

## C-DICE Interview Skills workshop

**Location: Zoom**

**Date, time: 14 Dec 2022**

### Tips from the C-DICE panel of academics:

#### Set-up and presentation (virtual interview):

- Do mock interviews using the platform (e.g. Zoom vs MS Teams?) to familiarise yourself with the platform.
- Have web cam at face level.
- Check lighting in the room.
- Eye contact at camera, smile, engage.
- Check the background – not too busy.

#### Presentation

- Interview presentation is different from a conference presentation – less focus on the science (scientific rigour) and more focus on vision, output & impact of proposed research.
- Communicate to people not in your field – jargon-free.
- Tailor the presentation to the institution – do your background research on their strategic vision.
- Check that you have all the elements requested in the presentation brief.

#### General

- When asked a question to “tell us a bit about yourself”, communicate your experience but don’t forget to end by linking this to where you want to go – they want to see what your ambitions & potentials lie.
- Practice your research pitch at different lengths (e.g. 1 min, 2 min, 5 min) so you are prepared to answer to different levels of detail.
- H – homework, A – audience, R – research, D – direction/development, Y – yourself.
- If you get the opportunity, be on an interview panel to better understand the interview process from the “other side”.
- Do your homework on the panel members, if you know who they are. There’s no need to follow them on social media, but this can help frame the context of their questions.
- Be enthusiastic about your research. If you’re not, you can’t expect others to be enthusiastic.
- As soon as you know that you have an interview, contact your Research Support office to see if they can arrange a mock interview for you.

#### Speaking

- Make sure you don’t speak too fast (common when nervous).
- Take a moment to think through how you will answer the interviewer’s question - Don’t be afraid of silence.
- Don’t be afraid to ask an interviewer to repeat or clarify the question if you are unclear what they are asking.
- Be confident and assertive in your answers, be grounded in facts.

#### Research

- Know the potential competitors / collaborators in your field.

## Career Development

- Think about where you want to be in 5-10 years.

## Sample funding panel interview questions:

- Do you have anything that you would like to ask us?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
- In 2-3 minutes, tell me about yourself.
- Why is a fellowship the right career path for you?
- What makes your fellowship application novel?
- Who are your competitors/collaborators in your chosen field of study?
- What do you aim to achieve over the fellowship term?
- What is the potential impact of your work?
- Who would be the industrial partners you may reach out to?
- If you are not successful with this application, what will you be doing next year?
- How might you deliver the proposed workplan with only 70% of the requested award?
- What aspect of the proposed work holds most risk in terms of delivery?
- What makes you the right person to deliver the project?
- What are the three greatest risks?
- What is your plan B if your project plan does not turn out to be practical?
- What are your plans after the fellowship?
- How would you describe your research in 3 minutes to a member of the public?
- What are the 3 key measures of success?
- Where would you seek to publish your research and why?