

Rényi Institute of Mathematics

ERC Grants

Stipsicz András



OUR SPECIALITIES (DISCLAIMER)

Mathematics (a theoretical science, with moderate needs)



Hungary



Research Institute (no teaching)

Small institute (small to non-existing hierarchy)



FIRST SECRET: THERE IS NO SECRET (OR IF THERE IS, I DO NOT KNOW)

Problem: few successful proposals

Bigger problem: few proposals

Three main components

- (1) Find eligible (potential) candidates
- (2) Convince eligible candidates to write a proposal
- (3) Improve the quality of the proposal



FIND THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES



- Grant-winning potential should be a component in hiring
- Propagate important aspects early on: shape Funding ID, add relevant aspects to Vita, publication strategy, acceptance of students, editorial work (e.g. mentoring)
- Adjust interest and research topics (focus or widen, as necessary --- only as an advise)
- Encourage and support smaller projects, proposals
- Proposal writing is (in most cases) rewarding

CONVINCE POTENTIAL CANDIDATE



- Present application as (partly) service to the Institute. Grants might provide stability in turbulent times
- Acknowledge proposal writing as an important part of work (compensation) 
- Recycle unsuccessful proposals (Frontier and Momentum grant applications, other grants)

IMPROVE QUALITY OF PROPOSAL



- Explain evaluation scheme (difference between Steps B1 and B2)
- Provide professional help in non-scientific matters (e.g. budget)
- Read and discuss proposal with others
- Help before interview (mock interview)



INSTITUTE PRACTICE



- One decision level (no hierarchy levels)
- Freedom in research topics
- Stability (7th director since 1950, three since 1995, same deputy director since 1995)
- Encouraging and helping environment
- Proposal writer should focus mainly on the scientific part



- Prepare future potential candidates
- Approach candidate
- Explain that an ERC Grant is not only a personal success, but a joint one with the Institute
- Grants also provide stability in turbulent times
- Reward effort dedicated to grant writing
- Recruit proposal readers
- Discuss aspects with specialists and with generalist mathematicians
- Mock interviews
- Recycle unsuccessful proposals if possible



WHY THE RÉNYI INSTITUTE?



1.	Pintz János	2008	Advanced
2.	Bárány Imre	2010	Advanced
3.	Stipsicz András István	2011	Advanced
4.	Szemerédi Endre	2012	Advanced
5.	Szegedy Balázs	2013	Consolidator
6.	Abért Miklós	2014	Consolidator
7.	Pyber László	2016	Advanced
8.	Pete Gábor	2017	Consolidator
9.	Lovász László	2018	Synergy *
10.	Pach János	2019	Advanced
11.	Tardos Gábor	2021	Advanced

