

Detailed Plan: PhD Course: Research Funding: From Idea to Application

The course is a 5-day intensive training designed to transform your research idea into a competitive funding application. The course is structured in three phases that follow a clear progression:

Phase 1: Preparation - Participants must write a "raw" draft of an application, using the specific structure described in the course plan. This draft serves as their "primary working tool" for the course. The deadline for submitting this draft is 29 January.

Phase 2: Intensive Course Week - This intensive course is conducted digitally during week 6. Participants spend the week actively improving the specific draft they submitted in Phase 1. Each day focuses on strengthening specific sections (e.g., Aims, Methodology, Implementation).

Phase 3: Finalization - After receiving feedback during the course (on both the draft and the pitch), participants must use this feedback to complete and polish their final application. The submission deadline for this final application is 20 February.

The examination reflects this logic, as it consists of the two central elements developed during the course: the pitch (from Phase 2) and the final, completed application (from Phase 3).

Phase 1: Preparation (Deadline: 29 January 2026)

Goal: To arrive at the course with a well-thought-out, "raw" draft. This draft is *not* a test; it is your primary working tool for the entire week.

Task: Prepare an application draft based on your own research, targeting the fictional call "Global Nexus Postdoctoral Fellowship." You *must* use the provided template.

Fictional Call:

- **Title:** Global Nexus Postdoctoral Fellowship
- **Funder:** Global Research Foundation (fictional)
- **Target Group:** Researchers who have obtained their PhD degree within the last 5 years.
- **Purpose:** To bridge the gap between your completed PhD and the next step in your career. The project must demonstrate how you will apply the results/methods from your PhD to open a new, innovative line of research.
- **Framework:** 2-year postdoctoral project.

Deadline and Submission:

Send your draft as a single PDF document to olehenrik.hansen@ju.se no later than 29 January 2026, at 16:00.

Application Draft Template (Pre-Course Assignment)

Important Introduction: The Red Thread (Coherence)

A successful application is characterized by its "red thread" (coherence). This means there must be a crystal-clear logical connection between all sections:

- The **problem/knowledge gap** you identify (Section 1)
- ...must lead directly to your **research questions** (Section 2)
- ...which dictate your **methodology** (Section 2)
- ...which must be realistically **planned** (Section 3)
- ...and which will produce the **results** you promise (Section 4).

For this call ("Global Nexus"), it is crucial that you position this project as the *logical next step* after your PhD. How are you building on the results and expertise you have already achieved?

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES (Approx. 1000 words)

- **State of the Art, Current Knowledge, and Knowledge Gaps:**
 - **Explanation:** What is the problem? Start broad and then zoom in. What do we already know about this topic (State of the Art)? What is the specific, unexplored niche or pressing knowledge gap that your PhD has helped to uncover? This section must convince the reader that the topic is important and that the time is ripe for *this* specific project.
- **Project Aim and Objectives:**
 - **Explanation:** What is the overall purpose (Aim) of the project? And what are the specific, measurable objectives (SMART Objectives) you will achieve to fulfill that aim? These objectives will become the backbone of the rest of your application.

SECTION 2: RESEARCH STRATEGY (Approx. 1500 words)

- **Research Questions (RQs):**
 - **Explanation:** List 2-4 central research questions. These must be directly derived from the knowledge gaps and objectives you presented in Section 1.
- **Methodology:**
 - **Explanation:** How will you answer your RQs? This is the engine room of your application. Describe data, materials, and methods for collection and analysis. Why is this specific methodology the right one? Be specific.
- **Ethical and Legal Considerations:**
 - **Explanation:** What ethical dilemmas (e.g., regarding data, informants, GDPR) might arise? How will you handle them?
- **Incorporation of Gender Perspectives:**
 - **Explanation:** Is gender relevant to your research design, your data, or your analysis? Explain how, or (if it is not relevant) argue briefly why.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION (Approx. 500 words + Table)

- **Work Plan:**

- **Explanation:** This section must demonstrate that the project is realistic and well-planned. The primary tool is your GANTT chart. Fill in the template below for your 2-year (8-quarter) project. Divide the project into logical "Work Packages" (WPs)—e.g., WP1: Data Collection, WP2: Analysis, WP3: Dissemination.
- GANNT chart - example:

You're welcome. Here is the complete, consolidated plan in English, including the detailed GANTT chart example and the explanation of all terms, as requested.

