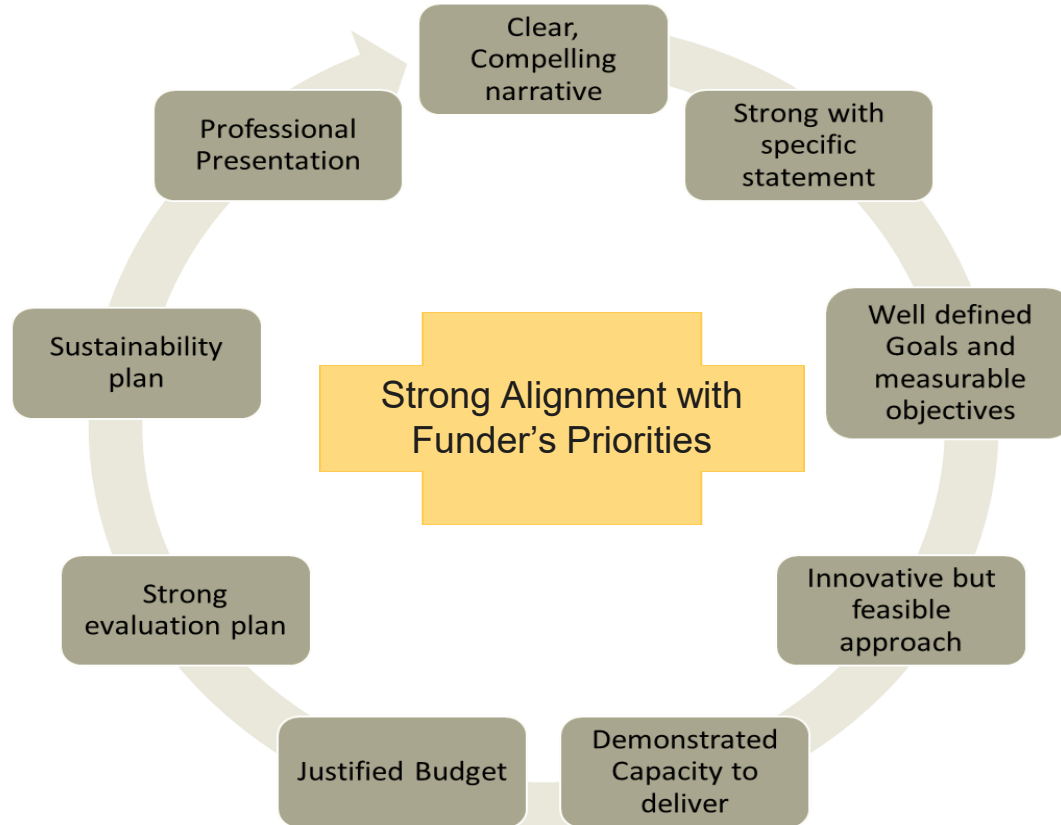


Research grants vs awards

Research Grant typically include several key components that help define, execute, and present the research **vs** **Awards** are based on achievements

Feature	Research Grant	Recognition Award
Content	Preliminary (if exist) and Future work	Accomplishments
Budget	Yes	Yes/No
Evaluation basis	Project quality and feasibility	Individual merit and impact
Outcomes	Funding	Award/certificate
Purpose	Fund a research	Honor Achievements

Critical elements that make a grant proposal stand out to reviewers



Approaches to understand the specific evaluation criteria

**Read the
funding call
attentively**

**Understand
each
criterion**

**Align your
proposal
with the
funder
Goals**

**Be clear
and
transparent**

**Learn from
the past
call and
read
previous
winning
projects if
possible**

Why recognition mechanisms like Research grant/awards are important for researchers' careers?

