Proposal Writing for Natural Scientists

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April - July 2025

Objectives

In addition to a general introduction to proposal writing, this course will enable participants to evaluate and - based on this experience - write their own proposal. Participants will acquire skills in proposal evaluation and writing, and successful participants will end up with a full proposal for their own position, which can be submitted, for example, to the DFG.

Schedule

The course consists of four sessions, see the timetable below. In the first part, participants will analyse and evaluate existing proposals (successful and unsuccessful). The second part will focus on the development of an own proposal, which will be evaluated by the other participants. The final, ambitious goal is to have a proposal ready for submission to a funding agency by the end of the course.

Day 1	16 April 2025	10.00 – 13.00 hrs.	MARUM I, room 0190
Day 2	30 April 2025	10.00 – 13.00 hrs.	MARUM I, room 0190
Day 3	27 May 2025	09.00 – 13.00 hrs.	MARUM I, room 0190
Day 4	23 July 2025	10.00 – 14.00 hrs.	MARUM I, room 0190

Day 1: General introduction, guidelines for evaluating proposals, distribution of existing proposals

Between meetings: Each participant will have to read approx. six 20-page proposals and to submit a written evaluation (approximately 1-2 pages) for two proposals.

Day 2: Evaluation of the proposals (simulation of a review-panel meeting)

Between meetings: Development of proposal outline by the participants

Day 3: Presentation of proposal outlines by participants

Between meetings: Proposal writing by the participants

Schedule cont.

25 June 2025: Submission of (draft) full proposals (approx.20 pages) by participants.

Between meetings: Evaluation of the proposals. Each participant is expected to read all proposals and evaluate two proposals in detail.

Day 4: Evaluation of participants' proposals by their peers (review panel session).

Target group

Doctoral researchers in their final year and early-career postdocs with a background in marine sciences **who plan to submit a proposal** to the DFG or another funding agency.

Registration

If you are interested in participating, please send a motivation letter and a one-page outline of your intended research proposal to early-career@marum.de by **7 April 2025**.

Please include your name, status (doctoral or postdoctoral researcher), institute/university and research area/working group as well as your field of study.

All documents must be combined into one single PDF file.