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Phase 1: Preparation (Deadline: 29 January 2026)

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 - **Explanation:** This section must demonstrate that the project is realistic and well-planned. The primary tool is your GANTT chart. BTable 1 below is a detailed example structured around four "Work Packages" (WPs):
 - **WP1:** Project Management & Ethics
 - **WP2:** Data Collection & Preparation
 - **WP3:** Analysis & Synthesis
 - **WP4:** Dissemination & Reporting

Table 1: Example Work Plan (Time Frame: Q1 2026 - Q4 2027)

Quarter / Year	Key Tasks (and WP)	Assoc. RQs	Milestones / Deliverables	Researcher (Name)
Q1 2026 (Y1Q1)	WP1: Kick-off; Detailed project plan; Draft ethics application; Finalize Data Management Plan (DMP).	-	Ethics application submitted; First version of DMP.	[Your Name] (Lead)
Q2 2026 (Y1Q2)	WP2: Begin literature search (systematic); Start data collection (e.g., recruitment of informants / archive access). WP1: Ethics approval received.	RQ1	Ethics approval received; Data collection protocol finalized.	[Your Name] (Lead)
Q3 2026 (Y1Q3)	WP2: Full data collection (e.g., interviews / survey / experiments); Transcription / data organization.	RQ1, RQ2	Data collection 50% complete.	[Your Name] (Lead)
Q4 2026 (Y1Q4)	WP2: Finalize data collection; Data cleaning and validation. WP3: Initial analysis (e.g., coding / descriptive statistics).	RQ1, RQ2	Raw data collected and organized (Milestone 1).	[Your Name] (Lead)
Q1 2027 (Y2Q1)	WP3: In-depth analysis (e.g., thematic analysis / statistical modeling).	RQ1	First analytical results available.	[Your Name] (Lead)
Q2 2027 (Y2Q2)	WP3: In-depth analysis (continued); Synthesis of results; Identification of key findings.	RQ2, RQ3	Analysis finalized; Draft of Article 1 commenced.	[Your Name] (Lead)
Q3 2027 (Y2Q3)	WP4: Finalize draft of Article 1; Present findings at international conference; Begin Article 2.	RQ1, RQ2	Article 1 ready for submission (Milestone 2); Conference presentation.	[Your Name] (Lead)
Q4 2027 (Y2Q4)	WP4: Submit Article 1; Finalize Article 2. WP1: Write final project report; Finalize and archive data as per DMP.	RQ3	Final project report; Article 1 submitted.	[Your Name] (Lead)

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Explanation of Table Elements:

- **Quarter / Year:**
 - **Q:** Stands for "Quarter." A year is divided into four quarters: Q1 (Jan-Mar), Q2 (Apr-Jun), Q3 (Jul-Sep), Q4 (Oct-Dec).
 - **Y:** Stands for "Year." Y1Q1 means "Year 1, Quarter 1." This is a standard way to show time in project management.
- **Key Tasks (and WP):**
 - These are the specific actions to be performed in that time period.
 - **WP:** Stands for "**Work Package**," a common way to group related tasks.
- **Assoc. RQs:**

- Stands for "**Associated Research Questions.**"
- This column links the tasks directly to the Research Questions (RQ1, RQ2, etc.) you defined in Section 2. It shows the evaluator that your work is focused.
- **Milestones / Deliverables:**
 - **Milestone:** An important checkpoint that marks the end of a major phase (e.g., "Ethics approval received"). It is a *moment* in time.
 - **Deliverable:** A tangible, concrete output that you produce (e.g., "Article 1 submitted" or "Data Management Plan"). It is a *result*.
- **Researcher (Name):**
 - The person responsible for the task. In a postdoc project, this will almost always be you ("Lead").

SECTION 4: EXPECTED RESULTS (Approx. 500 words)

- **Expected Results and Potential Impact:**
 - **Explanation:** What are the expected *results* (outputs, e.g., a new model, a dataset, an analysis)? What *impact* will these results have? Briefly describe the potential academic, societal, and/or economic impact. Who will benefit from your research?

Phase 2: Intensive Course Week (2 February - 6 February 2026)

During the 5 days of training, you will *actively* work on improving your submitted draft. Each session is designed to give you tools to strengthen a specific part of your application.

- **Monday: Idea and Aims**
 - *Focus:* The funding landscape and career strategy.
 - *Workshop:* We work on "From Idea to Aims." You will revisit and sharpen your SMART objectives in **Section 1** of your draft.
- **Tuesday: Excellence and The Call**
 - *Focus:* Decoding the call ("Global Nexus") and writing "Excellence."
 - *Workshop:* You will work intensively on improving **Section 2** (Methodology, State-of-the-Art). We also begin preparations for Friday's pitch.
- **Wednesday: Impact and Implementation**
 - *Focus:* Defining impact, budgeting, and project planning.
 - *Workshop:* You will outline a budget (for the "Global Nexus" project) and improve **Section 3** (GANTT chart, risk assessment, impact pathways).
- **Thursday: Evaluation and Ethics**
 - *Focus:* Thinking like an evaluator, ethics, IPR, and data management.
 - *Workshop:* You will review your draft with an evaluator's eye to find weaknesses. You will refine **Section 2** (Ethics, Data) and finalize your 3-minute pitch presentation.
- **Friday: Pitch and Wrap-up**
 - *Focus:* The submission process and the main pitch competition.
 - *Exam (Part 1):* You will deliver your 3-minute pitch and receive direct feedback from the panel (LA, RG, OHH) and your peers.

