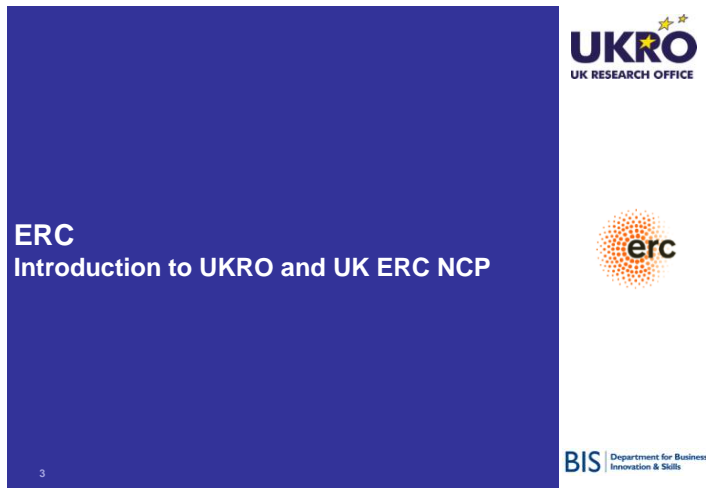


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The following presentation was made to researchers at a meeting in Strathclyde University on 16 September 2010. Comments have been added below some of the slides.

15% of ERC funding is released through this channel.

Comments in these slides are specific to this current call. Each call can vary – it is important to check.



ERC  
Introduction to UKRO and UK ERC NCP

UKRO  
UK RESEARCH OFFICE

erc

BIS | Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

3



UK Research Office


UKRO  
UK RESEARCH OFFICE

- Based in Brussels
- Established in 1984
- Mission to facilitate effective UK participation in EU research, innovation and HE programmes
- Staff of 13
- Sponsored by the seven UK Research Councils
- Receives subscriptions from over 140 research organisations\*
- Range of services for sponsors and subscribers
- Research Council policy work
- Brussels liaison
- For more information see [www.ukro.ac.uk](http://www.ukro.ac.uk)

\* check at [http://www.ukro.ac.uk/about/our\\_subscribers.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/about/our_subscribers.htm)

Arts & Humanities Research Council | BBSRC | EPSRC | MRC | Natural Environment Research Council | Science & Technology Facilities Council




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UK Research Office	<b>UKRO's Services</b> 	
	<b>'Core' subscriber* services</b>	<b>Open to non-subscribers</b>
	Query service	(Majority of) training courses and information events
	Annual briefing visits (for UK subscribers)	Annual Conference
	E-mail updates (& searchable database) <a href="http://ims.ukro.ac.uk">ims.ukro.ac.uk</a>	Marie Curie Actions UK National Contact Point
	Subscriber website <a href="http://www.ukro.ac.uk/subscriber_services">www.ukro.ac.uk/subscriber_services</a>	<b>European Research Council</b> <b>UK National Contact Point</b>
	Meeting room in Brussels	British Council <i>European RTD Insight</i> publication

\* List of subscribing institutions: [http://www.ukro.ac.uk/about/our\\_subscribers.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/about/our_subscribers.htm)

Remember to sign up for emails!

UK Research Office – ERC NCP	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <b>European Research Council National Contact Point Helpdesk</b> </div>  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc">http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc</a></li> <li><b>ERC mailing list</b> for events and key updates (sign up at <a href="http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm">http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm</a>)</li> <li><b>Helpdesk</b> via email and telephone (email <a href="mailto:erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk">erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk</a> or phone 0032 2289 6121)</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice on applying for ERC actions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility</li> <li>Application help</li> <li>Results</li> <li>Contractual issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>Advice to those with ERC grants</li> </ul> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist <b>training</b> courses and information events</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
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<b>ERC</b> Introduction to the ERC: Aims and Structure	    
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## What is the ERC?



### What is the European Research Council (ERC)?

- New pan-European funding organisation
- Supports the best in Europe - scientists, engineers and scholars
- Funding of €7.51 billion (2007-13)

### What are the aims of the ERC?

- Encourage highest quality research in Europe
  - Excellence is the sole criterion
- Competitive, flexible funding
- Retain, repatriate and recruit (career support)

### What are the ERC Grant Schemes?

- Currently - Starting Grants and Advanced Grants
  - Support for a PI and (if necessary) team members
  - Investigator-initiated frontier research across all fields of research, on the basis of scientific excellence
- New (pilot) scheme – 2012 Work Programme in Spring 2011?
- The ERC also has calls for tender for studies on the ERC itself



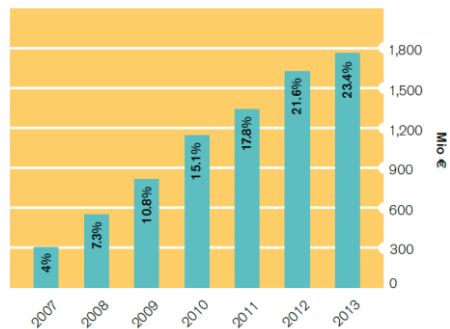
Nuclear Energy research is not eligible for support.

