

## GENERAL FEATURES OF ERC GRANTS

- Promotion of ground-breaking “pioneer research”
- Scientific excellence as sole selection criterion
- Bottom-up funding: open to all research ideas and fields
- Submission as single PI or in a group of PIs (but no consortia!)
- One-stage application procedure with two-stage evaluation (SyG: three-stage)
- Peer review evaluation process with independent international experts

## TENTATIVE TIMELINE...

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

	Call opens	Call closes
Publication of the ERC Work Programme 2021: January 2021		
<b>StG</b>	01/2021*	04/2021*
<b>CoG</b>	04/2021*	08/2021*
<b>AdG</b>	11/2021*	02/2022*
<b>SyG</b>	07/2021*	11/2021*

\*Please note that deadlines may be subject to change once the new Framework Programme has been launched. For further information, please contact [rsc-eu@uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:rsc-eu@uni-frankfurt.de).

## SERVICES AT GOETHE-UNIVERSITY

### Research Service Center (RSC) Department “Information and Support”

#### *Comprehensive support with ERC applications*

- Does your CV/project match the ERC criteria?
- What are the formal requirements?
- How do you design your project budget?

#### *Apart from that we*

- offer feedback on your proposal text and structure
- sign the Host Support Letter

#### **Contact:**

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#### **Further information:**

[www.rsc.uni-frankfurt.de](http://www.rsc.uni-frankfurt.de)

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

<http://www.nks-erc.de/>

European Research Funding:  
Research grants supporting scientific  
excellence through the

## EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC)

for researchers at  
Goethe-University



Research  
Service Center

## THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

Under the EU Research Framework Programmes “Horizon 2020” (2014-2020) and “Horizon Europe” (2021-2027), the European Research Council (ERC) supports investigator-driven frontier research and scientific excellence across Europe in any field of research, without thematic priorities. In particular, it encourages proposals which cross disciplinary boundaries, address new and emerging fields, and 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 in Europe. Scientific excellence is the sole evaluation criterion.

## THE ERC FUNDING LINES

**Starting Grants** (StG) for early career researchers 2 to 7 years after their PhD\* (reference dates: 01/01 of the call year and date on the PhD certificate) with up to 1.5 million Euro over a maximum of five years

**Consolidator Grants** (CoG) for early career researchers 7 to 12 years after their PhD\* (reference dates: 01/01 of the call year and date on the PhD certificate) with up to 1.5 million Euro over a maximum of five years

\* = *Extension rules apply in exceptional cases.*

**Advanced Grants** (AdG) for experienced researchers with an excellent scientific track record of recognised achievements in the last 10 years with up to 2.5 million Euro over a maximum of five years

**Synergy Grants** (SyG) for groups of 2 to 4 researchers with up to 10 million Euro over a maximum of six years

Researchers who have already obtained an ERC Grant, and who wish to transfer the results of their project into a commercially or socially exploitable project, can raise additional funds through the ERC's **Proof of Concept** funding.

## APPLICATION AND SUPPORT

Applications for ERC funding can be submitted in response to annual calls for proposals for the respective ERC funding line. ERC calls are open to researchers of any nationality and any age who carry out their research at an institution within the EU Member States or in countries associated to the EU Research Framework Programme (e.g. Switzerland, Turkey, and Israel).

Applications are submitted by the Principal Investigator (PI) via the European Commission's online Funding and Tenders Portal.

### Application documents

1. Online-Forms (A-Forms)
2. Project proposal: The scientific proposal consists of two different parts:
  - a. B1: profile of the PI incl. CV (2 pages), Funding ID, Track Record (2 pages) and a summary (5 pages) of the research project (Extended Synopsis)
  - b. B2: detailed description of the research project (max. 15 pages, incl. budget justification)
3. Supporting documents
  - a. Declaration of support by the host institution, including the assurance of independence of the PI (Commitment of the Host Institution/Host Support Letter);
  - b. If applicable, doctoral certificate and/or documentation supporting the extension of the eligibility time window;
  - c. Ethics Self-Assessment
  - d. Other documents

### *Please contact us early!*

In order to fully support you in the application process for ERC Grants, we need you to contact the RSC as early as possible, at least four weeks before the application deadline.

## EVALUATION OF ERC GRANTS

### Evaluation process

The peer review process of the ERC is based on the principle of a panel-based evaluation system, i.e. there are 25 pre-defined expert panels in three major scientific areas: Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE), Life Sciences (LS), and Social Sciences and Humanities (SH). These panels consist of 10 to 15 members, whose names are published only after the end of the review process.

The applicants choose the peer review panel when submitting the proposal.

### Review procedure

After the full proposals (online forms, B1 and B2, supporting documents) have been submitted before the respective call deadline, part B1 will be reviewed by 3 to 4 members of the evaluation panel in the first evaluation stage. The panel decides whether the proposal should pass to the second evaluation stage or be rejected at this stage.

In the second evaluation stage, both the panel members and individual internationally recruited external scientific experts evaluate the proposal on the basis of the entire application (Part B1 and B2).

For all ERC Grants, the final step of the evaluation process is an interview in Brussels, where the applicants present their project to the panel and answer questions. Starting from the ERC Work Programme 2020, interviews will also be conducted for Advanced Grant candidates!