GRST is a training scheme to support the development of grant writing skills

Track record statements are required for many grant applications. While the GRS acknowledge that many research students are unlikely to have significant track records, understanding and preparing a track record statement, even at this early stage of career development, is useful.

What is a track record statement?

A track record statement demonstrates the capacity to carry out proposed research. Researchers use track record statements to convince assessors they have the research skills, experience and ability to complete the project.

Completing the Track Record section of the GRST application

You should list items that indicate your research skills, experience and achievements in this section. Include a short description of each item. Where possible, indicate the item’s significance & impact and provide evidence to support these assertions.

Examples

- Research publications - include full bibliographic details of each publication, and possibly include journal impact factor / ERA rankings (where available). Include all in-press publications.
- Conference presentations – include details of poster presentations, oral presentations, and/or conference publications/abstracts. Indicate conference attendees, numbers attending presentation/poster session
- Scholarships, awards, prizes, grants – include name, year awarded, type of prize/award/grant, what was awarded, and an indication of level of competition
- Any relevant industry experience, commercial reports or patents
- Research training and/or qualifications – include details of Honours, Masters. Consider citing examiners’ comments on thesis. Include details of any additional research skills training courses.
- Other professional activities, such as invited presentations, exhibitions, membership of professional bodies etc

Completing the Special Circumstances section of the GRST application

Many grant applications request a short statement outlining any circumstances that may have slowed down or restricted research and/or publication. For example, periods of work in industry or interruptions to career, such as illness, parenthood, or other carer responsibilities. Track records are then weighed against these circumstances, to give an indication of how productive a researcher has been ‘relative to opportunity’.

Special circumstances for students may include situations where research and/or publication rates have been interrupted or slowed for reasons beyond the student’s control, where research has been changed to part-time or suspended, or there have been changes in research direction and/or changes in supervision. Details of these special circumstances should be outlined in the Special Circumstances section of the GRST application. In addition to this, the GRST review panel will also take into consideration the stage of candidacy of each applicant when considering their track record relative to opportunity. The reviewers recognise that many students may not have had the opportunity to develop a significant track record at this point of their career.