Excellence is the sole criterion. Assessment 50% project and 50% person

## ERC Spending Profile



ERC Grant schemes: Annual Budget Distribution  
2007-2013



Success rates were 3% in 2007 but rising year on year.

- 2012 new programme will permit consortium awards – press release soon.

## ERC Grant Schemes



### Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

- boost the independent careers of excellent researchers
- by providing **adequate support**
- at the critical stage where they are **starting or consolidating**
- their own **independent** research team or programme.

- Now 50% of Annual ERC Call Budget
- Annual calls: open late spring and close in autumn
- Grants of up to €2 million over 5 yrs (but normally €1.5 million)



Awards will meet 100% of direct costs and 20% of indirect costs.

Researcher must be independent – involvement of a former supervisor is likely to count against a bid

## ERC Starting Grant Calls



### Indicative Call Schedule 2007-12

Work Programme (published on)	ERC Action	Call Open	Call Deadlines	Call Value (€ M)	Evaluation
2007 (Feb 2007)	ERC-2007-StG	Winter 2006	Spring 2007	290	Spring - Autumn 07
2009 (July 2008)	ERC-2009-StG	July 2008	Autumn 2008	296	Winter 08 - Spring 09
2010 (Spring 2009)	ERC-2010-StG	July 2009	Autumn 2009	528	Winter 09 - Spring 10
2011 (Spring 2010)	ERC-2011-StG	20 July 2010	PE: 14 October 2010 LS: 9 November 2010 SH: 24 November 2010	661	Winter 10 – late Spring 11
2012 (Spring 2011)	ERC-2012-StG	July 2011?	Autumn 2011?	tbc	Winter 11 - Spring 12?

*Please note that resubmission and multiple application rules apply*



## ERC Grant Schemes



### Advanced Investigator Grants (Advanced Grants)

- encourage **substantial advances at the frontier of knowledge**
- by supporting excellent, **leading advanced investigators**
- to pursue **ground breaking, high-risk/high gain research**

- Now 50% of Annual ERC Call Budget
- Annual calls: open in autumn and close in spring
- Grants of up to €2.5 million over 5 yrs (€3.5 million in certain cases)



12

## ERC Advanced Grants Calls



### Indicative Call Schedule 2007-12

Work Programme (published on)	ERC Action	Call Open	Call Deadlines	Estimated Call Value (€ M)	Evaluation
2008 (Oct 2007)	ERC-2008-AdG	Autumn 2007	Spring 2008	517	Spring - Autumn 08
2009 (July 2008)	ERC-2009-AdG	Autumn 2008	Spring 2009	490	Spring - Autumn 09
2010 (Spring 2009)	ERC-2010-AdG	Autumn 2009	Spring 2010	590	Spring - Autumn 10
2011 (Spring 2010)	ERC-2011-AdG	2 November 2010 (tbc)	Expected deadlines: PE: 9 February 2011 LS: 10 March 2011 SH: 6 April 2011	661	Spring - Autumn 11
2012 (Spring 2011)	ERC-2012-AdG	Autumn 2011?	Spring 2012	tbc	Spring - Autumn 11

Please note that resubmission and multiple application rules apply



13

2010 award statistics due soon.

## European Research Council



	ERC-2007-StG	ERC-2009-StG
Funded ERC grants with UK Host Institutions	58 (20% of all grants)	~43* (~18%* of all grants)
Success rate overall:	3.3%	9.5% so far*
- success rate for grants with a UK Host Institution	5.2%	12.4% so far*
	ERC-2008-AdG	ERC-2009-AdG
ERC grants with UK Host Institutions	58 (21% of all grants)	60 (25% of all grants)
Success rate overall:	12.7%	15.3% *
- success rate for grants with a UK Host Institution	19.4%	19.6% *

\* provisional figure

Further statistics and access to information on funded projects on the UKRO website



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European Research Council - Independent Researcher Grants

ERC Starting Grants

17



ERC – StG

### Starting Grants (StG)



**Aims to...**

- **Improve career opportunities and independence** start of their independent research career
- **Provide structure for transition** from working under a supervisor to independent research
- Enable PIs to create excellent new teams to bring energy and new ideas to their disciplines
- **Retain, Repatriate, Recruit**

**Will support**

- **Excellent, innovative and investigator-initiated research projects**
- **Flexible projects to promote substantial advances in 'frontier research'** such as:
  - knowledge pursuit of **questions at or beyond the frontiers of knowledge**
  - **any field of research\***
  - **interdisciplinary proposals** crossing the boundaries between different research fields
  - pioneering proposals addressing **new and emerging fields of research**
  - proposals introducing **unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions**
  - but must have a **significant impact** on science, scholarship or engineering
  - reviewers understand the high-risk/high-gain profile
  - should aim to broaden scientific and technological knowledge

\*all fields of science and scholarship are eligible, except nuclear research



Check UKRO website for information on successful projects.


Research can be basic or applied.

'Risky ' projects are acceptable.

