

MY EXPERIENCE APPLYING FOR FELLOWSHIPS

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What did I apply to?

Before I completed my PhD:

EMBO

Marie Curie

After I completed my PhD:

Future Leader Fellowship (BBSRC)

Sir Henry Dale (Wellcome)

What did I need for an app?

- A good (?) idea
- CV demonstrating that I could do the work
- A place that can support me in the project
- Lots and lots of editing and refinement

What was on my CV?

- 4 x first author research publications in the general area, including new methods.
- 4 x mid-author publications in related work
- 2 x review articles in the field
- None of them in “big” journals
- Signs of independence (small grant, lots of supervision)

Getting started

- Read other apps. As many as you can.



- Read the guidance notes.



- Outline your project.

Project Design

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- Something plausible
- Something using tools I had, but allowed for growth
- A bit ambitious, but credible

Project Design

- My PhD: Modification of **peptidoglycan** in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- My FLF Project: **Peptidoglycan** recycling in mycobacteria

The best advice I was given

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- Take their feedback seriously.
- If anything I wrote was unclear to a reviewer, it was not their fault. It was my fault.
- Have a dedicated section in the application for most likely failure points and contingencies.

How did Birmingham support me?

- World-class mycobacteriology unit
- Research infrastructure to support all of my proposed experiments
- Commitments from my department and institute
- Internal review and mock-interviews



Questions

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