From Research Idea to Funded Project:
Practical Tips for Preparing an NSTC Proposal

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Outline

- Why applying?
- What to look for?
- How to go about it?
- Q&A



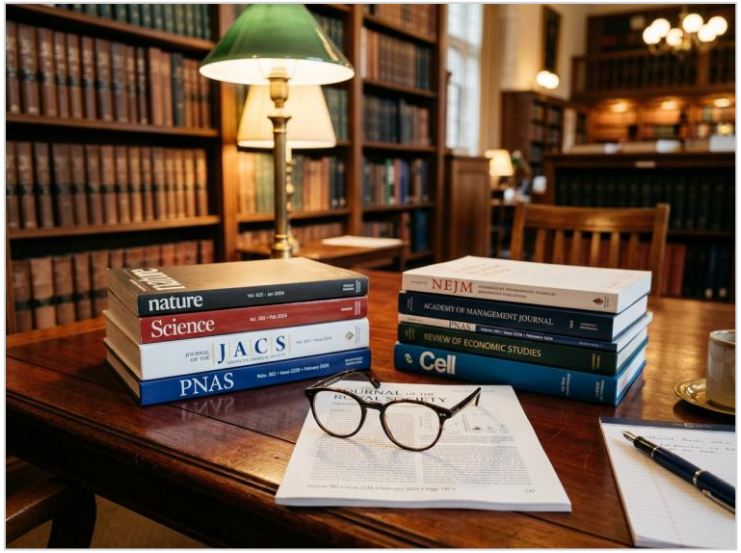
Why Applying

- Job requirements
- Four-year evaluations/Promotion
- University profile



Why Applying

- Professional development
- Journal submission test
- Extra income



What to Look for

- **General Research Project**

- **Research Project for Newly-hired Faculty**



What to Look for

General Research Project

Eligibility: Tenure track professor of all ranks (more than six years of work experience)

Project Length: 1-3 years

Application Deadline: End of December

Success Rate: 35%-45% (Arts and Humanities)

What to Look for

Research Project for Newly-hired Faculty

Eligibility: Tenure track professor of all ranks (within the first five years)

Project Length: 1-3 years

Application Deadline: First application (all year round)
Subsequent application: End of December

Success Rate: 50%-60% (Arts and Humanities)

What to Look for

General Research Project

Review Rubrics:

Proposal content

40%

Publication output

60%

(maximum 5 journal articles in the past ten years, NSTC fundedprojects preferred)

What to Look for

Research Project for Newly-hired Faculty

Review Rubrics:

Proposal content

60%

Publication output

40%

(maximum 5 journal articles in the past ten years)

How to go about it?

Proposal Content:

- One-year Project: focusing on an issue or a problem only

- Three-year Project: a series of related topics



How to go about it?

Proposal Content:

- No more than 30 pages (single space)

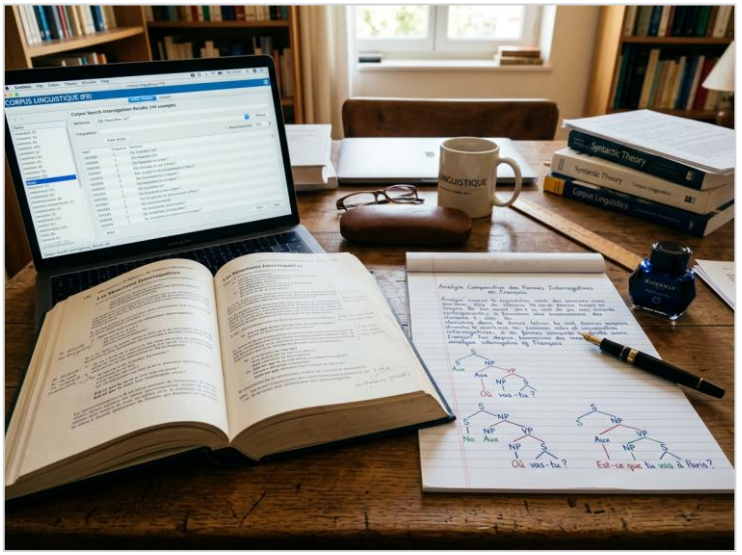
- **Originality:** Problem-solving, New approaches to an old problem, Novel research methods

- **Contribution to the field:** Journal submission ready

How to go about it?