Application can be linked to commercial objectives

Aim must be a substantial advance

ERC – StG



### PI Eligibility

**Am I Eligible as a PI?**

- 2-12 yrs from award of first PhD or equivalent\* (as at 20 July 2010)
- Extensions (up to 16.5 years in total) for properly documented eligible career breaks only: maternity/paternity leave, national service, long-term illness and clinical qualifications. *For other 'unavoidable statutory reasons' please contact us for advice.*
- No extensions for part time working, non-research careers, travel etc

**Am I a 'Starter' or 'Consolidator'?**


- During evaluations, applicants will be split into two streams:
  - "Starter" (2-7 years post PhD)
  - "Consolidator" (Over 7 and up to 12 years post PhD)
- Budget split for each panel will be proportional to demand in each category
- Why were the two streams introduced?
- Was this 'streaming' successful in the last call?
- How are extensions dealt with?
  - "Starters" can ask for extensions to the normal 7 year post PhD limit for the reasons listed above (up to a maximum of 4.5 years extension)
  - Reason for extension must have taken place before 7 years post PhD and supporting documentation must be provided (and eligible events that take place during the extension can lead to further extension)
  - Supporting material (official documents) must be provided
  - Applicant is responsible for making a clear case (in Part B1, Section 1A)
  - Final decision on stream is made by the panel

\*See ERC Policy on PhD and equivalent degrees at [www.ukro.ac.uk](http://www.ukro.ac.uk)

Phd date is the graduation date.

Panels advised to distinguish between starter and consolidating to ensure an even field for applicants.

ERC – StG




### Should I apply?

**Am I a Competitive Candidate?**

- Expected to have:
  - already shown potential for research independence & evidence of maturity
  - produced independently **at least one important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor**
- Be able to demonstrate a promising track record of early achievements appropriate to their field and career stage, including:
  - **significant publications (as main author)** in peer-reviewed major international multidisciplinary journals or leading international journals in their field
- May have monographs, invited presentations, granted patents, awards, prizes
- Have good leadership potential

All this needs to be shown in your application....  
...which will include:

- scientific leadership profile
- a cv
- an early achievements track record



Highlight any independent activity

## PI Independence



Host must give PI independence to:

- **Apply for funding independently**
- **Manage the research and funding** for the project and make appropriate resource allocation decisions
- **Publish as senior authors** and invite as co-authors only those who have contributed substantially to the reported work
- **Supervise & recruit team members**, including research students, doctoral students and others
- Have **access to reasonable facilities and space** for research

- Statement from Host (do not modify the set text!)
- Does not apply to team members



ERC – StG  
21

## 'Individual Team' Concept Overview

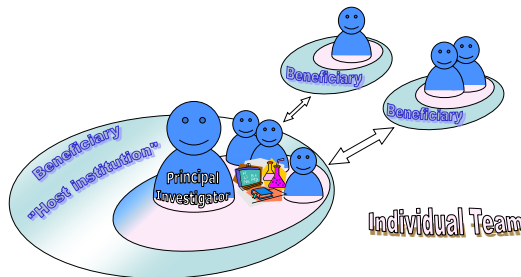


Diagram provided by the European Commission



ERC – StG  
22

## 'Individual Team' Concept - PI



Principal Investigator (PI) = Team Leader

- Central to the grant and review criteria
- Must have the potential to be a future independent research leader in their own right...
- Has the power to assemble a research group of team members
- Freedom to choose the research topic
- **Expected to devote at least 50% of working time to the ERC-funded project**
  - Evaluation criteria include "Is the Principal Investigator strongly committed to the project and willing to devote a significant amount of time to it (they will be expected to devote at least 50% of their working time to the ERC-funded project)?"
- Can be of any age, nationality or current location
- Chooses a host institution in EU Member State or Associated Country\* (or an 'International European Interest Organisation')
- Activities must be substantially in MS/AC (does not exclude fieldwork/research outside EU/AC in order to achieve the research objectives)
- Applies in conjunction with host and (if funded) signs 'supplementary agreement' with the host
- Host institution should not really be changed during review process but researchers can move once funded under certain conditions
- Resubmission rules apply to PI

(\*currently Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Faroe Islands, FYR Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, and Turkey)



ERC – StG  
23

Requires total working time.




Fieldwork can be outwith the EU.

Awardees should not change institution once a project has started.

Advanced grants require a minimum of 30 staff time


ERC – StG<sup>24</sup>

### 'Individual Team' Concept - PI's Host Institution




**PI's Host Institution**

- Can be any type of legal entity
- Must be in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- The PI does not have to be based there at the time of application
- Has the infrastructure and capacity to carry out frontier research project
- Must not constrain the PI to the research strategy of the institution
- Must provide appropriate conditions for the PI to
  - direct independently the research and manage the ERC funding
- Has appropriate intellectual environment and infrastructural support
- But now no longer assessed as a separate criterion during Peer Review
- Is the 'applicant legal entity'
- Normally employs the PI
- Signs a Supporting Statement as part of application
- If funded signs up to the Grant Agreement
- If funded, signs a 'Supplementary Agreement' with the PI
- Host institution should not really be changed during review process but researchers can move once funded under certain conditions



