

Preparing a winning application for the Global Health Research in Africa PhD Fellowship

STAGE 2 APPLICATION WEBINAR

MARCH 2022

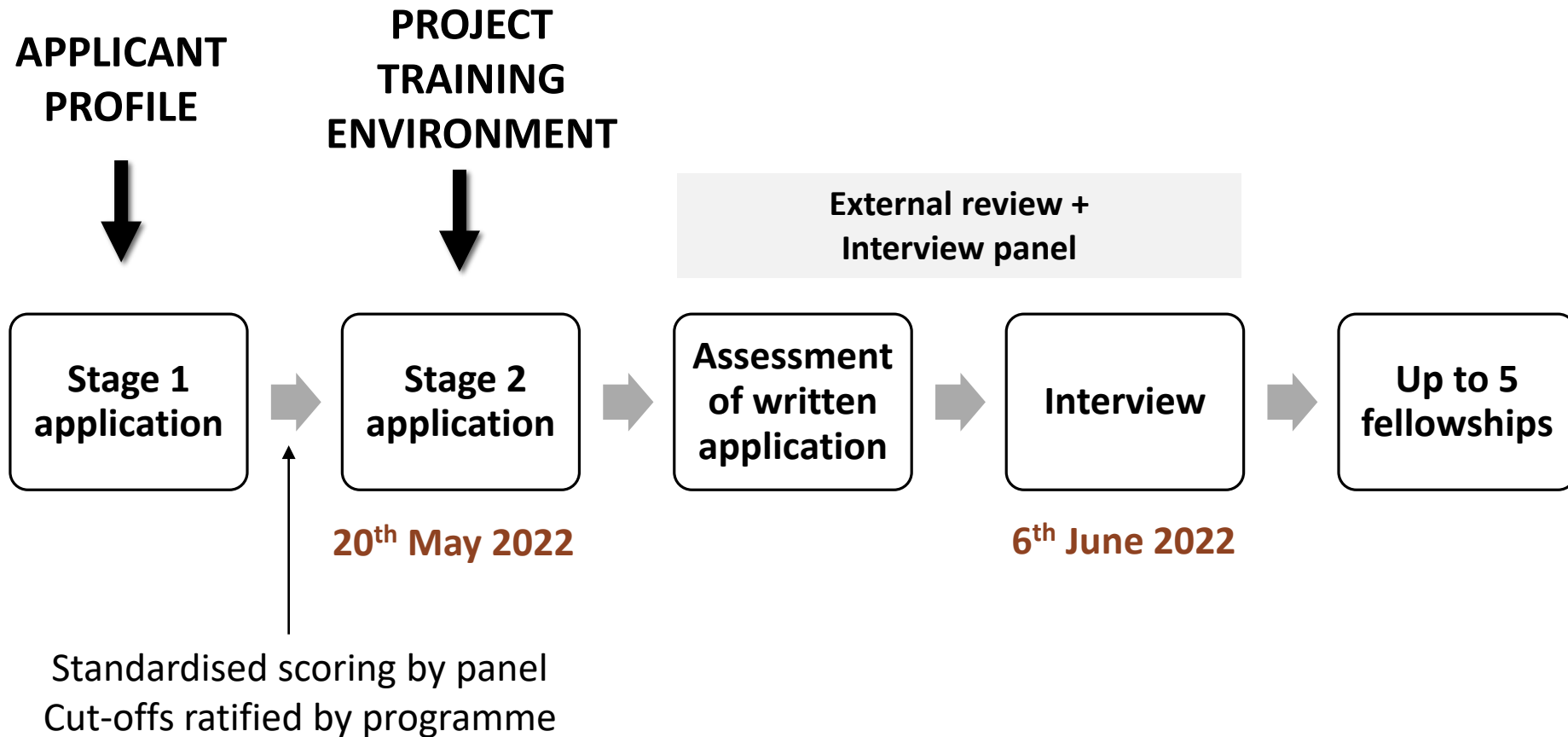
RASHIDA FERRAND

Outline

- The Stage 2 Application Process
- How will your application be assessed
- Tips for a strong application

Let's Go!

Application Process



Review and Interview Process

Review and scoring of Application prior to interview by external reviewers and the selection panel

Interview panel:

- Programme Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lead: Professor Gail Davey
- External to the Programme Directorship
- Multidisciplinary research & health professional expertise
- Representation from African and UK Institutions

Interview format:

- 25 minutes total
- 5 mins presentation: Maximum 4 slides
- 1st slide: “Why this doctoral opportunity is the best next step for my career”
- Remainder slides: Present and sell your Project

Assessment of Stage 2 Applications

Proposed Research

- Is it important and relevant?
- Do you have an answerable and specific question?
- Robustness of your research methods
- Cross-disciplinarity
- Broader aspects around research: engagement, impact

Training

- Suitability for providing research training
- Appropriateness of the supervisory team

Budget

- Appropriateness of budget to the project
- Justification of costs.

What do we assess at interview?

- Depth of understanding of the background to the proposed research question and methods
- Ownership of the proposed research
- Critical analysis of your proposed research
- Likelihood of a “successful fellowship”

What is a successful fellowship?

- Research project that is relevant and impactful
- Robust Scientific methods
- Feasible and will be completed within time-frames
- “Cost-effective”
- Fellow is not a parachute researcher: project truly integrates within the African Partner Institution and platforms
- Make a contribution to the setting where the fellow will work
- The training and experience is instrumental and a stepping stone for the next step for a fellow’s career in global health
- A professional who will learn, engage with and take on leadership in addressing the inequities characterising global health

Top Tips to prepare a winner

- Read the guidance and FAQ: stick to the guidance
- Be focused, specific and avoid broad statements:
 - why and how?
- Talk to fellows funded on the scheme and look at other proposals
- Presentation matters- formatting, figures, tables, syntax and grammar
- Put your thoughts down on paper early- bullet points →
Write the proposal yourself

Top Tips...

- Speak to the allocated Programme co-directors and to the administrator: don't be afraid of reaching out... it is their job to support you.
- Get senior colleagues to review your proposal (those not involved with your proposal): multiple iterations are good
- A proposed supervisor that does not actively engage at this stage is a “danger sign”
- Practice presentation- don't run over as it sets a poor impression
- Critically appraise likely issues and limitations in your project: Write down questions you may be asked and reflect on responses. It's fine if you “don't know”

Bear in mind...

- Demonstrate why your proposed research matters and how it will have applicability
- Write clear objectives that are interwoven and linked: an objective should be “measurable”
- Interdisciplinarity should be woven in and not a tag along linked to the overall aim.
- Justify your supervisory team- how are they going to help you achieve your training and research goals
- Supervisors: not just “top names” but those that will engage and support you.
- Demonstrate your engagement and integration within the APIs

Finally...

If you are not awarded a fellowship,
you have learnt skills that you will use time and time again...

