How to prepare an excellent application

If you read through some of the comments from Selection Panel Members judging OWSD PhD Fellowship Applications you will get a good idea....

Recommended for an OWSD PhD Fellowship

• Research proposal interesting, innovative and up to date, clearly written
• Well prepared project proposal, detailed methodology.
• Strong academic background.
• Good reference/supporting letters
• Host supervisor’s experience and knowledge match project needs; laboratory resources at host institute good
• Research appropriate/beneficial to home country/region

NOT Recommended

• Weak project proposal based on old ideas and references.
• Reference letters not informative or personalised, could be just a standard form.
• Project proposal not detailed.
• Use of statistics poor.
• Applicant has a strong background but not in the relevant field and does not justify this change or demonstrate how she will get up to speed
• Good project proposal but methodology and timeline missing.
• Good project proposal but timeline unrealistic and results are not reproducible.
• Project proposal interesting but not clear. Looks like a cut and paste from different subjects.
• Weak project proposal, addresses very common topic.
• Interesting project proposal, but outdated methodology. Weak student records.
• Project proposal topic not innovative. Applicant has not made clear if/how laboratory samples will be transported.
• Low scientific originality.
• Project proposal too ambitious.
• Standard of English used in proposal poor.
• Application contains typos/ errors/inconsistencies.
• Research topic interesting, relevant to home country but structured rather as a survey than research. Weak academic background.
• Basic mistakes in reference letters (addressed to different students) mirror extreme inaccuracy of application.
• Project proposal lacks originality, methodology not clearly described.
• Confused project proposal, combines parts of research which do not seem connected to each other, lacks innovation.
• Weak academic background, weak reference letters.