Case Study: Finding the Research Niche (I)

Classroom Observation: Multilingual Learners in FLLD



- **Context:** Department of Foreign Languages and Literature (FLLD)
- **Participant Profile (Trilingual Cohort):**
  - **L1 (Native):** Mandarin Chinese
  - **L2 (Second Language):** English (Advanced / C1–C2 level)
  - **L3 (Target Language):** French (Beginners / Initial stage)
- **Linguistic Focus:** Acquisition of French Interrogatives
  - **Grammar Point:** Syntactic diversity of questions (Inversion, Est-ce que, Wh-in-situ, Intonation)
  - **Initial Problem:** Developmental errors & word-order transfer bottlenecks between L1 Chinese and L2 English

How to go about it?

Case Study: Finding the Research Niche (II)

Why This Topic is Compelling: The TLA Perspective



- **Teaching & Research Two in One:**
  - **Classroom Roots:** Everyday pedagogical challenges directly inspire empirical research questions
  - **Dual Benefit:** Enhances frontline pedagogy while driving theory-guided inquiry

- **The Emerging Field:** Third Language Acquisition (TLA)
  - **Distinct from SLA:** TLA involves tripartite cross-linguistic interactions (L1-L2-L3) rather than binary transfer

- **Scholarly Significance:**
  - **Uncharted Territory:** Being a young field, rich discoveries remain to be made with higher academic impact

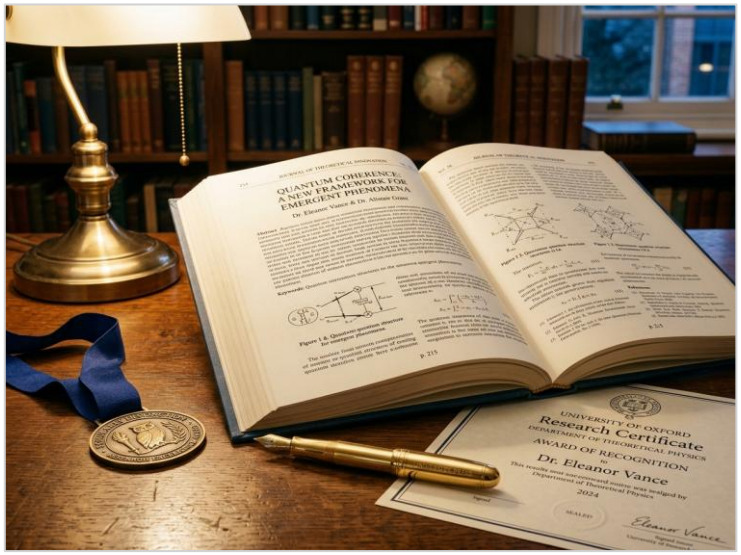
How to go about it?

Case Study: Finding the Research Niche (III)

From Classroom Phenomenon to a Funded NSTC Proposal

- **Academic Contribution:**
  - **Filling Empirical Gaps:** Supplies critical non-Indo-European L1 syntactic data to international TLA literature
  - **Journal Trajectory:** Structured testable hypotheses designed for high-tier indexed journals (SSCI / A&HCI)

- **Aligning with NSTC Proposal Criteria:**
  - **Originality:** A fresh theoretical angle tackling an authentic linguistic puzzle
  - **High Feasibility:** Direct access to FLLD student cohort guarantees rigorous data collection



How to go about it?

Proposal Content:

- Literature Review: Thorough and updated

- Research Methodology: Rationale of adopting the chosen methods



How to go about it?

Project Timeline:

- hypothesis conceptualization and literature review stage (1st - 2nd month)
- Data collection stage (3rd-6th month)
- Data analysis and writing-up stage (7th-11th month)
- Conference/Journal submission stage (12th month)

How to go about it?

Project Budget:

- **Project Budget:** NT$300,000 to NT$600,000 (Arts and Humanities, one-year project)

- **Part-time Supporting Staff:** NT$6,000/Month

- **Consumable Expenses:** stationery, 3c products, postage , journal offprints, journal submission fees, ethics review fees, etc.

