The European Research Council

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The European Commission and ERC

→

Directorate-General Research and Innovation (RTD)

→

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission
The ERC is...

1. Funding: it is part of Horizon 2020

ERC Budget: 13 b€

And from 2021...
The ERC is...

2. The Scientific Council

... and they nominate the Panel Members!
2. The ERCEA

- Implement calls for proposals
2. The ERCEA

- Implement calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluations
The ERC is...

2. The ERCEA

- Implement calls for proposals
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- Establishes and manages grant agreements
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- Implement calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluations
- Establishes and manages grant agreements
- Administers scientific and financial aspects
The ERC is...

2. The ERCEA

- Implement calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluations
- Establishes and manages grant agreements
- Administers scientific and financial aspects
- Carries out communications activities
ERC Strategy

- Support for the individual and small groups of Principal Investigators and their teams
ERC Strategy

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- Global peer-review
ERC Strategy

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- Global peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
Support for the individual and small groups of Principal Investigators and their teams

Global peer-review

No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)

Support of frontier research in all fields of knowledge
ERC Strategy

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ERC grants

- Fund ground-breaking, high gain/high risk research
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  - Proposals of an interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research
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ERC grants

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  - Proposals of an interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research
  - Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research
  - Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions
- Host institution is an EU member State or an Associated Country
ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- to work on a research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice
The European Research Council (ERC)

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- to attract top team members and collaborators
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary
- to attract additional funding and gain recognition -> ERC is a quality label
ERC Funding Schemes

**Starting Grants (StG)**
- 2-7 years after PhD
- up to €1.5 Million for 5 years
  + €1 Million

**Consolidator Grants (CoG)**
- 7-12 years after PhD
- up to €2 Million for 5 years
  + €1 Million

**Advanced Grants (AdG)**
- 10 years’ track-record
- up to €2.5 Million for 5 years
  + €1 Million

**Proof of Concept (PoC)**
- bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
- €150 000 lump sum for ERC grantees

**Synergy Grants (SyG)**
- 2-4 Principal Investigators
- up to €10 Million for 6 years
  + €4 Million
Priority to young Scientists

STG COG ADG 2019 Grantees by age with success rate

Age on 01/01/2019

STG
COG
ADG
SR by age

# grantees

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

Components of ERC Projects

1 Researcher + Team
1 Host institution
1 Project
Components of ERC Projects

1 Researcher + Team
1 Host institution
1 Project

1 Selection Criteria = Scientific Quality aiming for Excellence
## ERC requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERC Grant type</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Time in member state</th>
<th>Commitment to project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC StG</td>
<td>€1.5M (+€1.0M)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERC CoG</td>
<td>€2.0M (+€1.0M)</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERC AdG</td>
<td>€2.5M (+€1.0M)</td>
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<td>30%</td>
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</table>
Eligibility - Calls in 2021

Eligibility period: Principal Investigator shall have been awarded his or her first PhD

**Starting Grants (StG)**
- >2 and ≤ 7 years prior to 1 January 2021
- Cut-off dates: PhD awarded from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2018 (inclusive)

**Consolidator Grants (CoG)**
- >7 and ≤ 12 years prior to 1 January 2021
- Cut-off dates: PhD awarded from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013 (inclusive)

**Advanced Grants (AdG)**
- No specific criteria
Career breaks and Extensions

Before or after PhD award:
- Maternity leave: 18 months per child
- Paternity leave: actual time spent
Career breaks and Extensions

- **Before or after PhD award:**
  - Maternity leave: 18 months per child
  - Paternity leave: actual time spent

- **After PhD award:**
  - long-term illness
  - military service
  - clinical training
**Life Science**
- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering
Application Components

1-Step Submission
Part A is filled in online and B1, B2 and annexes are submitted as PDFs together at the call deadline

Part A
Administrative Forms and Abstract
- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget Summary
- Ethics Check

Part B1
Proposal Overview and PI Track Record
- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pgs)
- CV (2 pgs)
- Track Record (2 pgs)
- Funding ID

Part B2
Detailed Research Proposal
- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Resources (Total of 15 pgs)

Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents
Proposal Evaluation Process - StG/CoG/AdG

**STEP 1 - Evaluation**

1. Eligibility check
2. Independent, remote reviews by panel members *(of part B1 only)*
3. Panel meetings and ranking
4. Proposals retained for Stage 2, or rejected

**STEP 2 - Evaluation**

1. Independent, remote reviews by panel members and other referees of full proposal *(parts B1 and B2)*
2. Interviews of PIs
3. Panel meetings and ranking
4. Proposals selected
5. Ethics check
## Evaluation Outcome

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Proposal Grading</th>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Funded?</th>
<th>Reapplication Restrictions?</th>
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## ERC Overview 2019

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Starting Grant 2019 funded proposals by HI country
Starting Grant 2019 Funded proposals by gender and years since PhD
Starting Grant 2019 Results: New and re-applicants

STG 2019 results by type of applicant

- New Applicant (2548)
- Reapplicant (512)
- Total

- C (828)
- Step 1 B (1270)
- Step 2 B (374)
- Unfunded A (180)
- Funded (408)
Consolidator Grant 2019 Funded proposals by gender and years since PhD
Consolidator Grant 2019 Results: New and re-applicants

- Double grantees: 2
- Grantees: 253 (251 eligible, 1 ineligible, 0 withdrawn)
- Reapplicants: 1324 (1320 eligible, 4 ineligible, 0 withdrawn)
- New applicants: 874 (835 eligible, 39 ineligible, 0 withdrawn)

- Eligible: Green
- Ineligible: Red
- Withdrawn: Orange
- Unfunded A: Pink
- Unfunded B: Light green
- Funded: Dark green
ERC facts

> 10,500 projects of all types funded by the ERC since 2007

82 nationalities (ERC grantees)

34 EU and Associated Countries hosting ERC projects

> 125,000 publications reported by ERC projects

> 1,300 prestigious prizes awarded to ERC grantees

> 75,000 researchers and other professionals hired in ERC teams
## Preliminary Call Calendar Work Programme 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERC call</th>
<th>Call opens</th>
<th>Call closes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC StG</td>
<td>12/01/2021</td>
<td>09/03/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC CoG</td>
<td>21/01/2021</td>
<td>20/04/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC AdG</td>
<td>20/05/2021</td>
<td>31/08/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC SyG</td>
<td>no call in 2021</td>
<td></td>
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