

# **JISC bids: An Academic Perspective**

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This is the transcript of the presentation by Dr. Shailey Minocha at the elearning Community event at the Open University on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

## ***An uncertain start***

- What is the 'core' research idea?
- How does the 'idea' or proposed project fit with the call?
- Is there evidence for demonstrating that you have worked in related area? Have you already done some literature review in this area?
- Has JISC recently funded bid(s) in related area(s)?
- Can you find any collaborators within the OU or outside?
  - What complementary strengths will they bring to the bid? (ideas, skills, equipment, an additional discipline for investigation, sources of data, 'standing' or 'name'?)
- Do you have enough time to meet the deadlines (both internal and JISC's)?

## ***Key to success***

- Core 'idea' should be innovative
- Will the empirical research cover more than one discipline?
- How do the proposed research outcomes fit with the objectives of the JISC programme?
- Who would be the beneficiaries of the research?
- Will the outcomes be sustainable?

## ***Factors of hope***

- Documentation related to the JISC calls is very detailed
- Samples of 'successful' JISC bids (within the OU and JISC's website)
- Lot of expertise within the OU
- OU has a very good rapport, standing, and friendship with JISC

## ***Clarity of the core idea***

- Telling the story: flow and connectivity (e.g. linking the research aims and methodology); story should be very closely related to the call
- Amplification through simplicity; simplicity is not easy but it is powerful and leads to greater clarity;
- People who will review the bid internally and externally may not be from your research area

### ***Not an individual effort***

- A number of units will offer support: Strategy Unit; Human Participants Materials and Ethics Committee; Legal and Commercial Team; Accounts Team; Faculty's research manager
- JISC programme managers are happy to discuss over ideas over phone before the bid is submitted
- Some JISC calls have briefing meetings in London, Birmingham

### ***Team effort***

- Arrange some interim deadlines for review
- Allocate tasks such as budget planning, ethical review, scanning the JISC site for similar proposals, reviewing the bid, contributing to specific sections of the bid, and so on, to other team members

### ***Somebody has to 'lead'***

- One person will have to lead the bid-writing and will consolidate the bid materials, and for co-ordinating the efforts with various units in the OU
- Identify a lead contact person in the collaborating 'Faculty' or institution

### ***Glimmers of hope***

- Research Manager, Strategy Unit, Accounts, Legal Team – all help to get it together
- Peer-review can be helpful – arrange time (in advance) for reviewing with colleagues; get feedback from colleagues who are not directly involved in the 'proposed' research area

### ***Towards the finishing line***

- Getting it all together (Yellow form)
- Letters of support
- Attention to detail in getting the bid organised: formatting, presentation, spellings, page numbers; follow JISC Style guidelines <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/aboutus/brand/editorialstyleguide.pdf>
- Try to submit 12-24 hours before the deadline

### ***Success!***

- An email from JISC informing the success by the date JISC may have advised
- Share it with the Collaborating partners, Faculty and Strategy Unit immediately

### ***'It' really starts now***

- Work has to start almost immediately

- Study plan (project plan) has to be submitted within a fortnight