ERC – StG<sup>25</sup>


### 'Individual Team' Concept - Team Members



**Team Members (if needed)**

- **Constitution of individual research team is flexible**, commonly includes:
  - other researchers from the PI's research group or institution (senior researchers, post docs, graduate and PhD students...)
  - non-academic staff such as technicians/support staff can also be funded
- **Normally, the PI's host institution will be the only institution**
  - But could have team members from other institutions in the same or different countries
    - If in EU/AC - can be funded
    - If outside EU/AC – GFA says ERC only fund if they do "not dispose of sufficient own financial resources to finance the participation in the ERC project" (*new, but not part of the evaluation – looked at afterwards if you are successful*)
  - Also, if separate legal entities are involved their participation (and funding) will
    - be assessed during peer review – "is their participation fully justified by the scientific added value they bring to the project?"
- **Team (including any team members at other institutions) led by, and centred around, the PI so NOT a traditional network or research consortium**
- PI has freedom to choose appropriate team members
- Team members can be of any age, nationality & country of residence (not just EU/AC)
- Team members do not need to be independent
- Smaller role in application forms and review than the PI
- Named v's un-named?
- Resubmission rules do not apply to team members
- Institution (s) where team based sign up to Grant Agreement

(No 'Co-Investigator' concept for Starting Grants, only Advanced Grants)



If you have a senior member on your team you must make clear that you a Make clear what the roles of members will be.

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## Funding Levels and Duration of Grant

**Normally**

- **Up to €1.5 million over 5 years** ERC contribution (or pro-rata for shorter projects)

**Can be higher, but only to cover:**

- eligible "start-up" costs for **PIs moving from a third country** to the EU or an Associated Country
- **the purchase of major equipment.**

If so, up to €2 million over 5 yrs ERC contribution (or pro-rata)



Limit includes direct and indirect costs!

**Direct Costs**

- 100% of eligible and approved direct costs funded

**Indirect Costs:**

- 20% flat rate (of the total direct costs excluding subcontracting and third party resources not used on premises)
- Is allocated and charged (for all institutions no proof needed of how spent)

A third country can be a non EU one.re the leader of the project.

## ERC Starting Grants Submission and Evaluation Process





ERC StG - Submission/Evaluation

## Peer Review Structure and Funding Levels

**Submission**

- **Single Stage Submission, but 2-Step Peer Review (with interviews)**
- **Electronic Submission** via EPSS



**Peer Review**

- **4 research domains**
- **25 panels** (StG - 2 separate sets of panel members (new), AdG – 2 separate sets)

Domain	Panels	Budget	Deadline
Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)	10	40%	14 October 2010*
Life Sciences (LS)	9	35%	9 November 2010*
Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)	6	15%	24 November 2010*

- Remaining 10% allocated to a "fourth domain" for cross-panel or cross-domain projects

\*Strictly 17.00, Brussels time!

Remember time difference between the UK and Brussels

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European Research Council - Independent Researcher Grants

### Structure of Application Forms



- Part A – Administrative and Summary Forms** (completed directly onto EPSS)
- **A1 Proposal & PI Information & HI Legal Representative** (including abstract)
  - **A2 Host Institution(s) Information & PIC** (one A2 form per institution)
  - **A3 Budget** (summary financial information)
  - (no A11 form for this call)

**Part B1 – Proposal Details** (template from EPSS, submitted as .pdf)

- **Cover page & proposal summary**
- **Section 1a-c: The PI**
  - 1a) Scientific Leadership Potential (1 page)(new page limit)
  - 1b) CV, including Funding ID (2 pages)
  - 1c) Early Achievement Track Record (2 pages)
- **Section 1d: Extended Synopsis** (5 pages)

**Part B2 – Proposal Details** (template from EPSS, submitted as .pdf)

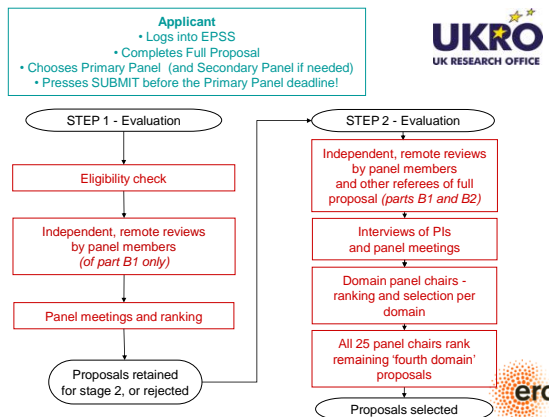
- **Section 2 - Scientific Proposal** (15 pages, excluding ethical issues table and annex)
  - State-of-the-art and objectives
  - Methodology
  - Resources (including project costs)
  - Ethical issues table
- (New - No Research Environment section)

#### Annexes

- **Commitment of the Host Institution** (template from EPSS, submitted as .pdf)
- PhD Certificate, and (if applicable) evidence of extensions
- Ethical Issues Annex (if applicable) (template on EPSS, 2 pages, excl. copies of authorisations)



1st stage peer review worth half the marks,



There is a submit button!

Proposals outstrip the funds available by 3: 1

### Peer Review Panels



#### Examples:

- **PE10 - Earth System Science** (deadline 14 October 2010)  
physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management
- **LS8 - Evolutionary, Population & Environmental Biology** (deadline 9 November 2010)  
evolution, ecology, animal behaviour, population biology, biodiversity, biogeography, marine biology, ecotoxicology, prokaryotic biology
- **SH3 – Environment, space and population** (deadline 24 November 2010)  
environmental studies, demography, social geography, urban and regional studies

For full list of all 25 panels and keywords see the Guide for Applicants

If resubmitting, please note there many changes to panel descriptions!