How to go about it?

- Conference grant: air-ticket fees, registration fees, daily allowances (NSTC standard rates)
- Field Research/Short-term Fieldwork
- Overseas Scholars Invitation
- Joint Research Projects

How to go about it?

Airfare Regulations: Flights

Mandatory National Carrier Requirement

- **National Flag Carriers:** All overseas travel supported by NSTC grants must prioritize Republic of China (Taiwan) national airlines (e.g., China Airlines, EVA Air, Starlux).

- **Actual Expense Basis:** Airfares are reimbursed strictly on an actual cost basis ('實報實銷') rather than a fixed lump sum.

- **Required Documentation:** Travelers must retain and submit electronic tickets, boarding pass stubs, and official payment receipts / travel agency invoices.



How to go about it?

Daily Allowance

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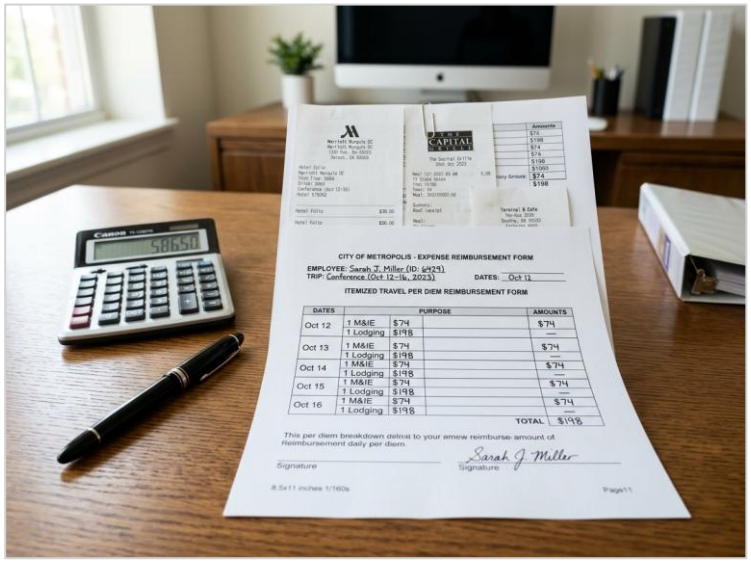
- **Standard Daily Rates:** Daily living allowances are calculated according to fixed rates by destination country/city set by the central government.

- **Expense Allocation:** Daily allowance allocation comprises: 70% Lodging, 30% Meals.

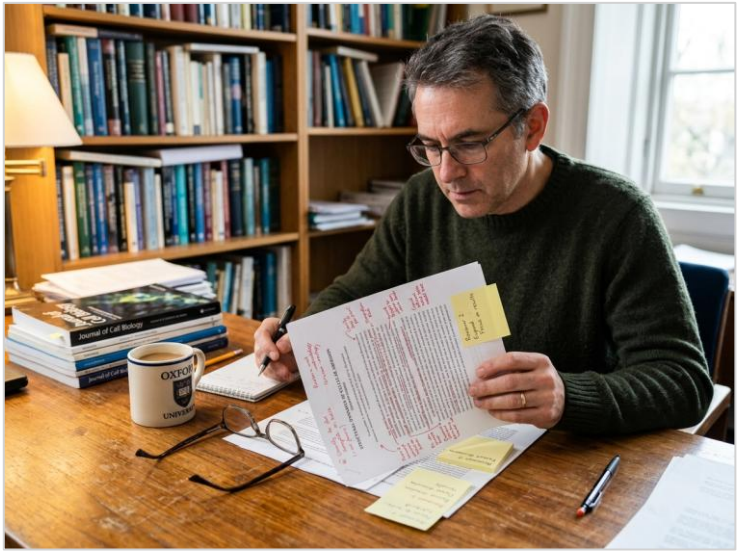
- **Official Regulation:** **[DGBAS Guidelines]**
  URL: https://law.dgbas.gov.tw/LawContent.aspx?id=FL028084



How to go about it?

- **Take note of reviewers' comments**

- **Keep trying**



Q&A

Good Luck and
Thanks for Listening!

