The Interview: Preparation is key!

- Review your application
- What would ‘YOU’ ask?
- Do a dress rehearsal
- Practice with sample questions
- Mock interviews (the best preparation!)
- Get the administration stuff right to ensure you arrive on time, order of trials, take spaces of everything
- Seek local knowledge - lots of expertise in University of Edinburgh
- Understand the Panel’s agenda and purpose

The Panel will:
- Investing in the future of research
- Looking for future leaders
- Wanting to see achievement
- Acting on behalf of the funding body
- Representing the groups who will benefit from the impact of your research

The Interview

3Ps (& a T) of a fellowship:

- Proposition
- Person
- Time

EVIDENCE of

- Importance
- Proven outcomes
- Plan (
- Position in field
- Priorities

EVIDENCE of

- Why are you...
- Unique
- Capable
- Worth the investment (*)

EVIDENCE of

- Excellence
- Research
- Key decision
- Potential to build capacity
- Relationships
- Independence

EVIDENCE of

- Why this has happened
- More implications of delay
- How it fits in your career development
- Opportunities available to you...

Referee Comments: Being PROFESSIONAL is key!

For most Fellowship programmes there is an opportunity to write a statement in response to referee comments.

Your response statement is one of the key pieces the panel considers.

Many panels will start scanning your application for the key points, then look to see what the experts thought. They will then look to see:

The Application

- View the Funder as a benefactor

- Really understand what they are trying to achieve through this Fellowship programme and make sure that mission is ached in the project you propose and your career objectives.

The Interview

- Watch your language

- How opinions, but be careful with your responses: ‘This is always the case’, ‘This never happens’, etc. could get you into bother. The panel will challenge you if you talk in any sweeping terms about big ideas that you don’t fully understand.

- Don’t avoid saying ‘I don’t know’

- Respond with ‘I don’t know, but what I would is...’

- Talk about how you would address the uncertainty.

Get another opinion!

- Remember: you need to bring in critical friends - those who aren’t close to your application as you are and who can see check your responses, this will reflect in your response statement.

Your level of Professionalism

If they notice that the referee is inconsistent, they will give you an opportunity to address this - but doing it professionally.

Final Key points:

- How opinions, but be careful with your responses: ‘This is always the case’, ‘This never happens’, etc. could get you into bother. The panel will challenge you if you talk in any sweeping terms about big ideas that you don’t fully understand.

- Don’t avoid saying ‘I don’t know’

- Respond with ‘I don’t know, but what I would is...’

- Talk about how you would address the uncertainty.

Follow-up interviews - what is key? Find out at the ‘How for interview from the IAD’. This training was introduced to help tackle challenging and uncertain. You have any of the following topics, get in touch with the advisor: (https://www.unica.com)

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