

How to prepare for your Wellcome funding interview

So, you've been invited for an interview at Wellcome! Here are some tips to help you prepare.

The instructions

Read your invitation email carefully and ensure that you understand exactly what is being asked of you. Think carefully about what you want to say and how you want to come across in your interview.

If your invitation says you're giving a formal presentation, you'll usually be given a time limit, so you'll need to explain your work in a concise and compelling way.

If you're not giving a formal presentation, you should still be prepared to talk for a minute or two on your project.

The reviews

Your application will have been sent for written review by relevant experts. You can read their comments beforehand and decide how to respond to them in the interview.

Things to think about

The interview is your opportunity to show that you are proposing a project which is novel, feasible and has impact.

You should be able to:

- Provide a concise, jargon-free summary of your research and why it's important. Include any literature updates since your application, if relevant.
- Put your proposal into context – how will it advance knowledge? What are its wider ramifications?
- Demonstrate your understanding of any possible problems and that you're taking the panel's comments on board.
- Show that you're prepared for any eventuality. What's your plan B?
- Have a solid understanding of what collaborators in different disciplines will be working on, their approach and techniques.
- Be prepared to talk about how your work sits within your own portfolio of funding, any competitors or contentious areas.
- Demonstrate that you're the person to do this work; and address comments from reviewers.

Practise your presentation and answers

The panel will have questions on your written proposal, your presentation and the comments from reviewers.

Practice your presentation and your answers in front of colleagues at different levels, taking their criticisms into account.

It's important to answer clearly and concisely. If you don't understand what's being asked, it's better to ask the panel to repeat the question than to answer incorrectly.

What will the panel be like?

You can find out who will probably be on the panel by looking at our website.

Members are chosen for their specific expertise and broader research experience. They will have read your proposal and the comments from reviewers. They'll be rigorous, but also fair and considerate in their questioning.

A final word

So, you're fully prepared and you're waiting to be called into the interview room.

Remember: You deserve to be there.

The panel are all researchers who have been in similar situations themselves.

They're enthusiastic about proposals and the people behind them.

Good luck!

Learn more at wellcome.ac.uk/funding