Use relevant key words

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## Reapplication and Multiple Application Rules (for ERC-2011-StG call)



### Apply to

- PIs (and/or Co-Is for Advanced Grants proposals, but not team members)
- whose eligible proposals are not judged to meet the quality threshold
  - as well as for multiple eligible applications within the same or different type of ERC grants

### Current restrictions on application

- A PI who served as a panel member on a panel for a previous Starting Grant call may not apply to the Starting Grant call 2011
- Only one ERC grant managed by a PI or Co-I can be active at any time
- A PI or Co-I may not be associated with more than one application to the ERC calls with deadlines during the same **calendar year**
- A PI who has submitted an **eligible proposal** to the Starting Grant call 2010 may not apply to the Starting Grant call 2011, unless his/her proposal was evaluated **above the quality threshold\*** at the end of **step 1**.

\*The quality threshold is scoring 2 or more out of 4 for BOTH the PI criterion AND the Research Project criterion.



## Registering on the Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)



<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.IdeasCallsPage>

1. Click on the relevant call identifier (the deadlines are shown on the right-hand side)

Call Identifier	Call Title	Publication Date	Deadline
ERC-2011-STG-20101124	ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant	2010-07-20	2010-11-24
ERC-2011-STG-20101109	ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant	2010-07-20	2010-11-09
ERC-2011-STG-20101014	ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant	2010-07-20	2010-10-14



Check the 'Ideas tabs.

2. About halfway down the web page, click the "+" sign by "Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)"

3. Click on "Go"



## Using EPSS



- EPSS now available for all domains
- Forms should be completed online, but
  - available for reference on our website at <http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/stg.htm>
- PI registers on EPSS and will be sent password and access details
  - Passes on access to other participants
- Once registered, you can access EPSS directly at: <https://www.epss-fp7.org>
  - Complete A forms online
  - Download, complete and upload .pdf files of Part B (10Mb limit) & Annexes
- Format of name of pdf file given in Guide for Applicants
- Proposal formats and page numbers are strictly limited
- No additional documents allowed but reviewers can look at websites in order to further assess applicant's previous work
- Automated check of some things only
- Checklist on page 34 of Guide for Applicants



It is recommended data is submitted o week before deadline.

## Using EPSS



### EPSS Tips

- Start in plenty of time, and check you can save as .pdf!
- Double check all details
- Can revise and resubmit up to deadline (submit often!)
- **Remember to press 'submit' button!**
- **Deadline strictly enforced**
- Check email acknowledgement contains all parts of your proposal

### EPSS Help and Support

- EPSS User Guide
  - <https://www.epss-fp7.org/epss/EPSS-Userguide.pdf>
- EPSS Helpdesk (technical problems)
  - E-mail: [support@epss-fp7.org](mailto:support@epss-fp7.org)
  - Tel: +32 2 233 3760



## Key Documents



Focus	Call Fiche (call specific) <b>Use the ERC-2011-StG Fiche!</b>
	Work Programme (annual) <b>Use the 2011 Work Programme!</b>
Submission	ERC Guide for Applicants (call specific) <b>Use the 13 AUGUST 2010 version and check for updates!</b>
	EPSS Guide
	FAQs
	Ethics Guidance
Background	Guide for Peer Reviewers
	ERC Rules on Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Award
	Model Grant Agreement
	Guidance Notes for preparing the ERC Grant Agreement
	Guide for ERC Grant Holders
	Updatable Financial, Negotiation, IPR, Certification and Reporting Guidelines
	FP7 Rules of Participation

Read background before submitting application (Annex2)

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## ERC Starting Grants Writing Your Application





38

ERC AdG - Submission/Evaluation



### Evaluation Criteria

<b>Principal Investigator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intellectual capacity and creativity</li> <li>Commitment</li> </ul>	<b>1-4</b>
<b>Research Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground-breaking nature &amp; potential impact of the research</li> <li>Methodology</li> </ul>	<b>1-4</b>

Each evaluation criterion (Heading 1 and 2) will be marked on a scale of 1 to 4:  
**4 = Outstanding, 3 = Excellent, 2=Very Good, 1=Non-fundable**

\* A quality threshold of ≥2 will be applied to these criteria

\* Proposals are ranked by the panels on the basis of the marks they have received and an overall appreciation of their strengths and weaknesses

39

Need 7-8 pages for funding

ERC StG - Application

### Structure of Application Forms

**Part A – Administrative and Summary Forms** (completed directly onto EPSS)

- A1 Proposal & PI information & HI Legal Representative (including abstract)
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- A3 Budget (summary financial information)
- (no A1T form for this call)

**Part B1 – Proposal Details** (template from EPSS, submitted as .pdf)



- Cover page & proposal summary
- Section 1a-c: The PI
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  - 1b) CV, including Funding ID (2 pages)
  - 1c) Early Achievement Track Record (2 pages)
- Section 1d: Extended Synopsis (5 pages)

