

**UCL SLMS Consolidator Grant Information Event
20 November 2015, Haldane Room, Bloomsbury Campus**

**View from Consolidator Grant Review Panel Member:
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DISCLAIMER This is the personal experience of a panel member from one ERC Review Panel, and is not an official guidance note. This document is confidential and should not be circulated, shared beyond UCL staff or placed on any externally accessible websites.

Background

Member of Neuroscience Panel (LS5) for five years
Participated in three review cycles to date (one year on, one year off model)
Also previous member of MRC Neuroscience and Mental Health Board

The Review Process Step One (section B1) and Advice

There are 17 members on this review panel with diverse expertise. Around three to four panel members are assigned to each application. Each of these panel members will review the application and give scores on excellence of i) PI and ii) research: 50% of score for PI and 50% of the score is assigned to the project. The total score is added and a ranking list is drawn. Highly competitive: need to score well on both fronts to get through the first stage.

At first step, panel members will only see part B1 of the application. Here, the panel needs to see the novelty, ground-breaking nature, and feasibility. Some detail on methodology is needed in B1 to show feasibility, although the majority of detail is in B2. It is not a good idea to just make a short version of B2. Please note that part B1 should be written so that members of the panel who are not too close to the field of research understand the significance of the application.

stage.

After individual evaluation, scores are sent in and then the panel meets. The highest mid scoring applications are discussed again to meet a common agreement and select a shortlist for interview.

Over 90 applications were reviewed at step one in a single review cycle, all excellent. Eventually 30 were selected for interview at step two.

At stage 1 (Part B1), each panel member has ~30-35 applications to review and one month to do it. Therefore panel members have to be strict in terms of time spent reviewing and applicants should bear this in mind.

Be very specific and clear in your writing. For example, panel members may decide to

that if anything is not clear it will be detrimental for the application.

Figures should be visible and clear, reviewers should not have to zoom in too much to see them. Include a legend to help the reviewer understand what the figure is about.

help you to improve your project, e.g. identify objectives that are not useful, make sure you are using the most forefront technologies etc.
In terms of the number of publications needed e.g. as senior author, or corresponding