Table: Plan for workshop in week 6

	Monday the 2 th	Tuesday the 3 th	Wednesday the 4 th	Thursday the 5 th	Friday the 6 th
9:00-10:30	Session 1.1: The Funding Landscape & Your Career Welcome & course introduction. Funding as a strategic part of a research career. The expectations of a researcher and the university. <i>Instructor: (LA)</i>	Session 2.1: Decoding the Call How to find and select the right call. Analysis of call text: keywords, requirements, and evaluation criteria. <i>Instructor: (SB)</i>	Session 3.1: Defining Impact Understanding impact: academic, societal, and economic. Theory and models for structuring the impact section. <i>Instructor: (RG)</i>	Session 4.1: The Evaluator's Perspective Thinking like a reviewer to avoid common pitfalls. Workshop: Simulated proposal evaluation exercise. <i>Instructor: (OHH)</i>	Session 5.1: Submission and Beyond What happens after you click submit? How to manage grant preparation and submission with a logical calendar and checklist. Q&A session. <i>Instructors: All (Panel)</i>
10:30-10:50	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
10:50-12:20	Session 1.2: From Idea to Aims How to formulate a fundable research idea. The logic frame model. Workshop: Defining SMART objectives for your proposal draft. <i>Instructor: (LA)</i>	Session 2.2: Writing for Excellence Structuring the state-of-the-art and articulating novelty. Defining the core methodology. Workshop: Improving the "Excellence" section of your draft. <i>Instructor: (SB)</i>	Session 3.2: Budgeting & Resources Principles of research project budgeting. What costs are eligible? Workshop: Creating a draft budget for your proposal. <i>Instructor: (RG)</i>	Session 4.2: Ethics, IPR, and Data Management Key considerations for ethics and IPR in proposals. How to write a data management plan. Group discussion on ethical dilemmas. <i>Instructor: (OHH)</i>	Session 5.2: Pitch Your Idea! Each student presents a 3-minute pitch of their research idea. Refreshments will be served. Dress code: Dress to impress (interview style). <i>Moderator: Shira Becher (SB)</i> <i>Jury: LA, RG, OHH</i>
12:20-13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:00-14:45	Session 1.3: Psychology and Foundations The psychology of money and dealing with rejection. Dialogue with representatives from private foundations. <i>Instructor: (LA)</i>	Session 2.3: Pitching to Funders Learn the essentials of pitching ideas effectively to funders. Workshop: Prepare a 3-minute pitch (max 3 slides, optional) based on your proposal draft for Friday's competition. <i>Instructor: (SB)</i>	Session 3.3: Project Implementation & Impact How to create a realistic project plan (Gantt chart), conduct a risk assessment, and formulate pathways to impact with KPIs. Workshop: Outlining the implementation and impact sections for your proposal. <i>Instructor: (RG)</i>	Session 4.3: Own Work Dedicated time to improve your proposal draft and finalize your 3-minute pitch. Upload slides (if any) before the end of the day. <i>All instructors available for questions.</i>	Session 5.3: Pitch Your Idea! (continued) Pitch presentations continue. Feedback from the instructor panel and peers. <i>Moderator: Shira Becher (SB)</i> <i>Jury: LA, RG, OHH</i>
14:45-15:00	Day Wrap-up	Day Wrap-up	Day Wrap-up	Day Wrap-up	Course Wrap-up & Evaluation
Daily Outcome	Career plan outlined and SMART objectives defined for your proposal draft.	Improved "Excellence" section in your proposal draft and a clear understanding of your target call.	Improved proposal sections on implementation, budget, and impact, including timelines and KPIs.	A well-rounded proposal draft addressing ethics and IPR. Pitch presentation is finalized and submitted.	A completed submission checklist, a practiced pitch presentation, and valuable feedback from experts and peers.

Phase 3: Finalization (Deadline: 20 February 2026)

After the workshop week, you will have received intensive training, peer feedback, and expert feedback on your pitch. Now, you must use this knowledge to complete your application.

- **Task:** Finalize and polish your application (based on the template), incorporating all the learning and feedback you received during the week.
- **Deadline:** The *final, revised* application must be submitted by **Friday, 20 February 2026**.

Assessment (7.5 hp)

To pass the course (G), active participation is required, along with passing two components:

1. **Individual Presentation (2.5 ECTS):** Your 3-minute project pitch, held on Friday.
2. **Individual Written Assignment (5 ECTS):** The final, fully developed application, submitted on 20 February 2026.