

Research Lighthouse workshop:

US funding for non-US researchers and institutions

This workshop is designed to provide attendants with enough insight and understanding to determine whether it is worth the effort to engage in US federal research funding. The workshop answers the question: what is required to successfully, and with minimal risk, submit proposals and manage awards from US federal funders?

The workshop may be adapted to the needs and wishes of each audience. Since 2012, the workshop has been offered at universities, research hospitals, research institutes, and at conferences in Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, the Czech Republic, and in the US (Chicago).

Target group

The workshop is intended for researchers, support staff, and management at organizations that have *limited or no experience with US research funding*. Separate workshops, specifically tailored for each group—researchers, management, and support staff—is recommended, but optional. The workshops can be adapted to suit any needs and wishes.

Overview

In its generic version, the workshop is divided into two sessions: first a presentation, with an introduction and overview, and a second interactive and practical session, with exercises and discussions. Each session takes c. 3 hours, and can be done either as one workshop, or split into shorter sessions.

1. The **first session** begins with outlining the **general principles** guiding and governing US Federal research funding to provide background; *why* are the processes are designed the way they are? Some **common misunderstandings** are addressed, caused by the differences between European and US systems, for example why a single US award or sub-award **require a complete compliance setup** at the receiving organization, and how that can be achieved with reasonable resources.

The **structure of US Federal research funding** is outlined, using the National Institutes of Health/NIH as an example, also drawing on the National Science Foundation/NSF and other relevant agencies. How is it possible to **find calls for proposals**, and what is required to understand them properly, and decide whether to apply? This is briefly explained together with **the role of must-know resources**, e.g. **Grants.gov**, **Uniform Guidance** (2CFR200), and the **NIH-GPS** (Grants Policy Statement), and similar fundamental rules and guidelines.

The **review and award process** at federal funders is described together with the generic—but very important—organization in **scientific, review and grants management teams** that is common to all US Federal funders.

To finish the first session, crucial practical issues relating to US Federal awards are addressed, including the **basic legal and financial conditions** and **compliance requirements** for foreign (i.e. non-US) recipients that can make or break any research collaboration or project. Those issues include a.o. how legality is decided, and the **foreign review criterion** for proposals.



2. The second session is interactive, and participants do hands-on exercises based on real calls from relevant US funders (NIH, NSF, DHS or any other). Typical challenges include determining if you are **eligible to apply** and any **restrictions, compliance requirements** and their consequences, **application deadlines** (and cycles), **budget development, submission/resubmission** procedure and conditions, and how to ensure reasonable **preparation** (hint: it takes time...!).

The two sessions can be adapted to any needs and wishes. The exercises of the second session require physical attendance to yield the intended effect.

Learning points

After the workshop, participants will:

- have an overview and understanding of the **principles of US research funding**, including governance, funding agencies, and where to find more information.
- understand how **foreign components** in research projects and collaborations are viewed and what laws and rules that apply.,
- be able to **find and understand US calls for proposals**.
- know how to **determine eligibility** for any call from a US Federal funding agency.
- have insight in basic **financial management, US style**, and how to cost and budget US-funded research projects.
- be familiar with basic **compliance issues** and how to deal with them, including reporting requirements.
- have the insight necessary to begin **setting up a stream-lined system** for managing US research funding and collaborations.
- be able **determine when and how** to engage in US research collaborations involving funding and/or the conditions for submitting proposals to US funders as prime or subaward applicants.
- know where to turn for **further help and information**.

More information

For further information on e.g. the contents of the workshop, how it can be adapted, adding components, pricing, or follow-up activities and services, please contact Olaf Svenningsen at Research Lighthouse, either by [email](mailto:olaf.svenningsen@research-lighthouse.com) or book a meeting at www.research-lighthouse.com (no charges on the first consultation).

