# List of potential assets of a funding project

# By David G Karlin, davidgkarlin@gmail.com (Training course in writing successful grant applications)

**1. RESEARCH QUESTION *(WHAT, WHY)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Asset** | **Evidence** | **Benefit** (= "which enables …", "which guarantees...") |
| You’ll solve a technological or conceptual stumbling block | Review | Researchers in the field will be able do thing X they couldn’t do before |
| You’ll solve a technological bottleneck | Review | Researchers in the field will be able do thing X faster |
| Answering the question is urgent |  |  |
| Solid prelim data |  |  |
| Study addresses gap in our understanding |  |  |
| Study has practical implications |  |  |
| Study has important theoretical implications |  |  |
| Study significant to objective of funders (eg health-related research). |  |  |
| Topic scientifically mature/well timed |  |  |
| Fashionable topic |  |  |
| Original or new ideas |  |  |
| Multidisciplinary project |  |  |
| You have proof that your project, method, or database will be useful |  |  |

**2. RESEARCH PLAN *(HOW)***

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| **Asset** | **Evidence** | **Benefit** (= "which enables …", "which guarantees...") |
| Project sure to give exploitable/publishable results |  |  |
| Study can produce useful information whatever the outcome |  |  |
| All parts of project publishable separately |  |  |
| Good, solid/well curated/original dataset or cohort |  |  |
| Methods well suited to the objective. |  |  |
| Robust, clear design of experiments |  |  |
| Good controls |  |  |
| Good model system, appropriate to address the proposed questions. |  |  |
| Experiments not too dependent on success of an initial proposed experiment. |  |  |
| Back up project available |  |  |
| Good statistical design/support |  |  |
| Original or new method |  |  |
| Access to proprietary data (which are, for instance, more complete, or otherwise unavailable) thanks to a partnership with the owner of the data (firm, hospital, patient group, NGO…) |  |  |
| Field experience |  |  |
| Easy access to the ground / populations you will study  (e.g patient groups, djihadists, arctic regions) |  |  |
| Member of team masters foreign language necessary for study |  |  |
| Member of team masters cultural environment necessary for study |  |  |

**3. CANDIDATE *(WHO)***

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| **Asset** | **Evidence** | **Benefit** |
| Candidate experienced with proposed techniques. |  |  |
| Candidate masters rare technique(s) |  |  |
| Candidate has experience of being at multidisciplinary interface |  |  |
| Good publication record |  |  |
| Candidate recognised by his pairs / (emerging) leader in the field |  |  |
| Proven excellence in research (eg award) |  |  |
| Good collaboration record |  |  |
| Good grant-getting record |  |  |
| Organizational skills (eg organisation of workshop or congress) |  |  |
| Good supervision record |  |  |
| Proven independence (ie signs last author) |  |  |
| Proof of motivation (ie has overcome difficult situation, etc) |  |  |
| Particular, rare experience (managerial, financial, communication, media, video, social networks, public engagement...) |  |  |
| Significant teaching or professional training experience |  |  |
| Specific degree (veterinarian, lawyer, ...) |  |  |
| Experience of working in, or collaborating with industry, private sector, NGOs... |  |  |
| Proven innovation skills (eg Patent, innovation award) |  |  |
| Large network of experts to call on |  |  |
| Unique network of contacts/ extensive address book full of well-connected people (carnet d’adresse bien fourni) (e.g. because you’ve been a journalist or artist) |  |  |

**4. RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT *(WHO, HOW)***

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| **Asset** | **Evidence** | **Benefit** |
| Colleagues or Collaborators reputed or experienced with proposed techniques. |  |  |
| Collaborators with unique skills |  |  |
| Collaborators with complementary skills |  |  |
| Easy access to specific equipment |  |  |
| Access to high quality training |  |  |
| Working collaboration(s) already in place |  |  |
| Good fit of project with institute’s theme; if they’re interested, proof they’ll support it |  |  |
| Candidate brings a lot of skills useful to lab |  |  |
| Good training/mentoring available to candidate |  |  |
| You have already obtained part of the budget (matching funds) |  |  |

**5. DISSEMINATION/ LEGACY**

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| **Asset** | **Evidence** | **Benefit** |
| Tools/data produced available freely, in easily exploitable form |  |  |
| Dissemination of results well-thought |  |  |
| If tool or database produced, proof that it’ll be well maintained |  |  |
| If tool or database produced, proof that it’ll be user-friendly |  |  |
| Special public engagement output expected (wide media coverage, etc) |  |  |