Career advancement



- Academic promotion
- Institutional advancement

Increased visibility and networking



- Greater exposure
- Collaboration opportunities

Help in future funding

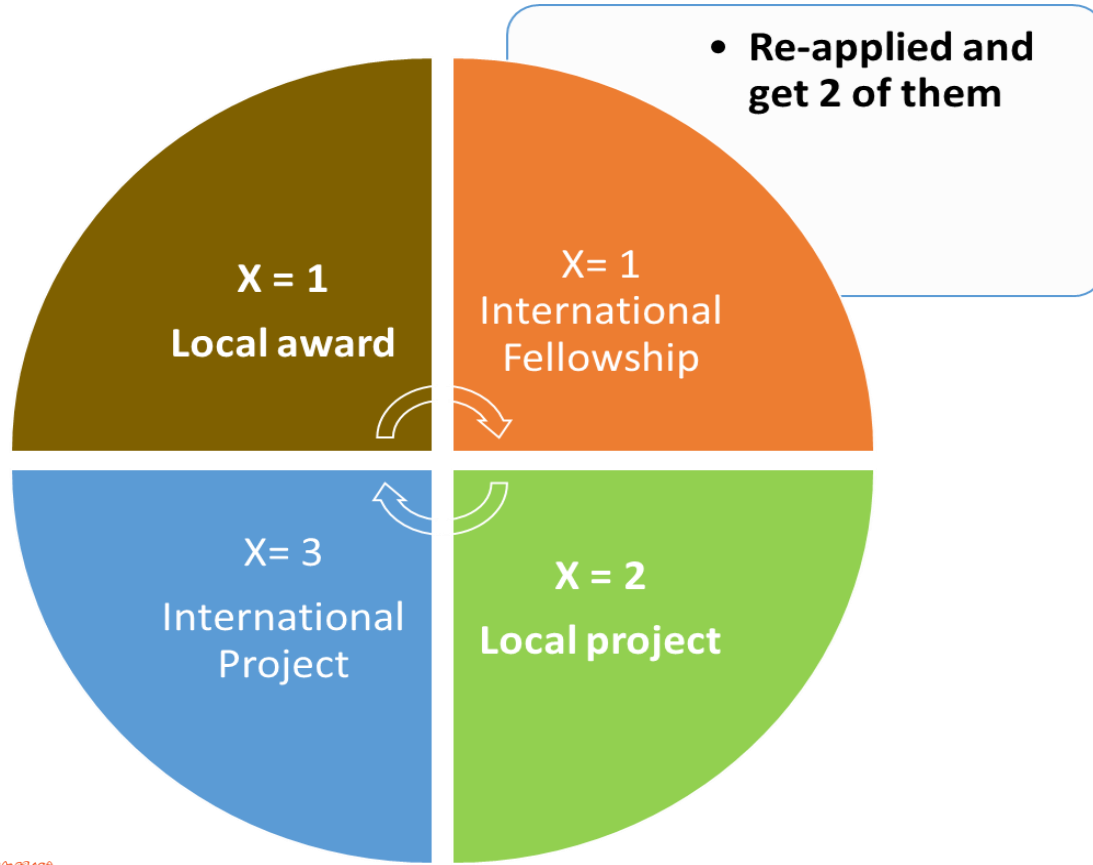


- Improve future trust and investment

Leadership opportunities



- Elevate the possibility for the researcher to a position

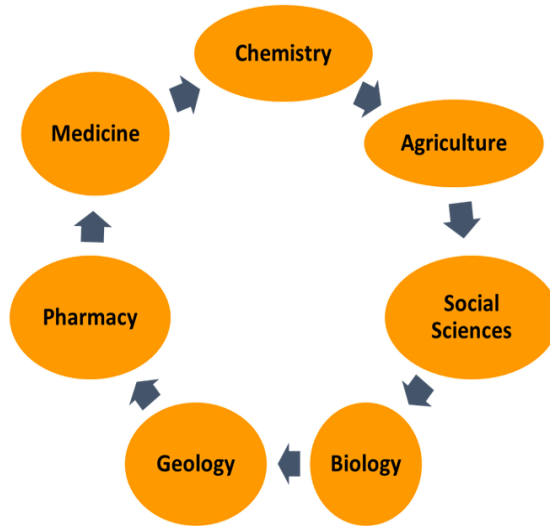


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Advancing human progress together

Remember

- Rejection is normal. **Revise and resubmit**
- Read successful applications and learn from previous ones
- Attend workshops



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& Action in Natural Wealth
Administration), Pune, India.

