



APRE

Agenzia per la Promozione
della Ricerca Europea

I criteri e le regole di eleggibilità degli schemi di finanziamento ERC 2024

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ERC OBJECTIVES

- ❏ to provide attractive, long-term funding to support excellent investigators and their research teams to pursue ***ground-breaking, ambitious research.***
- ❏ Scientific excellence is the sole criterion
- ❏ Applications can be made in any field of research
- ❏ Fund research activities that will be directed towards fundamental advances at and beyond the 'frontier' of knowledge



Applications can be made in any field of research

- ❏ The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a '**bottom-up**' basis without predetermined priorities.
- ❏ In particular, it encourages proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.

Independent researchers

- ↗ Independent researchers of **any age** and **career stage** can apply for attractive long-term funding
- ↗ The ERC awards funding to excellent investigators looking **to set up or consolidate** their own independent research team or programme, as well as to already **established research leaders**.
- ↗ Principal Investigators from **anywhere in the world** can apply for an ERC grant:
 - ERC grants are open to researchers of any nationality who may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application





Host Institution

- Applications for an ERC grant must be submitted by a single Principal Investigator (PI) in conjunction with and on behalf of their Host Institution.
- Grants are awarded to the Host Institution with the explicit commitment that this institution offers appropriate conditions for the Principal Investigator independently to direct the research and manage its funding for the duration of the project.
- Any type of legal entity (public or private research organisation including universities, research centres, etc...) can host the PI and his/her team. Legally the host institution must be based in one of the EU Member States, or one of the associated countries.
- The PI does not necessarily need to be working at the host institution at the time when the proposal is submitted. However, a mutual agreement and the host institution's commitment on how the relationship will be established are necessary should the proposal be successful.





Team

- ▣ ERC grants support projects carried out by an individual researcher who can employ researchers of any nationality as team members. It is also possible to have one or more team members located in a non-European country.



FUNDING SCHEMES AND ELIGIBILITY RULES

Grant	Objectives and Principal Investigator	Maximum amount and duration of the grant	Type of Funding
Starting Grant	<p>Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme.</p> <p>Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal.</p> <p>A Starting Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of the potential for research independence, for example by having produced at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.</p>	<p>Up to EUR 1 500 000 for a period of 5 years.</p> <p>Additional funding up to EUR 1 000 000.</p>	Actual Cost



FUNDING SCHEMES AND ELIGIBILITY RULES

Consolidator Grant	<p>Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme.</p> <p>Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal.</p> <p>A Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of research independence.</p>	Up to EUR 2 000 000 for a period of 5 years. Additional funding up to EUR 1 000 000.	Actual Cost
Advanced Grant	<p>Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements.</p> <p>Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal.</p> <p>An ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active researcher and to have a track record of significant research achievements.</p>	Up to EUR 2 500 000 for a period of 5 years. Additional funding up to EUR 1 000 000.	Lump Sum



Synergy Grant

Support for a small group of two to four Principal Investigators to jointly address ambitious research problems that could not be addressed by the individual Principal Investigators and their teams working alone.

Synergy projects should enable substantial advances at the frontiers of knowledge, stemming, for example, from the cross-fertilisation of scientific fields, from new productive lines of enquiry, or new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines. The transformative research funded by Synergy Grants should have the potential of becoming a benchmark on a global scale.

Principal Investigators of any career stage are welcome and must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal. Principal Investigators must also demonstrate that their group can successfully bring together the scientific elements necessary to address the scope and complexity of the proposed research question.

Applications must be submitted by a group of a minimum of two and a maximum of four innovative and active Principal Investigators, referred to as the 'Synergy Grant Group', with competitive track records as appropriate to their career stage.

Synergy Grant Groups are expected to demonstrate that they can successfully bring together those elements – such as skills, knowledge, experience, expertise, disciplines, methods, approaches, teams,

Up to
EUR 10 000 000
for a period of
6 years.
Additional
funding up to
EUR 4 000 000.

