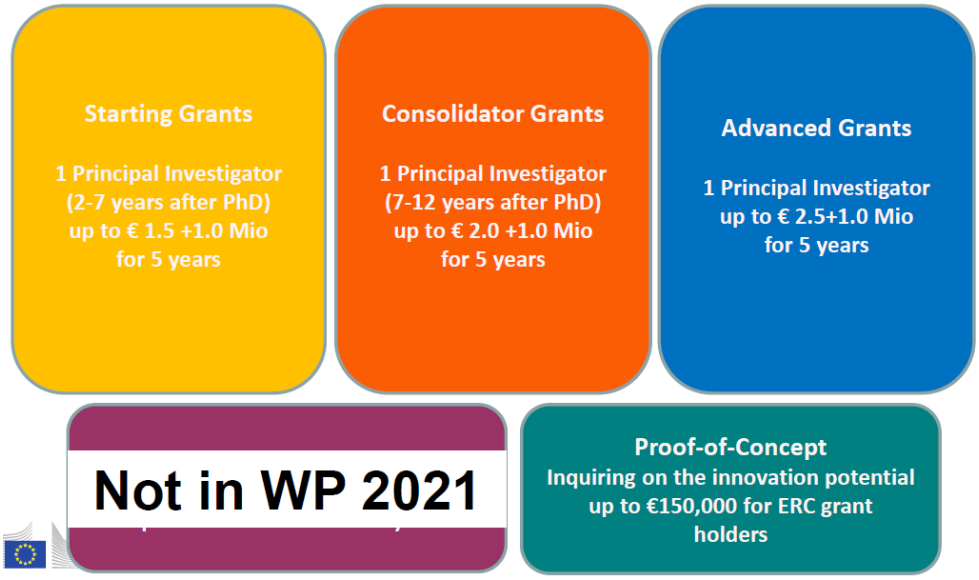
Starting Grants. European Research Council

Open (**tentative**): 12/01/2021 **deadline** (**tentative**): **09/03/2021**

Success rate 2019 : 13,1% aprox

Further Info: https://erc.europa.eu/funding/starting-grant

ERC Funded Projects



Who can apply?

Researchers who have received their first PhD between 2 and 7 years prior to 1st January 2021. A competitive Starting Grant Principal Investigator must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having produced at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor. ERC grants are open to researchers of **any nationality** who intend to conduct their research activity in any EU MS or an AC.

Funding

Starting Grants can be up to a **maximum of EUR 1 5000 000** for a period of 5 years. For projects of shorter duration the maximum award is reduced pro rata. However, up to an additional EUR 1 000 000 can be requested

What proposals are eligible?

- Applications can be made **in any field** of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering.
- Research must be conducted in a **public or private research organisation** where the applicant already works, or any other organization located in one of the **EU Member States or Associated Countries**
- projects carried out by **an individual researcher** who can employ researchers of any nationality as team members. The research team may be of national or trans-national character.

ERC evaluation panels

The peer review is handled by **27 evaluation panels** (ERC panels), divided into three main research domains:

– Physical Sciences and Engineering (11 Panels),
– Life Sciences (9 Panels) and,
– Social Sciences and Humanities (7 Panels).

Evaluation Criteria

The "**scientific excellence**" evaluation criterion will be applied in conjunction of both: (i) the groundbreaking nature, ambition and feasibility of the research project, and, (ii) the intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment of the PI

1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Starting, Consolidator and Advanced

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

To what extent is the proposed research high risk-high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a high risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

2. Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity and creativity

Starting and Consolidator

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

Overview on an ERC application

Application is foreseen to be composed of:

The submission form (Part A) including the detailed budget table and description of resources (Section 3 – Budget);

Part B1;

- Part B1 **cover** page should list the name of the PI and HI, the title, acronym and abstract of the proposal as well as the project duration (in months).
- The **abstract** should be a maximum of 2000 characters
- **Section a: Extended Synopsis** of the scientific proposal (max. 5 pages)
- **Section b: Curriculum vitae** (max. 2 pages) should follow the suggested template.
- **Section c: track-record** (max. 2 pages)

Part B2; (limit of 15 pages)

- **Section a: State-of-the-art and objectives**. Specify the proposal objectives in the context of the state of the art in the research field. It should be clear how and why the proposed work is important for the field, and what impact it will have if successful, such as how it may open up new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship. Highlight any particularly challenging or unconventional aspects of the proposal, including multi- or inter-disciplinary aspects.
- **Section b: Methodology**. Describe the proposed methodology in detail including any key intermediate goals. Explain and justify the methodology in relation to the state of the art, and particularly novel or unconventional aspects addressing the 'high-risk/high-gain' balance. Highlight any intermediate stages where results may require adjustments to the project planning.
- **Section C. Resources** (Maximum 8000 characters)
  1. State the amount of **funding** considered necessary to fulfil the research objectives. It should be as accurate as possible.

2. Specify your **commitment** in terms of percentage of working time you are willing to devote to the proposed project
3. Describe the size and nature of the **team**, indicating, where appropriate, the key team members and their roles.
4. Include a short technical description of any requested **equipment**, why it is needed and the planned usage for the project.
5. Estimation of the costs for **Open Access** for project outputs.
6. Describe **any additional funding** requested for the project.
7. Describe any **existing resources not requiring EU funding** that will be used for the project, such as infrastructure and equipment.

Section 3 – Budget (included in the online submission form)

Supporting documentation (HI support letter, PhD certificate, and any supporting documentation for ethics issues).