



- Info Sheet Research Funding -

European Research Council (ERC): Starting Grants

ERC Starting Grants in brief

The European Research Council (ERC) is an institution set up by the European Commission to finance basic and excellent research. The aim of ERC funding is to support the best and most creative scholars in discovering and researching new approaches in all disciplines. Particularly interdisciplinary approaches that transcend the boundaries of their field are welcomed, as they promise to hold the highest innovation potential.

The ERC Starting Grants are specifically aimed at promising early career researchers who want to start their own independent career and establish their own research group. Depending on the field of research, there are certain benchmarks for competitive Starting Grant candidates. Applicants should have demonstrated evidence of maturity, for example by having produced at least one important publication as main author in high-ranking international journals, (translated) monographs, patents or presentations at international conferences. In addition to a promising academic track record a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal is required. In the case of a successful application a Starting Grant provides financial support of up to EUR 1.5 million (in exceptional cases up to 2.5 million euros) for a maximum period of five years.

- ▶ **Who can apply?** Researchers 2 to 7 years after PhD (relevant dates are 1. January of the call year and the date on the PhD certificate); extensions for parental leave etc.; special regulations for “Doctor of Medicine”, usually +2 years
- ▶ **Duration:** up to 5 years
- ▶ **Type and extent of funding:** Funding of up to 1.5 million euros (in exceptional cases up to 2.5 million euros). 100% direct costs plus 25% overhead for indirect costs. The researcher’s salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.
- ▶ **Further requirements:** A host institution must employ the researcher for at least the duration of the project.

General Features of ERC Grants

- ▶ Funding of pioneering "frontier research" ("high-risk/high-gain")
- ▶ Scientific excellence as sole selection criterion
- ▶ Open to all fields of research, no thematic priorities
- ▶ Funding for individuals (PI) and their team in a project of up to five years (exceptions: Synergy and Proof of Concept Grants)
- ▶ No consortia
- ▶ Researchers at institutions within the EU Member States or associated countries are eligible to apply
- ▶ Peer review evaluation process through independent scientific experts in 27 international review panels
- ▶ One-stage application procedure with two-stage evaluation
- ▶ Limited possibilities for resubmission

Tentative timeline...

...for the next application rounds of the ERC StG under the upcoming EU Research Framework Programme “Horizon Europe” (2021-2027):

Call year	Call opens	Call closes
2022	23/09/2021	13/01/2021
2023	July 2022	October 2022

Further information

- www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/60763345/
- <https://erc.europa.eu/>
- <http://www.nks-erc.de/>

Comprehensive Consulting on ERC applications:

Research Support

- Department for Research Promotion & Scientific Career Development–
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