

Applicant guidance synthesis





Use of Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI)-like narrative CV: applicant guidance synthesis

Purpose

Members of the [Joint Funders Group](#) have each developed guidance for applicants using an R4RI-like narrative CV in their application process. This summary aims to highlight commonalities that may help in the development and implementation of your own guidance for applicants.

Table 1: Summary of findings

Across a sample of six funders in January 2022 the following was observed:

Funder	Guidance accompanied by other resources	Location of applicant guidance	Training provided	Guidance tailored for different calls	Evaluation undertaken
1	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → CV template → Call guidance notes 	No	No	No
2	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → CV template 	No	No	Yes
3	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → CV template → Applicant guidance 	No	No	Yes
4	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Online application → Application guidance → Webpage for funding call 	No	No	No
5	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → CV template → Call document → Webpage for funding call-FAQs 	No	Yes	Yes
6	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Application form 	Yes	No	No

Synthesis of findings

Provision of guidance for applicants

- All funders sampled are using an R4RI-like narrative CV in at least one funding opportunity and are providing guidance for applicants to complete the CV. At the time of writing, two other funders (not included within the table) are developing guidance.
- The majority provide guidance within the CV template (whether as an attachment or in the application form) with many providing additional guidance in other locations.
- One funder accompanies their guidance with resources they have developed including a webinar and Frequently Asked Questions document, while three others signpost to resources generated by others.



Training provided on the guidance

- One funder provides webinars about funding schemes which include details about what the funder is looking for. One funder is currently considering training provisions development.

Tailoring applicant guidance for different funding calls

- One funder adapts their guidance for different funding calls, while the other funders currently apply the same applicant guidance for all calls which use an R4RI-like narrative CV. Of the latter, two funders currently use an R4RI-like narrative CV in just one of their funding schemes, so tailored guidance has not been required.

Evaluation

- Three funders have undertaken evaluations relevant to their applicant guidance to date; additionally, three funders will undertake an evaluation following funding call closures.
- Insights from evaluations of the R4RI-like narrative CV and guidance conducted by funders, relevant to their applicant guidance, include the guidance being sufficiently clear and applicants' appreciation for the opportunity to provide a broader view of themselves.

Key considerations in developing guidance

- Funders have different motivations for implementing an R4RI-like narrative CV, however they share a consistent consideration to ensure the guidance they provide to applicants is clear and concise.
- The common features from the guidance have been used to produce the [Developing guidance for applicants – a starter guide](#) in the [Résumé Resources Library](#).

Next Steps

- There is an aspiration to revisit the applicant guidance synthesis with updated information in light of reviews and evaluations.

Version Number	Status	Revision Date	Author(s)	Summary of Changes
1.0	Complete	March 2022	Joint Funders Group	New resource created
2.0	Complete	May 2023	Joint Funders Group	Proof-edited and designed