**Part B2 – Proposal Details** (template from EPSS, submitted as .pdf)

- Section 2 - Scientific Proposal (15 pages, excluding ethical issues table and annex)
  - State-of-the-art and objectives
  - Methodology
  - Resources (including project costs)
  - Ethical issues table
- (New - No Research Environment section)

**Annexes**

- Commitment of the Host Institution (template from EPSS, submitted as .pdf)
- PhD Certificate, and (if applicable) evidence of extensions
- Ethical Issues Annex (if applicable) (template on EPSS, 2 pages, excl. copies of authorisations)

40

## ERC Starting Grants Writing Your Application

### - Principal Investigator





41

ERC StG - Application – PI



### Principal Investigator

**APPLICATION**

- B1: Section 1a) Scientific Leadership Potential (now 1 page)
- 1b) CV, including 'Funding ID' (2 pages)
- 1c) Early Achievements Track Record (2 pages)

**CRITERIA** (For StG)

- Intellectual capacity and creativity:**
  - To what extent are the **achievements and publications** of the Principal Investigator **groundbreaking** and demonstrative of **independent creative thinking and capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art**?
  - To what extent will an **ERC Starting Grant** make a **significant contribution to the establishment or consolidation of independence**?
- Commitment:**
  - Is the **PI strongly committed** to the project and willing to devote a significant amount of time to it (they will be expected to devote **at least 50% of their working time** to the ERC-funded project)?

42



Write a before and after position

ERC StG - Application – PI

### Scientific Leadership Potential (now 1 page max)

A **factual list** of career achievements should be provided by the PI including:

- a presentation of the content of the **early scientific or scholarly contributions** of the applicant to his or her own research field, demonstrating the PI's qualifications and potential to go significantly beyond the state of the art;
- the **recognition** and diffusion that these early contributions have received from others:
  - publications
  - citations or appropriate equivalents
  - additional funding
  - students
  - international prizes and awards
  - institution-building
  - Other
- Assessment by the applicant of the **specific stage of her/his research career** at the time of the application as a 'starter' (award of PhD from 2-7 years) or a 'consolidator' (award of PhD more than 7 to 12 years).
  - The applicant can bring to the attention of the panel a career break that may create an exception to the above rule, justify an extension of the eligibility time window or explain the reasons why he/she considers that his/her situation does not follow the rule.

43

## Curriculum Vitae (2 pages max)



- **Academic record**
- **Research record**
- **Succinct 'Funding ID'**
  - Current research grants
  - Ongoing applications

*It is important that the PI should also report on any significant career breaks and/or unconventional career paths. Peer reviewers will take it into consideration during the assessment of the quality of the PI and his/her career progression..*



44

## Early Achievements Track Record (2 pages max)



### Benchmarks

- **Publications, as main author**
  - indicating those **without the presence as co-author of their PhD supervisor**
  - in **major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals** and/or
  - in the **leading international peer-reviewed journals** and/or
  - **peer-reviewed conferences proceedings** and/or
  - **research monographs** of their respective research fields
  - also indicating the **number of citations** (excluding self-citations) they have attracted.
- **Granted patent(s)\***
- **Invited presentations to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools\***
- **Prizes and Awards\***

(\*if applicable)



## Hints and Tips PI Criteria



- Remember the Funding ID section in the CV is important
- Make sure you address the full requirements of the track record, and consider what makes you stand out
- Clarify specific points to strengthen your application and give additional relevant details
- Explain anything that is UK specific
- The evaluators will review the PI on the basis of their experience and information the PI provides on the application form!
- If you refer to journal impact factors, state which one you are using
- Add a link to your website, and then keep your website UP TO DATE!



45



## FAQ PI Criteria



- Is there a set style for the CV and what should I include in the CV?
- What if I have changed research fields?
- I've mainly been teaching for the last 2 years, but before that I was an active researcher – can I still apply?
- Which publications are considered to be high quality?
- What about papers that are yet to be published?
- What if my experience does not match the profile of the PI?



## ERC Starting Grants Writing Your Application

- *Research Project*  
(including *Ethical Issues Table*)



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## Structure of the Proposal

Download the templates from EPSS

**B1: Cover Page including half page summary** – can be same abstract as on A1 Form:

- Clear understanding of the objectives of the proposal and how they will be achieved
- Short description used in evaluation process and communication

**B1: Extended Synopsis:**

- Concise presentation of the scientific proposal including the scientific feasibility of the project.
- With particular attention to **ground-breaking nature of the research project** and
- How it may **open up new horizons or opportunities** for research.
- Describe the proposed work in the context of the state of the art of the field.
- **References to literature**
- **Panel will only evaluate Extended Synopsis at step 1.**



**B2: Scientific Proposal:** detailed descriptions of the project's aim, planning, execution, and required resources.

- State of the art and objectives
- Methodology
- Resources (inc project costs)
- Ethical Issues Table



You must explain the feasibility of the project.