Idea Conceptualization to
Green Challenge Award



Funding proposal assessment

- Only write-up
- Proposal quality & interaction
- Write-up & idea pitching

What makes an effective proposal/presentation

Selection of topic:

- Interdisciplinary
- Urgency of the problem, path breaking articles
- Relevance: local to global
- Linkages to UN SDGs, green & sustainable chemistry

Owning the concept and linking

Methodological clarity

Research & Action - community investment

Stakeholder interest letter - permission reqd

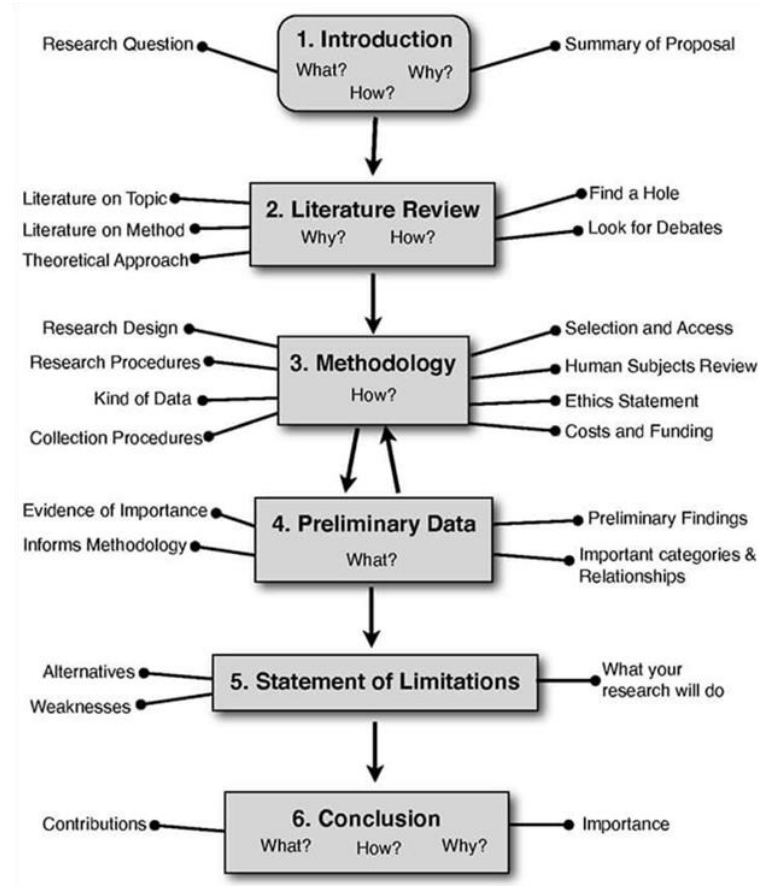
Budget

Referees



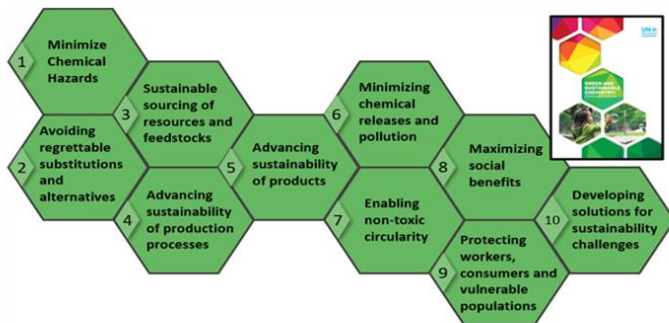
Research proposal flowchart

- Innovativeness - Unique Ideas
 - (Simple observations to curious questions)
- Known Ideas - Innovative approaches
- Replicability/Scalability
- Perpetuity beyond project period

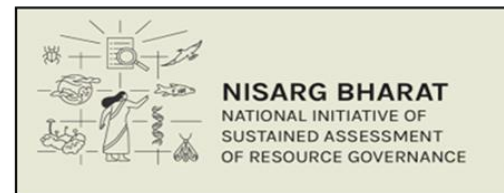


Owning the concept & linking

- Global targets
- Treaties and agreement
- National mission/s
- Contribution as an academician/researcher



10 objectives of Green and Sustainable Chemistry



Methodological clarity

Developing Butterfly Attractants for Pollination and Ecosystem Health

Biological Aspects - Steps I (Cues from Biology)

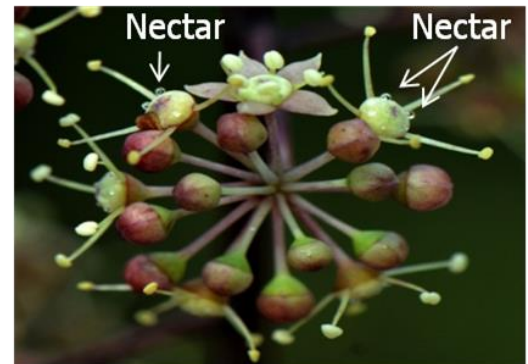
(i) Identification of plant species frequently visited by butterflies

Chemical Aspects - Step II

(ii) Extraction of plant materials - phyto-constituents including nectar

(iii) Development of natural attractant formulation for bioassay

Bioassay and Field Trials - Step III



Tips for Effective Presentation

- Impactful titles and subtitles
- Thoughtful visuals - clear message



*Problem if not addressed -
"Bottom-up Trophic Cascade"*

- One-liner debriefs

Pollinators

They aren't expendable. Our brittle reality depends on them, too !!



