Instructions for preparation of PhD Project Proposal / Mock Grant Application

The Appraisal of your proposed PhD project serves several purposes:

• first and foremost to satisfy the requirements of the MRes degree;
• to provide you with early basic training in grant writing skills;
• to provide the basis for a project application required by the Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust requires students funded by the Trust to submit their 2nd year research proposal through “Grant Tracker”, which is the Wellcome Trust’s grant system.

If you are a WT funded student, you will receive an email from the Trust during the Easter Term with details of how you can create an account on the Grant Tracker system. Once you have an account, you will be able to access the research proposal form.

You should first discuss your project with your intended supervisor(s), who will also be able to advise you on how to prepare a grant application (and will probably have examples of successful applications to show you!)

The research proposal should be substantially your own work, as examinable material, though obviously you will need to discuss ideas with your supervisor and others. Some sections may require greater input from your supervisor (such as the costings section). Please pay close attention to the word limits and specific instructions on the form when completing each section.

This proposal will be the major document considered by your MRes examiners, and the major topic for discussion in your Viva (although there may also be discussion of rotation projects and general background material).

The research proposal form will need to be completed online. Do not press the “submit” button at this stage. You will need to send your PhD Administrator a PDF version to your research proposal, which will then be assessed by your internal and external examiners for your MRes. After your MRes viva you may be asked to make some changes to your proposal. Only once the programme director via the programme administrator has given you the green light, should you press the “submit” button on the Grant Tracker system.