## Research Project (1)



### APPLICATION

- **Part B1 (Section 1d) Extended Synopsis (5 pages):** concise presentation of the scientific proposal, incl. scientific feasibility of the project, with particular attention to its ground-breaking nature and how it may open up new horizons or opportunities for research. Describe the proposed work in the context of the state of the art of the field.
- **Part B2 (Section 2): Scientific Proposal (15 pages):** detailed descriptions of the project's aim, planning, execution, and required resources.  
2a) State-of-the-art & Objectives, 2b) Methodology, 2c) Resources (incl. costs)

### CRITERIA

- **Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research:**
  - To what extent does the proposed research address important **challenges at the frontiers of the field(s)** addressed?
  - To what extent does it have suitably ambitious objectives, which go **substantially beyond the current state of the art** (e.g. including inter- and trans-disciplinary developments and novel or unconventional concepts and/or approaches)?



## Research Project (2)



### APPLICATION

- **Part B1 (Section 1d) Extended Synopsis (5 pages)**
- **Part B2 (Section 2): Scientific Proposal (15 pages)**

### CRITERIA

- **Methodology:**
  - To what extent does the possibility of a **major breakthrough** with an impact beyond a specific research domain/discipline **justify any highly novel and/or unconventional methodologies** ("high-gain/high-risk balance")?
  - To what extent is the **outlined scientific approach feasible?** (step 1)
  - To what extent is the proposed **research methodology** (including the proposed timescales and resources) appropriate to achieve the goals of the project? To what extent are the **resources requested necessary and properly justified?** (step 2)
  - If it is proposed that team members engaged by another host institution participate in the project is their participation **fully justified by the scientific added value** they bring to the project? (step 2)



## Hints and Tips

### Research Project Criteria



- Consider what excites you about the research and convey this in your application (and at your interview!)
- Think about your audience and remember to explain UK specific terminology
- Explain how the research will open new horizons or opportunities
- Provide a clear, concise work-plan which gives details of the intermediate goals
- Explain what each team member is doing (and their background/ recruitment profile)
- Highlight any intermediate stages where you may need to adjust your project planning
- Clearly explain how you will manage and disseminate your project
- Justify the resources you need for your research proposal and ensure the resources are appropriate.
  - Have you included all staff costs?
  - Have you clearly shown the links between the costs and the research/methodology?



## FAQs Research Project Criteria



- Does it have to be a totally new project?
- What level of knowledge should I expect from the evaluators?
- Why do I need to provide a synopsis as well as the full proposal?
- Should I name my team members in my application?
- Should I include a Plan B?
- How much time am I expected to spend on the project?
- Do I have to carry out my research in the EU?
- Can I give links to information about my work?



## Ethical Issues Table and Annex

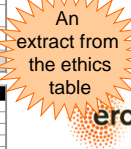


### APPLICATION

- **Part B2 (Section 2d – Ethical Issues Table)**
  - Ethical Issues Table (provided, doesn't count towards page limit for B2)
- **Annex** (only if answered Yes to any questions on ethical issues table)
  - Brief explanation the ethical issue(s) involved & how it will be dealt with appropriately. Benefit and burden of research. (2 pages max)
  - You may include supporting documentation, such as authorisations already received. (Not counted in page limit)

Research on Human Embryo/ Foetus	YES	Page
Does the proposed research involve human Embryos?		
Does the proposed research involve human Foetal Tissues/ Cells?		
Does the proposed research involve human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?		
Does the proposed research on human Embryonic Stem Cells involve cells in culture?		
Does the proposed research on Human Embryonic Stem Cells involve the derivation of cells from Embryos?		
I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL		

Research on Humans	YES	Page
Does the proposed research involve children?		
Does the proposed research involve patients?		
Does the proposed research involve persons not able to give consent?		
Does the proposed research involve adult healthy volunteers?		
Does the proposed research involve Human genetic material?		



Everyone must complete this page.

## Resources on Research Ethics



EU Website - [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en.html)

- Guide to Ethics in FP7 - FP7 Ethics for Researchers
- Ethics Guidance Notes
  - Informed Consent
  - Research on Human embryos/foetus
  - Privacy
  - Research on Animals
  - Research Involving Developing Countries
  - Dual Use
- Slides and training notes on a range of topics



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**FAQs**  
**Ethical Issues**



- Does everyone need to complete the ethical issues table?
- Where do I describe the ethically sensitive issues?
- Do I need to attach national legislation documents?
- Are there any resources available to help with this section?
- Who looks at ethics during Peer Review?
- What is an 'ethical audit'?



There is a separate 'light touch panel for these proposal

**ERC Starting Grants**  
**Writing Your Application**

- *ERC Finances – Your Project Budget*



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**Background Finance information (1)**



- **Direct costs:** up to 100% of eligible costs
- **Indirect costs:** Flat rate of 20%\* (of eligible direct costs)  
(\*excludes subcontracting & third party resources not used on premises)
- Overall level of grant offered determined by peer review panels

**Direct eligible costs**

are those which support all the research, management, training and dissemination activities necessary for the conduct of the project such as  
*Personnel, Equipment, Consumables, Travel and Subsistence & Publication Costs*

How are **eligible costs** defined?

- Actual
- Incurred by the beneficiary during the project
- Determined according to hosts usual accounting and management principles
- Used solely for project objectives
- Consistent with principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- Recorded in accounts
- Exclusive of non-eligible costs



## Background Finance information (2)



### **Non-eligible costs**, in particular:

- Any identifiable indirect taxes, including VAT or duties
- Interest owed
- Provisions for possible future losses or charges
- Exchange losses
- Costs declared, incurred or reimbursed in respect of another EU project
- Costs related to return on capital
- Debt and debt service charges
- Excessive or reckless expenditure
- Any costs not related to the project
- Others? ...