Pollinators ~ Human Well Being ~
Quality of Life

Budget

**For project - category wise
(80% activity costs + 20% other)**

I. Recurring & II. Non-Recurring

Human Resource: 30-40%

Capital costs: 10-20%

Consumables: up to 10%

Field costs: up to 20%

Contingencies: 10%

Institutional: 5-10%

**For presentation - time wise
(75% content + 25% Other)**

Plan slide wise, as per significance

Problem statement: 25-30%

Past work: 5%

Methodology: 10-15%

Budget: 5-10%

Debriefing: 20-25%

Concluding remarks: 15%

Chioma Blaise Chikere

Professor and Head of the
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(UniPort), Nigeria

Impact of grants and awards
on professional development



Success story

1. Enhanced electronic visibility/discoverability of research impact through social media mention
2. Increased collaboration and partnership with organizations and professional bodies globally
3. Attraction of speaking engagements from notable experts and organizations
4. Attraction of more grants and awards owing to the successful completion of a funded-project by a renowned organization like the Elsevier Foundation
5. Enhanced researcher/institutional prestige and ranking
6. Enhanced researcher impact/productivity- publications & conference presentations
7. Community engagement/opportunities
 - a. to contribute to global and continental goals



Prof. Chioma Blaise Chikere

- Head, Department of Microbiology
 - University of Port Harcourt (UniPort), Nigeria
- Professor Extraordinarius (Academic Associate)
 - Department of Environmental Sciences,
 - University of South Africa (Unisa)



Professorial inauguration

The Elsevier Foundation-funded project provided robust research data/outcomes/impact for my full professorial inauguration



Community Engagement

Incorporation of indigenous knowledge/people in the Elsevier Foundation-funded project increased success rate - full restoration of biodiversity

Field-scale study using poultry waste



Cross-continental collaboration; co-creation of knowledge and projects

Example

Erasmus+ AMIGO bilateral agreement with 5 European Universities 2022-2026



Contributions to continental and global frameworks - African Union Agenda 2063 & UN SDGs

Collaborators

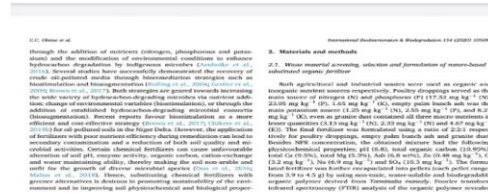
- Prof. Onyewuchi Akaranta (UPH)
- Prof Khayaletu Ntushelo (UNISA)
- Prof. Rasheed Adeleke (NWU)
- Dr. Ramganesh Selvarajan (CAS)

PhD Supervisees

- Chinedu Christopher Obieze
- Oliver Emmanuel Fenibo



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Speaking Engagements/Research Internationalization

GRC Application Accepted:

Register Today!

External **Inbox**



Gordon Research... 29 Jan 2024
to me



GRC | Home



Hello, Chioma

Professor

University of Port Harcourt / University of South Africa



Gordon Research Conferences
Frontiers of Science

01/29/2024

Chioma Blaise Chikere
University of Port Harcourt / University of South Africa
Rivers
Nigeria

Dear Chioma Blaise,

Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted by the conference chair to attend the following:

Green Chemistry Gordon Research Conference

Dates: 07/28/2024 – 08/02/2024

Location: Rey Don Jaime Grand Hotel in Castelldefels, Barcelona, Spain

Green Chemistry

Jul 28 - Aug 2, 2024 • Rey Don Jaime Grand Hotel • Gordon Research Conference

Status: Registered Role: Speaker

Manage My Registration

- Add/Edit Poster Abstract
- Apply for Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship
- Report a Violation of GRC Code of Conduct

Contact Us

- Contact Conference Chair



Thank you!