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Highlight:

Great interest from ERC grantees in hosting early-career top US talent

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The recent initiative between the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and European Research Council (ERC) has been taken a step further since last summer. The agreement, which provides opportunities for early-career NSF researchers to join ERC-funded teams in Europe, seems to resonate with ERC grantees; just over 760 already showed great interest in hosting talent from the US.

ERC President Helga Nowotny commented:

"I am delighted to see such enthusiasm from our grantees to draw from the pool of talent in the US. It is a win-win situation; ERC grantees will benefit from a new influx of talented NSF researchers, and they in turn will gain further experience with leading scientists and their ERC teams in Europe. This will stimulate 'brain circulation' and scientific exchanges across the Atlantic. The agreement is the first of its kind, but we hope that it will be developed further and that other global collaborations will follow."

"We are delighted with the extremely positive response from the European research community to this agreement," said NSF Director Subra Suresh. "The United States and Europe will benefit from having our best and brightest working together on international opportunities that have enormous potential for discovery and innovation, while establishing a strong foundation for future collaborations."

In November last year, the ERC launched an expression of interest to ERC grantees, of which some 760 answered positively to hosting NSF scientists. The majority of the interested ERC grantees hold Starting Grants (485). They are based in 23 different countries in Europe, and hold 42 different nationalities. Amongst them, there are 24 US nationals who currently have ERC grants.

The ERC has provided the final list of all participating grantees to the NSF and, in parallel, the NSF has launched a call for expression of interest addressed to all eligible post-doctoral fellows and CAREER awardees. In the course of this spring, a matching between ERC grantees and NSF researchers will take place.

Background

The agreement was signed by the NSF Director, Dr Subra Suresh, and the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, at ESOF 2012 in Dublin in July last year, in the presence of ERC President Prof. Helga Nowotny. The agreement is in the form of an 'implementing arrangement' of the existing EU-US S&T Cooperation Agreement.



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The NSF launched the initiative with a view to stimulate the mobility of NSF researchers, and enhance their international profile and knowledge early on in their careers. The role of the ERC and the NSF is to facilitate contacts between their respective researchers, who are interested in using the scheme. Through this initiative, the NSF scientists can be part of ERC-funded teams for six to twelve months.

The ERC launched its expression of interest for all grantees who had already signed the ERC grant agreement and whose projects (remaining duration) allowed sufficient time for hosting NSF researchers.

The NSF will solicit proposals from its CAREER (NSF Faculty Early Career Development Programme) awardees and post-doctoral research fellows for these opportunities. Travel costs for the US scientists and their families (if necessary) will be covered by the NSF and in the case of the CAREER beneficiaries of this scheme, their NSF grant will continue to run during their stay in Europe.

Another call for expression of interest is planned in the future.

Links

- [ERC website](#)
- [Press release July 2012](#)
- [Agreement NSF/ERC/EC](#)
- ["Dear colleague letter": Research Opportunities in Europe for NSF CAREER Awardees](#)

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