



## European Research Council

Established by the European Commission



# ERC Grant Schemes



Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation

## The ERC funding strategy

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding body designed to support investigator-driven frontier research and stimulate scientific excellence across Europe.

Under the EU research programme “Horizon 2020”, the ERC has a total budget of over €13 billion for the period 2014-2020 available for researchers.

The ERC aims to support the best and most creative scientists to identify and explore new opportunities and directions in any field of research (Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences and Social Sciences and Humanities), without thematic priorities. In particular, it encourages proposals which cross disciplinary boundaries; address new and emerging fields; and introduce unconventional and innovative approaches.

The ERC awards long-term grants to researchers of any nationality and age from anywhere in the world who wish to carry out their research projects in a host organisation based in Europe. Scientific excellence is the sole evaluation criterion.

## General features of ERC funding

- > Long-term grants
- > No consortia, no co-financing
- > Open to any field of research, no thematic priorities
- > Ground-breaking, high-risk/high-gain, research projects
- > Host organisations based in an EU Member State<sup>(1)</sup>, an Associated country<sup>(2)</sup> or an International European Interest Organisation<sup>(3)</sup>
- > Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal
- > International peer review evaluation process based on 25 different panels
- > Simple procedures that combine flexibility with accountability
- > There are restrictions on resubmission: apply only if your project is ready

Grant	Description	Qualifications	Funding	Duration
Starting grant	For early-career researchers to develop their career and establish their own team	PhD + 2-7 years' experience	Up to €1.5 million	Up to 5 years
Consolidator grant	For researchers to consolidate their own research team or programme	PhD + 7-12 years' experience	Up to €2 million	Up to 5 years
Advanced grant	For well-established researchers to develop a new and outstanding project	10-year excellent scientific track record	Up to €2.5 million	Up to 5 years
Synergy grant	For a group of 2-4 researchers to collaborate on a research problem with a novel approach	Excellent scientific track record	Up to €10 million	Up to 6 years
Proof of Concept grant	For ERC grantees to bridge the gap between research and marketable innovation	Holders of previous ERC grant	Up to €150 000	Up to 18 months

<sup>1</sup> EU Member States

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> Associated Countries

The list of H2020 Associated Countries is available on the Participant Portal, H2020 online manual: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> International European Interest Organisation

A definition of an International European Interest Organisation is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal4/desktop/en/support/reference\\_terms.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal4/desktop/en/support/reference_terms.html).



## ERC Starting Grant

ERC Starting grants are designed to support outstanding researchers of any nationality who are starting to develop an independent career and intend to establish their own research team or programme in Europe.

The ERC Starting grant supports young researchers making the transition from working under a supervisor to becoming independent researchers. Investment in research careers right from the beginning will foster the next generation of research leaders in Europe.

**Size of the grant:** up to €1.5 million

**Duration:** up to five years

**In order to apply, researchers must have:**

- > 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD
- > a scientific track record showing great promise
- > a ground-breaking research proposal

**For further details:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/starting-grants>



## ERC Consolidator Grant

ERC Consolidator grants are designed to support researchers of any nationality at the stage of consolidating their own research team or programme. This grant scheme will strengthen recently created independent and excellent research teams.

The ERC Consolidator grant is a way of addressing the fact that researchers face challenges when they are consolidating their independent careers in Europe. The current situation limits or delays the emergence of the next generation of researchers in Europe. This grant offers researchers a unique opportunity to consolidate their position.

**Size of the grant:** up to €2 million

**Duration:** up to five years

**In order to apply, researchers must have:**

- > 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD
- > a promising track record of early achievements in their research field and career stage
- > a ground-breaking research proposal

**For further details:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/consolidator-grants>



## **ERC Advanced Grant**

ERC Advanced grants provide an opportunity to well-established and outstanding scientists of any nationality to pursue innovative, high-risk research that opens new directions in a field of their choice.

The ERC supports frontier research that opens new directions and breakthroughs and encourages unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between disciplines.

**Size of the grant:** up to €2.5 million

**Duration:** up to five years

**In order to apply, researchers must have:**

- an exceptional scientific leadership profile
- an excellent scientific track record of recognised achievements in the last 10 years
- a ground-breaking research proposal

**For further details:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/advanced-grants>

# 4

## **Proof of Concept Grant**

ERC-funded frontier projects can produce innovations with economic or social potential. The Proof of Concept grant provides additional funding to ERC grant holders to ensure that excellent ideas do not disappear for lack of investment.

The ERC Proof of Concept grant is a practical way of addressing the fact that researchers find it difficult to attract investors when a concept is in the pre-development stage. Early backing for a concept will support researchers as they bring their ideas to the market. The funding can cover activities such as Intellectual Property Rights, mapping out commercial and business opportunities and technical validation.

**Open to ERC grant holders only**

**Size of the grant:** up to €150 000

**Duration:** up to 18 months

**In order to apply, researchers must:**

- > demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant has innovation potential and significant economic or social benefits

**For further details:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/proof-concept>



## ERC Synergy Grant

The ERC Synergy grant is a grant scheme that supports small teams of scientists who wish to jointly address ambitious research problems at the frontiers of knowledge, bringing together complementary skills, disciplines and resources.

It is increasingly recognised that for complex scientific problems, collaboration between different researchers and their teams, often on an interdisciplinary basis and using shared facilities, can lead to outstanding new ideas and unexpected discoveries.

**Size of the grant:** up to €10 million

**Duration:** up to six years

**In order to apply, the teams must:**

- > be composed of 2 to 4 scientists
- > jointly address complex research topics
- > demonstrate that the synergies created by working collaboratively are fundamental to their project
- > a ground-breaking research proposal

**For further details:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/synergy-grants>



## Calls for proposals

Calls for proposals for the ERC grant schemes are published annually on the ERC website, the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal and in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Grant applications can be submitted electronically only in response to a call for proposals via the Participant Portal within the deadline specified in each call.

## Non-European researchers

A specific section for non-European researchers is available at:

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/non-european-researchers>

## ERC National Contact Points

National Contact Points (NCPs) have been set up by national governments to provide information and support to applicants.

The list of NCPs can be found at:

<http://erc.europa.eu/ncp>

## ERC Update

To receive updated information about the ERC, its activities, its presence at events worldwide, its grantees and their research, subscribe on our website.

## Further information

<http://erc.europa.eu>

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon2020>

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