## Grant Writing Workshop: How to Write a Competitive Application to a Funding Agency

Tallinn University of Technology, Ehitajate tee 5, Room U06-442
Instructor: Prof. Roger Coulombe, Utah State University
September 23-26, 2019

### Course Programme

#### Daily Goals

- Get to know staff and fellow students
- Scientific Research: Back to the Basics
- Understand the importance of grants, project hypothesis
- Insure that your project is hypothesis-driven
- Synthesize your research topic

#### Topics – Morning Session: 9:00-11:30

- Introductions
- Orientation: workshop goals and expectations
- Why Grants? The engine of science and career
- The Scientific Method
- Getting started: Identifying funding sources
- The Hypothesis
- The Title

**Critical elements of persuasive proposals:**
- Title
- Aims (+preamble)
- Abstract
- Background
- Experimental Design (methods)
- Preliminary data
- Timetable

- Introduction to budgeting, budget justification, other sections
- Finishing up: Avoid common mistakes that can sink a proposal
- Reviewing process: advice from the reviewer’s perspective

**Lessons learned:** Advice on building a successful and independent scientific research career
**Student PowerPoint presentations of final proposal to class (~ 12-15 min)**

#### Afternoon Session: 13:00-16:00

**Working session (with staff):** identifying research problem, draft hypothesis, aims

**Working session:** revise hypothesis and aims; outline abstract, background section, project plan.

**Working session (with staff):** preparing a working budget and refining your proposal critiques and comments

**Evaluation of the workshop and feedback for future course improvements**

#### Milestones for independent and group work

- Online literature search; finish title, hypothesis and aims; outline and **initial ideas presented to class**
- **Revise your proposals** to be reviewed by fellow students
- Refine hypothesis, aims, Start Abstract; **Rough draft: project direction, critical elements**
- Preparing budget; working on proposals; Refine and revise proposal; **Present next-to-final draft to class**
- Complete your **PowerPoint presentations** for oral presentation Thursday
- Complete submission and submit to staff;...