

## TRANSCRIPT OF LECTURE DELIVERED ON MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 (FORUM 3)

### Focus: **Securing Research and Scholarship Grants**



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#### **Background**

**Research** according to Marrian Webster dictionary, is the careful study that is done to find and report new knowledge about something. This means one deviates significantly if he claims to do research while copying and pasting others work. We should build on the existing knowledge to report new one.

**Grants** are non-repayable funds or products disbursed or given by one party (grant maker), often a government department, corporation, foundation or trust, to a recipient, often (but not always) a non-profit entity, educational institution, business or an individual. So, **Research + Grant = Research Grant**. Hence, research grant definition can be termed as grant given to conduct research.

#### **Why Research Grant?**

As a researcher, writing publications are integral part of academics to the extent that there is a saying that goes, ***if you don't publish, you will perish***. Perish in the sense that there won't be promotion available for you, i.e. if care is not taken, such fellow will just remain dinosaur in the University/College system. But being a researcher should thrive funds to you or else you are just a workaholic and your wife/husband and children will end up maledicting you if you are married. It is important to notice that research grants are not necessarily meant to be taken to purchase cars, build houses, and live in luxury like how some professors do in banana republic but at least, you can buy what can make your research grow and that will end up benefiting you.

#### **Where Does Research Grant Come From?**

Seeing a white professor paying his/her student who is into research does not necessarily mean the professor takes it directly from his salary. Well, few may be kind anyway. Those grants come from the following sources:

- ❖ Government

- ❖ Organizations such as IMU, IHP, CIMPA, CNRS UNESCO (for Mathematicians)... In diverse field.....tap the link below

<https://www.nonprofitexpert.com/international-grants/>

- ❖ Philanthropist, etc.

## How to Secure Research Grants

Emphatically, research grant is not like bread and bean cake one can just get. It is just like scholarships, it requires serious efforts, commitment, patience and prayer. Below are the ways to improve your chance for securing one;

### ➤ Preparation/Planning

Just like the saying goes, if you don't plan to pass, you are planning to fail. Part of your preparation includes but not limited to the above link. Also, good and meaningful proposal in line with the overview of the organization cannot be left out.

### ➤ Publications

If you have publication, it adds to your chances. This does not mean a local paper published in Foworogi Journal of Mathematics where the referee will only correct spellings and references but you publish in a journal with high impact factor. One of my Professor, Prof. Arie Iserles (Cambridge University) says it is not necessary you publish twenty papers that are not up one. Meaning, your paper should be a researchable paper not just paper.

It is obvious as a young researcher scarcely do you have enough standard papers, hence collaborating with a professor in your area to write the proposal will suit best.

### ➤ Seek advice from previously successful grant proposal writers

No one is encyclopedia of knowledge and the more you advance in learning, the greater you realize your ignorance. **Team up with people, work together for work is not done in isolation.**

### ➤ Be explicit in your proposal.

Your proposal should be made catchy to read.

➤ Request for recommendations

Although some of the application may not state explicitly to include recommendation letter from referee, but it must not be left out. In essence, when you are applying for any grant, get a renowned professor to write you the recommendation (even if they do not ask). Anyway, the application for **mobility grant** is out this year and the deadline is May, 10<sup>th</sup>. You may apply, if you are selected, they offer you grant to have research stay in to collaborate with any professor in sub Saharan Africa. But you need to be a PhD student...sorry for digressing.

➤ Don't be disappointed with love letter

Well, love letter means rejection letter. We call it love letter because it starts from preaching. E.g. "We appreciate you for applying for xyz.... We received over 1000 applications" (who asked them that story?)..... So if you receive one, don not be discouraged....Know where you are lacking and make necessary adjustment.

➤ Get feedback

You might get a rejection letter with no reason; kindly ask them for reasons (white people are happy to hear that and they will be ready to give). They will assist you with subsequent application.

➤ Prayer

After putting everything in place and taking all advice, kindly forget not to pray towards it (though many people may not take it serious but it works).

**Note:**

After receiving the grant, be sincere! Remember a good turn deserves another. Some most especially Africans forgo the rules and regulations to adhere after receiving the grants. This may deprive you of getting similar kind in future.

**Conclusion:**

I am cognizant of many people trying and still getting rejections, do not relent! Keep trying.... Those that are giving testimony now have once received multiple love letters.

## **Generic Questions and Answers**

**Q.** How do you gain favor for grants on little research abled ideas/work?

**A.** Well, there is/are no little ideas. Idea is idea....Move to experienced people to make your little idea big.

**Q.** How do you make your research open to scholars and how does it stand out when there are numerous research with same topics?

**A.** Create account on research gate or Google scholar....Upon final acceptance, put them for people to see it. Even if they have same topic, the content must vary.

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