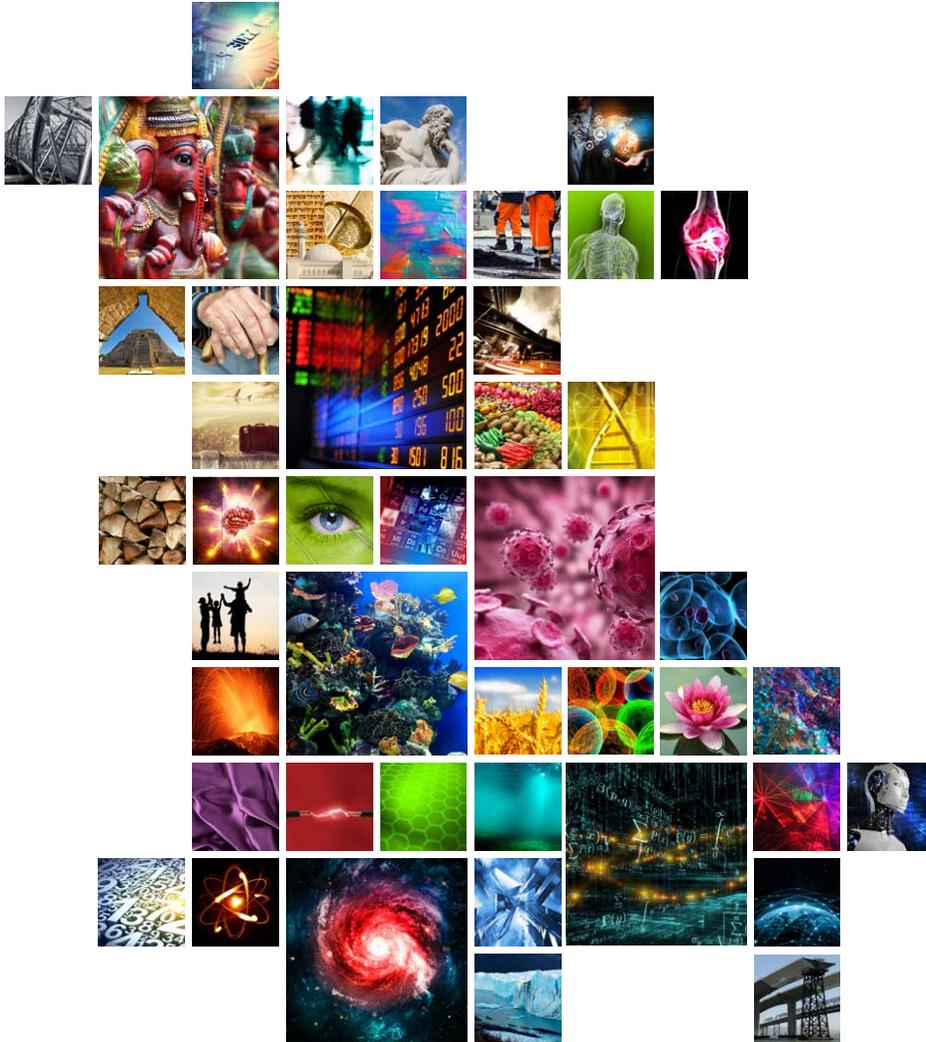




European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



ERC Grant Schemes

ERC funding

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 Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union (EU), the ERC has a total budget of over €13 billion available for funding in the period 2014-2020.

The ERC aims to support the best and most creative researchers to identify and explore new opportunities and directions in any field or domain (Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and Social Sciences and Humanities), without thematic priorities. In particular, it encourages proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries, address new and emerging themes, or 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 institution based in Europe. Scientific excellence is the sole evaluation criterion.

General features of ERC grants

- > Long-term individual grants
- > No co-financing or consortia
- > Open to any field of research, no thematic priorities
- > Ground-breaking, high-risk/high-gain research projects
- > At least 50% of time spent at Host Institutions based in an EU Member State, an Associated Country⁽¹⁾, or an International European Interest Organisation⁽²⁾
- > Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of the researcher and research proposal
- > International peer review evaluation process organised in different disciplinary panels
- > Simple procedures that combine flexibility with accountability
- > Resubmission restrictions may apply

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 €1 million ⁽³⁾	Up to 5 years
Consolidator Grant	For researchers to consolidate their research team or programme	PhD + 7-12 years experience	Up to €2 million + up to €1 million ⁽³⁾	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 €1 million ⁽³⁾	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 €4 million ⁽³⁾	Up to 6 years
Proof of Concept Grant	For ERC grantees to bridge the gap between research and marketable innovation	Holders of an ERC grant	€150 000	Up to 18 months

¹ A list of countries associated to the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is available on the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

² A definition of an International European Interest Organisation is available at: <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/frequently-asked-questions/results>

³ This amount, which may vary based on the year of the call, can be requested to cover: (a) «start-up» costs for researchers moving to an EU Member State or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant and/or (b) the purchase of major equipment and/or (c) access to large facilities and/or (d) other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.



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 the EU or an Associated Country.

The ERC Starting Grant supports young researchers making the transition from working under a supervisor to becoming an independent researcher. 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 + up to €1 million⁽³⁾

Duration: up to 5 years

In order to apply, researchers must have:

- > 2-7 years of experience since completion of their 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 in the EU or an Associated Country. This grant scheme strengthens recently created independent and excellent research teams.

The ERC Consolidator Grant addresses 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. This grant offers researchers a unique opportunity to strengthen their position.

Size of the grant: up to €2 million + up to €1 million⁽³⁾

Duration: up to 5 years

In order to apply, researchers must have:

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

For further details:

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

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ERC Advanced Grant

ERC Advanced Grants are designed to provide an opportunity for well-established and outstanding researchers of any nationality to pursue innovative, high-risk/high-gain work that opens new directions in a field of their choice in the EU or an Associated Country.

The ERC supports frontier research to lead to breakthroughs and encourages unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between disciplines.

Size of the grant: up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million⁽³⁾

Duration: up to 5 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>

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ERC Proof of Concept Grant

ERC funded frontier projects can lead to innovations with economic or societal potential. Proof of Concept Grants provide additional funding to ERC grant holders to ensure that excellent ideas are pursued.

ERC Proof of Concept Grants are 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 or social innovation opportunities, and technical validation.

Size of the grant: €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 societal benefits

For further details:

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



ERC Synergy Grant

ERC Synergy Grants support small teams of researchers 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: €10 million + up to €4 million⁽³⁾

Duration: up to 6 years

In order to apply, the teams must:

- > be composed of 2 to 4 researchers and their research groups
- > one researcher can be based outside EU Member States or Associated Countries
- > jointly address complex research topics
- > demonstrate that the synergies created by working collaboratively are fundamental to their project
- > present 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 on the ERC website, the Horizon 2020 Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal and in the Official Journal of the European Union. The specifications of the calls are determined yearly and published in the ERC Work Programme. Make sure you check this document before applying.

Grant applications can be submitted electronically only in response to a call for proposals, via the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal within the deadline.

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 in your country

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

A list of NCPs can be found at:

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

ERC News Updates

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

Further information

<https://erc.europa.eu>

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