
CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

FundMe Insights

Reviewer, mentor, programme and applicant perspectives: what they mean for your proposal

A one-day event for postdoctoral researchers at the University of Bern preparing competitive grant applications

What separates a strong proposal from one that gets rejected? This event brings together experienced reviewers, mentors, successful applicants, and fellow postdocs to explore what makes grant applications convincing, feasible, and competitive.

SPEAKERS

Reviewer and programme perspectives*

Dr. Emmanuel Delamarche, Knowledge Transfer UNIL CHUV, ETH Zurich, consultant

Prof. Monica Gotta, University of Geneva

Prof. Georgia Salanti, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Bern

BRIDGE programme representative to be defined

Prof. Dr. Antoine Adamantidis, University of Bern, Inselspital Bern University Hospital

These speakers will contribute personal perspectives as experienced academic evaluators, programme experts, and mentors. Across the reviewer-perspectives session, participants will hear insights relevant to competitive national, European, and innovation-oriented funding schemes, including SNSF Starting Grants, Ambizione, Postdoc.Mobility, ERC Starting Grants, Innosuisse, and BRIDGE-related programmes.

Workshop

Dr. Emmanuel Delamarche will lead a practical workshop on how project management influences proposal evaluation, with a focus on presenting a project idea as feasible, convincing, and competitive.

Applicant perspectives

Dr. Jevgeniy Bluwstein, University of Bern, ERC Starting Grant recipient

Prof. Dr. Pegah Kassraian, University of Bern, Inselspital Bern University Hospital, SNSF Starting Grant recipient

**Speakers contribute in a personal capacity. Their participation does not imply representation of, or endorsement by, any funding organisation.*

EVENT DETAILS

Date	Monday, 26 October 2026
Time	09:00–17:00
Location	University of Bern (exact location to be confirmed)
Language	English
Participation fee	Free of charge
Application deadline	14 August 2026
Notification of selection	31 August 2026

PARTICIPANTS WILL

- Gain a reviewer's perspective on common strengths and weaknesses in grant applications
- Take part in a workshop on how project management principles can strengthen proposals
- Hear directly from successful applicants about what worked, what was difficult, and what they learned
- Discuss common challenges in preparing competitive applications
- Receive practical guidance on presenting a project idea convincingly
- Connect with other postdoctoral researchers preparing for similar funding steps

WHO CAN APPLY

This call is open to postdoctoral researchers at the University of Bern interested in applying for competitive research funding, including early-career grants, SNSF, ERC, or similar national and international schemes.

Places are limited to ensure an interactive format.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a short application by email, including:

1. Name, email address, department/institute, and faculty
2. Current position and postdoc year
3. Research field
4. Funding scheme(s) of interest, if already known
5. Expected grant application timeline
6. A brief motivation statement: why would this event be useful for you now?

Applications should be sent to stefanie.paerschke@unibe.ch by 14 August 2026.

Questions about the event or application process: konstantina.chalkou@unibe.ch

Organised by **Konstantina Chalkou, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM), Medical Faculty, University of Bern

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