

## Advice and top tips for Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) - Individual Fellowship (IF) Applicants

from Prof. Gregory Radick, a Successful Marie Curie Host Supervisor @Leeds



Prof. Gregory Radick and Dr. Sean Dyde, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow

**Greg Radick** is Professor of History and Philosophy of Science in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Culture. He has been the Host PI on EU-funded projects and has been **host supervisor** on a **Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship** entitled '[Making Biological Minds](#)' (MBM).

This project allowed Germany-based, Australian researcher **Dr. Sean Dyde** to **come to Leeds** on a **2-year fellowship**. Prof. Radick shared his views and experiences of this project with us.

**Greg was aware of the scheme as his school, Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science (PHRS), had a track record of successful applications.** When he met Sean, it was clear that the match in their ambitions could be realised through a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship. So, **how did Greg approach the project?**

*"Sean and I worked on the application together, and found it relatively straightforward as these things go – we benefited a lot from having earlier examples to learn from. The EU pre-award team were fantastic to work with, especially in guiding Sean through the intricacies of the application and submission."*

Greg's **main recommendations to future applicants** are both technical and practical:

Firstly, **present the project as important, even urgent**, not just as filling a gap. Secondly, **don't neglect the impact side.**

And thirdly, **give yourself time enough to revise in light of peer review.**

He also notes that **persistence** is a **key attribute**:

*"Many successful bids starts life as unsuccessful ones, indeed sometimes it takes several attempts. It's worth hanging in there!"*

With EU proposals, it is often said (jokingly....we hope) that the worst thing that could happen is that it gets awarded, as then you have to manage it! Greg offers a different perspective with MBM, awarded in 2015, noting no specific difficulties.

*"Marie Curie Individual Fellowships are not at all difficult to apply for or to manage compared with, for example, ITNs. So far the management has been very straightforward, and winningly hassle-free. When issues have arisen, the EU post-award team has been very responsive in dealing with all our queries."*

The proposal preparation and grant management aspects are important, but the **real purpose** of the application is **seeing the benefits of the award.**

*"The greatest benefit has been the freedom and excellent conditions afforded to a junior scholar so that he can complete an ambitious and important new book. I'm very impressed with the H2020 scheme, which, because it's Europe-wide, ends up funding work of very high calibre."*

MBM finished in 2018 with two journal articles plus a monograph and book reviews in progress. A successful project conference saw speakers from Germany, Singapore, the Russian Federation and the USA, as well as from across the UK.