The Road to Competitive Funding: Tools, Perspectives, & Processes

GAVIN LUCAS AND MARC FONT

June 25, 2026 to June 26, 2026
09:30 to 17:30
Elements Room

The goal of this workshop is to boost participants' chances of obtaining competitive funding by providing training that is immediately applicable in their working environment. One of the key messages is to understand grant preparation, not just as a writing task, but as a Project Management and Communication task. At the end of the workshop, participants will have acquired a set of practical tools and concepts to facilitate the grant.
Target group: PhD students, Postdoctoral researchers, and Research Engineers. Priority given to late-stage PhD students and Postdocs.
Available places: 16
Workshop Content:
Writing a successful grant proposal is not just a writing exercise; it is a strategic project management and communication challenge.
This workshop will help you:

- Strengthen and position your scientific idea within the funding landscape
- Analyse calls strategically and align your proposal with evaluation criteria
- Organise and connect your ideas into a coherent, competitive structure
- Manage the proposal preparation process efficiently and confidently

After the workshop you will have:

- A clear framework for developing and planning a competitive research proposal
- Practical tools to analyse funding calls and structure key proposal sections effectively
- A reverse-planning strategy to manage timelines and submission deadlines
- Greater orientation and confidence throughout the grant preparation process

Detailed Content:

- Developing your scientific idea
- Charting the grant landscape
- Analysing the call
- Organising and connecting your ideas

- Dealing with key sections for success: Impact and Risks/Contingencies
- Reverse planning for preparing and submitting
- Exploring how AI can support the grant writing process

Training Methods:

This is an interactive workshop with extensive elements of partner work exercises and group discussion. We use innovative training methods and proven didactic techniques, and place special emphasis on sharing and learning from the participants' own expertise and experience. To increase impact and applicability, we work with real-life cases from the participants whenever possible. We may ask participants to reserve time for individual preparatory work before the workshop.

Trainers: Dr Gavin Lucas, PhD & Dr Marc Font, PhD

Gavin is a scientist with 13 years of experience in biomedical research, and founder of TPM Science, where he has been an author's editor, consultant, and trainer since 2013. In addition to his own track-record as a publishing scientist on national, European and international research projects, he and his team at TPM Science have helped plan, critique, and polish over 700 original scientific articles for dozens of institutes in diverse fi elds, as well as more than 120 H2020 and Horizon Europe proposals. He also has extensive experience as a trainer on more than 300 workshops in transferable skills for researchers and provides consultancy on training and scientific productivity at numerous research institutes, public agencies, charitable foundations, and private companies.?

Marc is a grant consultant with 11 years of experience in academic research in leadin research centres (including the University of Girona (Spain), Bologna (Italy), Manchester (UK) Berkeley (USA) and CIQUS, Santiago de Compostela (Spain). He holds a PhD in Chemistr from the University of Girona, has a solid publishing author track-record (20 publications h-index 12) and has served as topic editor in the scientific journal, Molecules. Throughout hi career, Marc has developed broad expertise in scientific communication and grant writin and has obtained more than 250 k? in funding in National and European calls to lead his ow research projects. Marc has also supported the preparation of many competitive gran proposals and has been an expert evaluator for the Marie Curie postdoctoral fellowship sinc 2019.

** If you require an accommodation to participate in this event due to a disability, please contact the Events Team at events@icfo.eu as soon as possible.

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