



European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

Brussels, November 16th 2020

Call for expression of interest 2020 Visits of non-EU based researchers to ERC projects

Dear ERC grantee,

The European Research Council (ERC) is fostering scientific cooperation between the European Union and leading research funding agencies outside Europe. In this context, the ERC is currently implementing international arrangements with the following non-European institutions: the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the **United States**; the Ministry of Science and ICT of the **Republic of Korea**; the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of the **Republic of Argentina**; the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) of **Japan**; the National Natural Science Foundation (NSFC) of the **People's Republic of China**; the National Research Foundation (NRF) of the **Republic of South Africa**; the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) of **Mexico**; the Canadian Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) of **Canada**; the Brazilian National Council of the State Funding Agencies (CONFAP) of **Federative Republic of Brazil**; the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of the **Republic of India**; the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) of **Japan**; the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) of **Australia**; the National Research Foundation (NRF) of **Singapore**; the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) of the **Republic of India**; Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) of **Japan**.

Please note that these international mobility initiatives all follow a similar approach. Firstly, the **researcher funded by a non-European institution visits the ERC project and not vice versa**. Secondly, the resulting **costs are shared between the non-EU based research agency and the ERC grantee, accordingly to the relative agreements**. Lastly, the ERC grantee hosting a researcher funded by a non-European institution does not receive extra funding from the ERC. The specific details of each of these initiatives are explained at:

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/additional-opportunities#International Arrangement funding> .

Please be aware that cost to your grant may vary between schemes.

ERC Principal Investigators (PIs) of any scientific domain who are interested in participating in one or more of the above mentioned initiatives should confirm their willingness to participate by completing the questionnaire by **16th December 2020** at the latest. **You will find a link to this questionnaire in the copy of the related email that you received from the ERC**, (dated Monday 16 November 2020).

After having compiled the questionnaire results, the **ERC will share relevant information with the participating non-EU research Agencies** (approximately in January 2021). These agencies will in turn inform their interested researchers, who are given the opportunity to identify an ERC project they potentially want to visit. Prior to submitting their request to the respective Agency, **the interested researcher will communicate directly with the ERC PI** to determine areas of mutual interest and research goals for a visit. **The endorsement of the visit by the ERC Host Institution (HI) is required** and will be part of the application to each non-EU Agency, **together with a communication from the ERC PI** (approximately during the first quarter of 2021) explaining how the proposed project fits within the ERC project, the facilities and resources to be made available to the research visitor and the expectations that the ERC PI has for the visit.

Once a researcher is selected and funded by the non-EU Agency (which will be known approximately in spring 2021), he or she will join the team of the ERC-funded PI at the HI for the duration of the visit (visits beginning approximately in summer/fall 2021).

ERC is aware that Covid-19 will possibly have an impact on the visits foreseen for this period, for this reason, given the current circumstances, the participating non-EU authorities will accord more flexibility to visitors to decide, together with ERC PIs, when to schedule their visits, always respecting the terms of funding timelines.

Note that by expressing your interest to participate in this initiative, **you do not have any obligation to host a researcher**. You will always have the final decision whether to host or not potential visitors through this programme.

Please note that the **ERC itself does intervene neither in the selection** of the non-EU based researchers visiting ERC projects, nor in the communication between the ERC PIs and the potential visitors.

If you have further questions on this Call for Expression of Interest, please contact ERC at the following address: [ERC\(hyphen\)IMPLEMENTING\(hyphen\)ARRANGEMENTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC(hyphen)IMPLEMENTING(hyphen)ARRANGEMENTS@ec.europa.eu)

I would like to thank you for your interest in these international mobility initiatives.

Yours sincerely

Dr. José Labastida

Head of Scientific Department

ERC Executive Agency