ERC and national support measures for researchers in Poland

How do academic institutions support ERC applicants and grantees? Best practices from the University of Warsaw

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4EU+ Local Office

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The University of Warsaw was founded in 1816 – comprehensive, research-intensive, European University – member of 4eu+

- 36.3 thousand students and 1.9 thousand PhD students + 1.2 thousand post-graduate students
- 8 thousand employees of whom over 4 thousand academic staff
- 25 departments, 30 extra-departmental academic and research units
- Research stations abroad, e.g. archeological station in Cairo
- 800 international partners

University graduates have won 6 Nobel Prize awards:
- Nobel Prize in Literature: Henryk Sienkiewicz, Czesław Miłosz, Olga Tokarczuk,
- Nobel Peace Prize: Menachem Begin, Joseph Rotblat
- Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences: Leonid Hurwicz
UW – UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH

- 3,500 research topics
  - in the fields of the humanities, social, exact and natural sciences, as well as numerous interdisciplinary studies, including subjects in medical or technical sciences

- 1,600 projects
  - financed by national or international research programmes, funds and organisations

- Over 7,000 publications/year

- Over 400 international conferences/year
Active participation in EU-funded research programmes since FP5:

- Over 120 H2020 projects and joint undertakings (over 40 mln euro, 12 ERC grants)
- Over 80 projects (co)financed from H2020 plus 19 COST actions
- Over 90 projects in Horizon Europe so far, including 9 ERC grants and 33 EIT projects in 4 KICs: Food, Climate, Health and Raw Materials (30 mln euro) - ca. 65% of H2020 budget in 2 years

Strategic partnerships with:

- 4eu+ European University Alliance (Sorbonne, Heidelberg, Charles, Copenhagen, Milan, Geneva, Paris-Panthéon-Assas)
- LERU - CE7 Platform (Warsaw, Belgrade, ELTE, Ljubljana, Prague, Tartu, Zagreb)
- CELSA Research Fund (Leuven, Warsaw, Cracow, Ljubljana, Budapest, Prague, Tartu)
- The University of Cambridge (Polish Studies Programme and research collaboration)
- The University of Oxford – Center of Excellence in quantum physics under International Research Agenda Programme (Centre of New Technologies of UW)
- Eastern partnership University cLustER (EULER FUND) with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia
Contributing to the ERA - Support of excellent research at UW

- **Top-down:**
  - Building an **effective organizational and administrative base supporting researchers**
  - **Synergic strategic programmes**
  - Investment in research **infrastructure**
  - Creation of new innovative and **interdisciplinary research units**, e.g. at **Campus OCHOTA** (Centre of New Technologies, Centre of Biological and Chemical Sciences), **DeLab**
  - **Strategic partnerships**
  - Strategy for implementation of the principles of the **European Charter and Code (HR Excellence in Research Award)**
  - **Enhancement of international mobility**
  - **Special internal** Rector’s/Vice Rector’s **grants and awards** for excellent researchers
  - Other research **incentives and career opportunities incl. SoE**

- **Bottom-up:**
  - Pro-active, extensive and intensive, international research collaborations
  - Finding excellent research niche, e.g. EIT Food
  - Taking up the role of project coordinators
Support of excellent research at UW in phocus at Central level:

- Office for International Research and Liaison (OIRL)
  - Employs 10 persons (3 sections: 2+4+4)
  - Since 2000 till June 2018 operated as Section of RSO
  - Strategic research partnerships
  - Research policy and project management support (full project life-cycle)
  - Close cooperation with other University central offices and departments
  - Status of RCP „CENTRUM” EU RP since 2014 r. (NCP Network)
  - Cooperation with UNICA (Chair of EURLO WG) and EUA (member of two WG)
  - On-line courses on applying for research grants for PhD students (3 editions); recognition under „PhD students-friendly University” programme
  - Development of principles of an on-line application supporting management of FP7 projects („PROBAD”)
UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH

Office for International Research and Liaison - scope of support

**Project pre-award stage**
- Active search for potential prestigious research grant applicants at UW
- Proposal writing support, training events and workshops,
- Individual consultations of proposals,
- LoI, NDA, pre-proposal agreements

**Project award stage**
- GA negotiations
- CA, PA negotiations
  - Financial, IPR, governance issues etc.

**Project post-award stage**

**Grant management support at central administration level**
- Rules for international research project implementation at UW
  - including rules of recruitment and employment, financial management, IPR issues
- Training services for proposal preparation & project management (PIs and faculty research administration)
- Liaison between PI and other University research supporting offices,
- Grant officer for each project – standing contact point for the PI & faculty administration (help-desk) etc.
- Monitoring of periodic reports, contracts amendments, support during financial audit

**Scope of support**
- Research policy and project management support (full project life-cycle)
- Close cooperation with other University central offices and departments
UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH
Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants

ARE YOU A RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW?

