

Choosing a Topic for Preparing a Research Proposal

Professor Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Khan

What needs to be done before thinking about the topic?

- Development of meaningful cooperative relationships
 - Within your laboratory
 - With the University - as a basis for the development of strong fundable initiatives.
 - With funding agencies
- Facilities available
- Capacity of your system to deliver
- A successful project require collaboration and participation at all levels.

What needs to be done before thinking about the topic?

- Decide which funding agency you want to go for funding.
- Get to know the funding agency.
 - Priorities.
 - Past history in terms of type of the proposal they have funded.
 - Establish contact with the relevant officer of the agency to discuss the details and methods.

What needs to be done before thinking about the topic?

- Learn what is special about the funding agency:
 - Read their guidelines and procedure
 - Carefully read their rules for proposal submission and please follow it.
 - Know the deadline
 - Know their review process like who is on the review committee

Know what you want and why you should get it.

- Now look at your strength
 - Experience
 - Facilities and your favorite areas of expertise
- Know the history, current status and where exactly you want to take it.
- Economic utilization (may or may not be immediate but you must have good idea what it may be.

Title

- It should be concise and descriptive. For example, the phrase, "An investigation of . . ." could be omitted.
- Often titles are stated in terms of a functional relationship, because such titles clearly indicate the independent and dependent variables. However, if possible, think of an informative but catchy title.
- An effective title not only pricks the reader's interest, but also predisposes him/her favourably towards the proposal.