Managing your Research Account, HDR and Grants

Yudi Samyudia

Typical Situation for Academics in North American Universities (USA & Canada)

- Teaching workload: 3 units per year (Avg.: 6-7 hr./week)
- They must fund their research themselves
  - (Given) Start up fund: 37k – 150 k
  - Tuition fees, Stipends and infrastructure for their HDR students
  - Some institutions even charge the respective academics for spaces used for their HDR students
  - Doing Research = Managing your research account + Research Ideas

Typical Situation for Academics in Mainland Europe (Netherlands & Germany)

- Teaching workload: 3 units per year (Avg.: 6-7 hr./week)
- Junior staff is attached to Full Professor for their research
  - No Start up fund
  - Junior staff submit grant proposals together with Full Professor
  - Research account is managed by Full Professor (Head of Research Group)
  - Junior staff is to request to the Head of Research Group for research expenditures (HDR recruitment/associated fees, conference, etc.)
  - Doing Research = Research Ideas + Managing relationships with the Head of Research Group

How about UK and Australia?

It is a mixed system of North America’s and Mainland Europe’s
CSM Research Environment

- Internal Funds (CSRF, CSCR)
- Research Incentives (RPI, SRI)
- Academic staff’s Conference support (Local & International)
- Training support (grant, paper writing workshops, etc.)
- HDR Full scholarships (Tuition fee + Stipend)
- HDR Tuition fee waiver (automatic for grant holder)
- Fully supported by University for HDR student working space, consumables and conference attendance (No extra cost)
- Research Infrastructure can be strategically included in the annual School’s CAPEX

Managing your Research at CSM

- Be prepared with research ideas and proposals - Don’t wait for “Call for Proposals”
- Promote your research interests/expertise to others (both staff and potential students) – use website, afternoon tea talks, R&D seminar, etc.
- “Start up & consolidate” your research account (by securing internal/external grants; SRI, RPI) – Need management skills!
- Manage your expenditures of research account
  - Timeline – note that the arrival of HDR students and grants may not be timely
  - Strategize the use of internal grants, RPI and SRI – to cover up the gap
- Talk to (and coordinate with) your Head of School/HOD and Dean R&D on your research goals and plans - Be positive thinking; Need inter personal skills!
  - HDR recruitment & support,
  - Research infrastructure,
  - Other supports (conference, training, etc.)

Typical Challenges of Doing Research at CSM

- Teaching Workload - Try to improve your work efficiency!
- Limited external research funding sources - Don’t give up and continue to try and promote your profile
- HDR recruitment/attraction - Promote yourself in the website and/or via your past network in Malaysia and/or international
- Quality of HDR students you have
  - Be patient – Apply "carrot and stick" approach to manage them
  - Observe and address their maturity – Need more stages
- Research infrastructure - Be smart in selecting research topics; need more innovative research,
- "Right" Timeline of the availability funds and HDR students – strategy and consolidation are the key for this; don’t panic and keep calm