



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

"FELLOWSHIP TO VISIT ERC GRANTEE"

ERC Guidelines

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The mission of the European Research Council (ERC) is to support frontier research in all fields of science and scholarship. Research funded by the ERC is therefore expected to lead to advances at the boundaries of knowledge, but also to set a clear and inspirational target for the organisation of frontier research across Europe.

To achieve this goal the ERC must enhance the full potential for frontier research available across Europe. The Scientific Council of the ERC acknowledges that the low international exposure of researchers in certain European countries may hinder the recognition of the full research potential there.

Visiting Fellowship Programmes for Potential ERC Candidates

The ERC therefore encourages national and/or regional authorities and organisations to set up visiting fellowship programmes to fund potential candidates for the ERC's calls to visit the teams of existing ERC-funded Principal Investigators. Such schemes will allow the selected candidates to strengthen their research profile and vision in an internationally competitive research environment before applying for an ERC grant.

Accordingly, the European Research Council has made public guidelines for national and/or regional authorities and organisations that wish to set up such a scheme in order to have a clear set up leaving no ambiguity on its goal and nature.

The ERC recommends that Visiting Fellowship Programmes should:

- be notified to the ERC;
- be open to researchers from all disciplines;
- be based on a fully open and transparent evaluation with scientific excellence as the main criterion, using external reviewers, and selection based on an assessment of the applicant's potential to be awarded an ERC grant;
- ask applicants to already have an outline of a scientific project before applying and require the selected visiting researcher to submit a worked out version of the proposal to one of the ERC's main calls (StG, CoG, AdG) within a specified time after the end of the visit;
- cover the travel and salary costs of the fellows for the duration of the visit which should be for a minimum of three months and up to six months;
- ask applicants to have a letter of support of the proposed host researcher and institution when applying;

- inform the ERC of the visiting researchers supported.

For its part, if all previous recommendations are followed, the ERC will undertake to:

- facilitate and promote those schemes that are notified to the ERC, including with the appropriate transmission of information to scheme organisers and potential host Principal Investigators;
- encourage ERC-funded Principal Investigators to accept visiting researchers as a way to strengthen and diversify their own teams as well as to contribute to the development of science in Europe.

The ERC underlines that the decision to accept visiting fellows is for each ERC-funded Principal Investigator to make on a purely voluntary basis. Such programmes will be managed by the relevant national or regional authority or organisation. The expectation of the ERC is that the extra costs of the implementation of the scheme will be fully covered by its promoters.