

Experience with MSCA application process

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Some personal and professional background



Academic background

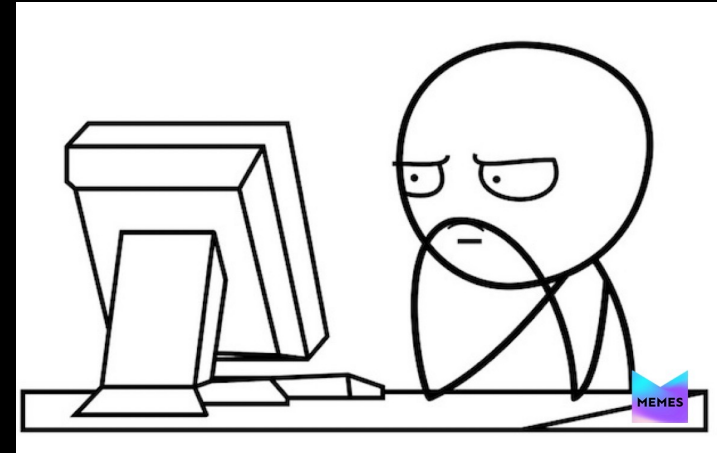
- Bachelors In Technology
- PhD (RNA biology and bacterial genetics)
Model organism : *E. coli*

Move to Sweden Oct 2019

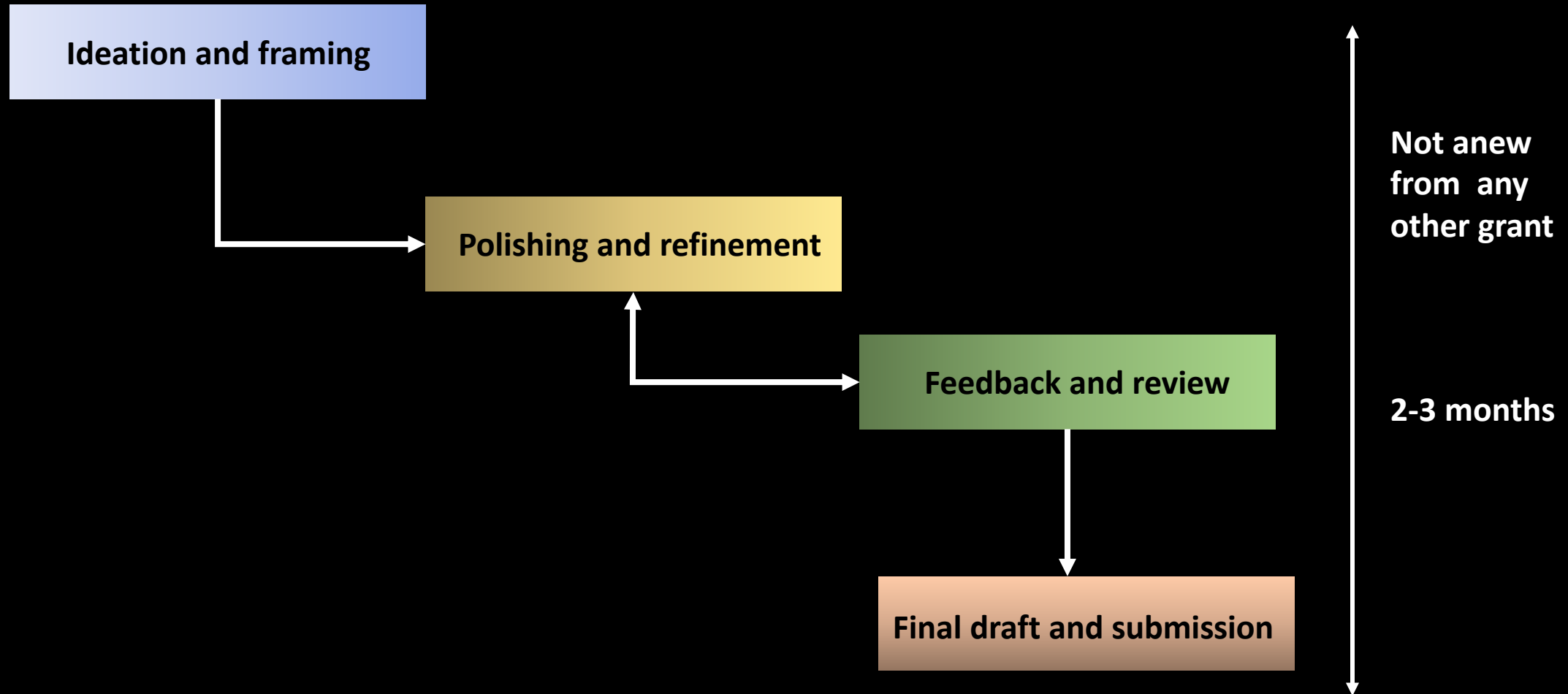
Learn Cryo-Electron Microscopy & Infection Biology

Decision to apply for a grant

- Experienced Grant proposal/report submission during Ph.D.
- Experience of driving/managing a scientific project
- Time duration fitted well with my move to Sweden



The application process



Take home message!!