Actual Cost

access to infrastructures – necessary to address the scope and complexity of the proposed research question. Applicants are expected to describe the contribution of each PI, their team, and the resources to achieve the objectives proposed.



Eligibility windows

Eligibility period: Principal Investigator(s) who have successfully defended their first PhD		
Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced and Synergy Grant
> 2 and ≤ 7 years prior to 1 January 2024 Cut-off dates: Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 (inclusive)	> 7 and ≤ 12 years prior to 1 January 2024 Cut-off dates: Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016 (inclusive)	No specific criteria



Eligibility windows: medical degree

6. Applicants holding a degree in medicine:

A first degree in medicine will not be accepted by itself as equivalent to a PhD degree. To be considered an eligible Principal Investigator, applicants holding a degree in medicine need to provide **the certificates of both the medical degree and the PhD, or proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency** (e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment). Additionally, candidates must also provide information on their research experience (including peer reviewed publications) in order to further substantiate the equivalence of their overall training to a PhD.

For applicants holding both a degree in medicine and a PhD, **the date used for the calculation of the eligibility period** (i.e. medical degree plus two years or the date of the successful defence of their PhD degree) **is the date of the earliest degree that makes the applicant eligible.**



Eligibility window extensions

The date of the PhD considered for the calculation of the eligibility period is the date of the successful defence of the first PhD degree.

The eligibility periods set out in the table above can be extended beyond 7 and 12 years for the Starting and Consolidator Grants, respectively, for the following properly documented circumstances³⁰, provided they started before the call deadline:

*- **Maternity**: 18 months extension for each child born before or after the date of the successful defence of their first PhD degree. If the applicant can document a longer total maternity leave, the eligibility period will be extended by the documented amount of actual leave(s) for all children taken before the call deadline.*

*- **Paternity**: extension by the documented time of paternity leave taken before the call deadline for each child born before or after the date of the successful defence of their first PhD degree.*

*- **Long-term illness³¹ or national service**: extension by the documented amount of leave taken by the Principal Investigator before the call deadline for each incident, which occurred after the date of the successful defence of their first PhD degree.*

*- **Clinical training**: extension by the documented amount of clinical training received by the Principal Investigator **after** the reference date of the first eligible degree and before the call deadline, **up to a maximum of 4 years**.*

*- **Natural Disaster³²**: extension by the documented time of a Principal Investigator's inability to work³³ before the call deadline due to a natural disaster, which occurred after the date of the successful defence of their first PhD degree.*

*- **Seeking Asylum**: extension by the documented time of the Principal Investigator's inability to work before the call deadline due to seeking asylum³⁴, which occurred after the date of the success defence of their first PhD degree.*



Working Time on the ERC project

Minimum percentage of the working time of a Principal Investigator that must be spent	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
On the ERC project	50%	40%	30%	30% for each Principal Investigator
In a Member State or Associated Country ^{36,37}	50%	50%	50%	50% for each Principal Investigator engaged and hosted by an institution in the EU or Associated Countries



Resubmission limits

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2024 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <i>not</i> eligible
2022 and 2023 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2022 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2023 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant



	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept Grant
Call opens	11/07/2023	12/09/2023	29/05/2024	12/07/2023	16/11/2023
Deadline to submit applications	24/10/2023	12/12/2023	29/08/2024	08/11/2023	14/03/2024
					17/09/2024
Budget	€601m	€584m	€578m	€400m	€30m



	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>
<i>Budget million EUR (estimated number of grants)</i>	601 (387)	584 (291)	578 (237)	400 (39)
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants after each step</i>	10 May 2024 23 August 2024	21 June 2024 13 December 2024	31 January 2025 13 June 2025	3 May 2024 30 August 2024 4 November 2024
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i>	21 December 2024	12 April 2025	18 November 2025	24 March 2025



ERC Team contacts



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