



HFSP Master Class

Concept:

The HFSP Master Class will bring together scientists interested in HFSP for a special workshop offering hands-on training in grant writing led by experienced HFSP reviewers with integration of examples of HFSP supported research projects, introductions to HFSP programs, and interactive live exchanges with scientists in other countries.

Why the HFSP Master Class?

Every year HFSP introduces the support programs to the scientific community through many presentations during scientific meetings, on invitation by universities or member countries. While these presentations offer detailed insights by the Scientific Directors, they do not include hands-on training for grant writing. The HFSP Master Class is different because it offers a novel and highly innovative value proposition:

1. The Master Class is by invitation only for a small sized group allowing for more personal interaction and consideration of specific career situations or research interests.
2. The integration of a dedicated training team composed of members of HFSP Review Committees is advantageous because the reviewers can provide explicit and verifiable information on writing applications because they have review for HFSP in the past.
3. The hands-on writing is not just an English writing class for science articles but a very focused approach to develop an application for the letter of intent stage for HFSP applications. This is a very different approach from a standard writing class that addresses shortcomings in grantsmanship in HFSP member countries.

Why the letter of intent stage?

For HFSP programs the letter of intent (LOI) stage is the most critical step on the way to success. The LOI is a rather short document that includes a scientific abstract and short written accounts by grant team members outlining their contribution to the overall research effort. The abstract is the key element which is read early on by the evaluators and if it does not provide a convincing concept the application is doomed to fail.

A second priority item in the Master Class will include training in writing a public abstract because it is an important exercise for any scientist in convincing a general audience about the value added of the proposed research.

Finally, hands on writing of research plans with scientists in other countries is a real-life training for preparing to submit a full proposal that follows a successful LOI. At the same time this part of the training allows to network with scientists from other disciplines and may lead to a grant application in the future.

Practical considerations:

Participation is by invitation only and the number of participants should not exceed 25-30 and is open to PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and both junior and senior faculty.

HFSP will assure participation of Scientific Directors as well as experienced grant awardees/alumni but also HFSP reviewers for teaching and assessment exercises.

Program outline and training concept

The delivery of the HFSP Master Class will take the form of a workshop. The participants will be asked to submit a CV, a short summary of their current research focus and a 3min-presentation summarizing their current work before the workshop. The 3min-ppt presentations will be given on the first day of the workshop to the whole group.

During the workshop, **onsite writing tasks** will include individual writing tasks (individual Letter of Intent for a Research Grant/Fellowship) and team efforts (drafting a research plan for a joint Letter of intent for a Research Grant).

In addition, instructors and HFSP awardees will give **presentations** during the workshop on various topics that are relevant for the participants. Topics include what qualities reviewers look for in a successful HFSP LOI, the presentation and discussion of good and bad examples of real HFSP LOIs, and presentations by former or current HFSP Awardees on how to come up with frontier ideas, find collaborators etc.

Proposed curriculum:

Day 1:

- Part I: Introductory session with introduction of the training team and presentations about the organization and the various HFSP support.
- Part II: 3 min-presentations by participants on their current research
- Part III: Presentations by instructors on what they look out for in a successful HFSP LOI (separately for Research Grants and Fellowships)
- Part IV: Assignment of Writing Task 1: Individual LOI
- Meet & Greet: Getting to know each other

Day 2:

- Part I: Presentations of writing examples highlighting grantsmanship issues of historic HFSP LOIs. Instructors will provide feedback based on selected examples, followed by interactive discussions
- Part II: Writing time for Writing Task 1
- Part III: Assignment of Writing Task 2 (Joint LOI) and formation of teams for Writing Task 2
- Part IV: Feedback session on Writing Task 1 in small groups
- Part V: Writing time for Writing Task 2 (tbc on Day 3)

Day 3:

- Part I: Writing time for Writing Task 2 (ctd from Day 2)
- Part II: Presentations by HFSP grant awardees on how to come up with frontier idea, find collaborators etc
- Part III: presentation of Joint LOIs to whole group
- Part IV: Feedback session on Writing Task 2 in small groups, later with whole group