1. Maximize your use of local resources: UI; advisors; co-students

2. Be pro-active and self-motivated: think outside your narrow field; nothing comes to those who wait for things to land in their laps

3. Read and fulfill all requirements of the application carefully

4. Plan ahead; a good application is a demanding, time-consuming, crafted writing project
   a. Grant proposals are a unique genre of writing which you will be engaged in throughout your careers
   b. boil down your research project to specific questions
   c. Use unambiguous, jargon-free language
   d. Prose must be intelligible; argument must be clear; research project must be convincing
   e. Create balance between the specific and the general
   f. Be aware of your audience
   g. Do not give them an easy reason for rejecting your application
   h. Draft it several times; get feedback

5. Think carefully about whether the grant/postdoc etc will help you achieve your goals

6. Prepare your recommenders
   a. Develop and maintain productive relationships with your professors
   b. Give recommenders plenty of time (eg. a month)
   c. Give them all materials they need to write the letter
   d. Remember, they are writing many letters

7. Learn from the experience in a productive, realistic way
   a. It will help clarify your research
   b. Once it’s off, let it go; there’s nothing you can now do
   c. If you aren’t successful, apply again; get back on the horse