Convince the reviewers :

One has the skill set; infrastructure support for a project that enable a two-way exchange of knowledge and expertise

Preparation and Structure of the write-up

Ideation and framing: **A good start??**

- Reading the call
- Talk to your current/future PI
- Collaborators?
- Frame the main problem statement
- Infrastructure

Part A

Section 1: Scientific Aims, implementation and significance

Section 2: Impact; on the field, society and participants

Section 3: Detailed implementation plans and timelines

Aims, implementation and significance

- 2-3 Aims; significantly advancing the field
- Outline of the methods
- Significance: How aims advance the field
- Expertise gained and exchanged
- Why host is the best?
- Preliminary data if any??



Impact

- Growth as a researcher
- Growth of the host lab and the field
- Social impact and scientific outreach initiatives



Implementation plans and timelines

- Scheme for implementation of aims (WPs)
- Responsibilities of involved parties
- Risk assessment and contingencies
- Quality of Host/ institute



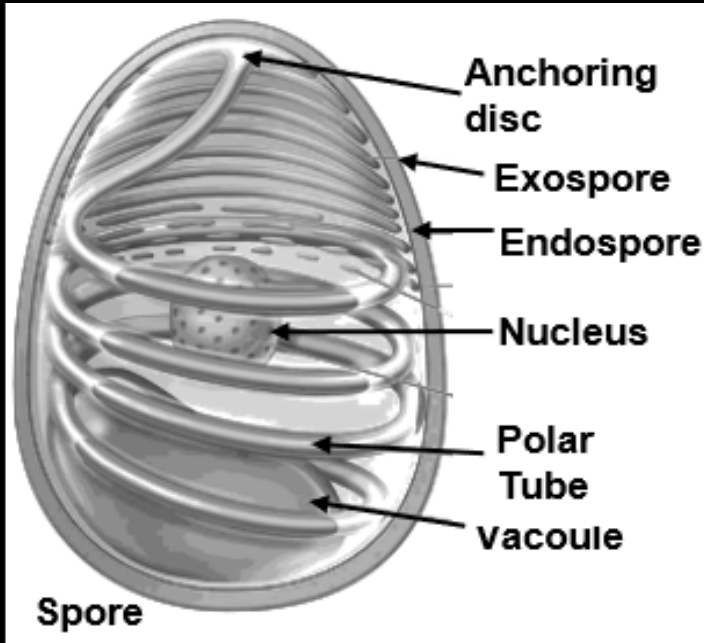
Section B: Researcher's CV

- Career highlights that establish appropriateness for conducting the aims
- Skill set that establish appropriateness for conducting the aims
- Leadership & communication experience

Me writing my Resume!!



Project and my background



**Microsporidia : Obligate
intracellular parasites**

- Investigations into mechanisms of cellular invasion :
Structural and transcriptomic studies
- **New Model organism & foray into Parasite biology**
- **Structural studies: Cryo-Electron microscopy**
- Existing expertise: RNA biology and transcriptomics

Polishing



- Ask friends/Colleagues to review
- Review from collaborators (esp. Technical aspects)
- Contact the RSO
- Keep calm!! This goes up till you hit the submit bouton

Submission

- Organize drafts well
- Browse through the submission portal before submission
- Partial submission details can be prefilled
- Portal may get congested around end, have a submitted copy before that

Researcher's profile: My profile at time of application

- Two first-author Papers, one second author
- One first-author under communication
- NO other awards or recognitions!!
- Had expertise in transcriptomics and cell biology, relevant to one proposed aims

Recommendation letters not required for application!!

General tips

- Do apply!!
- Focus on interdisciplinary projects
- Do not shy away on the resume!!
- Study previous applications (I got some directly from ResearchGate)
- Do not undermine the administrative aspects
- Get thorough feedback!!

Acknowledgements



Jonas Barandun

Previous awardees

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SciLifeLab