Are you looking for assistance in applying for grants of the European Research Council (ERC)?
UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH
Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants

THE MISSION OF ERC
The Mission of ERC is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, based on scientific excellence.

THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW
The University of Warsaw - the host of 28 ERC grants so far - is to support its excellent scientists to prepare and submit a high quality research proposals for ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, Synergy and Proof of Concept Grants, as a stepping stone to development of their successful research careers.
UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH
Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants

MULTILEVEL SUPPORT FOR ERC APPLICANTS

UW offers a multistep and multilevel support to its ERC grants applicants co-funded by the Excellence Initiative-Research University programme (IDUB).
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Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants

1ST STEP OF THE CALL
PREPARATION OF A WRITTEN PROPOSAL

2ND STEP OF THE CALL
PREPARATION TO INTERVIEW WITH ERC PANEL MEMBERS

SUPPORT PROCESS FOR ERC APPLICANTS
UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH
Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants

1ST STEP OF THE CALL
PREPARATION OF A WRITTEN PROPOSAL

1. Training events on ERC proposal preparation
2. Individual consultations of proposals
3. Peer-reviews by ERC panel members and ERC grant-holders from UW
4. Services of a graphic designer (infographics for part B1/B2 of the proposal), IDUB
5. Proofreading by a native speaker of English, IDUB
6. Administrative support, including budget calculation
UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH
Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants

2ND STEP OF THE CALL
PREPARATION TO INTERVIEW WITH ERC PANEL MEMBERS

1. Meetings with ERC grant-holders sharing their experience and best practices
2. Consultations with an expert in scientific presentations
3. Services of communication experts in aesthetic/graphical features of presentations
4. Services of a graphic designer (project logo), IDUB
5. International mock-interviews with an access to the post-interview recording along with feedback from an expert on scientific presentations and a native speaker of English, IDUB
6. Consultations of oral presentations with a native speaker of English, IDUB
7. Professional recording studio to be used during the interview

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE...
whether or not it is the best moment in your career to apply for ERC grant, please contact us first sharing your CV and scientific track-record for individual consultation.

We will clear up your doubts!
UNIVERSITY OF RESEARCH
Direct Support of ERC grants Applicants

WHOM TO CONTACT?

If you plan to submit an ERC proposal and would like to use any forms of the support offered by UW please contact the **UW’s Office for International Research and Liaison** directly:

- **Diana Pustuła, M.A., LL.M.** – Head of the Office (Diana.Pustula@adm.uw.edu.pl, phone: 22-5524214),

- **Dr. Eng. Izabela Dranka** – Senior Specialist (Izabela.Dranka@adm.uw.edu.pl, phone: 22-5520743),

- **Anna Balcerzak, M.A.** – Senior Specialist (Anna.Balcerzak@adm.uw.edu.pl, phone: 22-5524210),

or use an online form for 1st or 2nd call step.
INTERACTIONS AMONG PROJECT MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS – Internal & External Support

Central Offices

PIs

Faculties & Faculty Sections

UW - Host Institution

National legal framework

Legal Financial Organizational Constrains

International Networks
- UNICA, COST TN
- Training
- Consultations
- Exchange of best practices in research administration

INTERACTIONS AMONG PROJECT MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS – Internal & External Support
EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Structure & processes – Support of ERC grantees

CENTRAL LEVEL

Legal Office

Public Procurement Office

OFFICE for International Research & Liaison

From the proposal to the final payment

HRO

Employment – European Charter & Code

Bursar’s Office

Press Office

Internal Audit and Control

TTO

From the proposal to the final payment
ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECTS
Structure & processes

FACULTY LEVEL

DEANS’ AND DIRECTORS’ OFFICES

Faculties and Extra-departmental Units
Thank you for your attention!