PhD tuition fees are not included in any funding

## Background Finance information (3)



### **Indirect eligible costs**

are those which cannot be identified as directly attributable to the project, but which are incurred in direct relationship with the project's direct eligible costs, such as:

- Costs related to general administration and management
- Costs of office or laboratory space, including rent or depreciation of buildings and equipment, and related expenditure such as water, heating, electricity
- Maintenance, insurance and safety costs
- Communication expenses, network connection charges, postal charges and office supplies
- Common office equipment such as PCs, laptops, office software
- Miscellaneous recurring consumables

*Indirect costs are allocated and charged as a 20% flat rate.*



Standard computers not included.

## A3 Budget Form



- **A3 Form** provides an overview of the budget, broken down into
  - Personnel costs, other direct costs (excluding subcontracts), indirect costs, subcontracts, eligible costs, and requested grant

**Proposal Submission Form**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
7th Framework Programme on  
Research, Technological  
Development and Demonstration

**A3: Budget**

Proposal Number: 000000 Proposal Acronym:

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION-WHOLE DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

Participant number in this proposal	Organisation short name	Organisation country	Personnel costs (in €)	Other direct costs (excluding sub-contracting) (in €)	Indirect costs (in €)	Subcontracting (in €)	Eligible costs (in €)	Requested grant (in €)
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total			0	0	0	0	0	0

- Each institution involved (other than subcontractors) will have a line on this form
- Budget must be in whole Euros (not thousands) and exclude VAT
- **Important!** – The figures must match in the A3 and B2 forms (otherwise the figure from the A3 form will be used!)



## Part B2, Section (2c)

### Research Project – Resources (including project costs)



c. Resources (incl. project costs)  
(Note: To facilitate the assessment of resources by the panels the following costing table is strongly suggested.)

Cost Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total (Y1-5)
<b>Personnel:</b>						
PI						
Senior Staff						
Post docs						
Students						
Other						
<b>Total Personnel:</b>						
<b>Other Direct Costs:</b>						
Costs:						
Equipment						
Consumables						
Tariffs						
Publications, etc.						
Other						
<b>Total Other Direct Costs:</b>						
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>						
<b>Indirect Costs (overheads):</b>						
Max 20% of Direct Costs						
<b>Subcontracting Costs:</b>						
(No overheads)						
<b>Total Costs of project:</b>						
(No year and total)						
<b>Requested Grant:</b>						
(No year and total)						

For the above cost table, please indicate the % of working time the PI dedicates to the project over the period of the grant.

	%



Needs ½ page of text.

## Part B2, Section (2c)

### Research Project – Resources (including project costs)



- **Part B2, Section (2c) Research Project – Resources (including project costs):**
  - Describe the **size and nature of the team**, key team members and their roles.
  - **Participation of team members at other host institutions**
    - Should be justified in relation to the additional financial cost it may impose
  - Describe other **necessary resources**, such as infrastructure and equipment. Specify any existing resources that will contribute to the project.
  - It is advisable to include a **short technical description of the equipment** requested, a justification of its need as well as the intensity of its planned use.
  - State the **amount of funding considered necessary** to fulfil the objectives:
    - Should be a **reasoned estimate** of the project costs.
    - Take into account the percentage of your dedicated time (you are expected to devote at least 50% of your working time to the ERC-funded project) to run the ERC funded activity when calculating your **personnel costs**.
  - Include the direct costs of the project and also a contribution of up to 20% of the total eligible direct costs (excluding subcontracting) towards overheads.
  - The project cost estimation should be **as accurate as possible**.
  - **The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced.**
  - There is no minimum contribution per year; the requested contribution should be in proportion to the actual needs to fulfil the objectives of the project.



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### Hints and Tips Budgets



- The overall level of the grant offered is determined by the peer review panels
- Work Closely with your ELO or Finance Office!
- If your team members are at other institutions, those institutions will need to be involved in costing their part of the proposal
- ERC is part of FP7 - FP7 Rules of Participation apply.
- All costs must be calculated and claimed according to your host organisations own accounting rules.
- Remember you can only budget for costs directly related to carrying out the project
- Link your budgets clearly to your activities
- Financial rules are in the ERC Guide to Grant Holders Part II at [http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/legal\\_financial.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/legal_financial.htm)



### FAQs Budgets



- Is there a list of standard costs published anywhere?
- How do I handle inflation?
- How do I handle exchange rates?
- What about my salary – what level will this be?
- What rules apply to subcontracting?
- Should I include patent costs and audit costs?
- Can the evaluators cut my budget?
- Can I claim my salary from the grant, and what % time is reasonable?  
What about claiming salary for a team member, technicians...? And what % time?
- How does the flat rate work for indirect costs in the ERC?
- Is there a minimum budget?
- If I have teaching activities can the ERC grant pay someone for teaching in my place?
- Can I attach quotes for equipment, or proof of pay scales?



Make sure figures are correct

### ERC Starting Grants Writing Your Application

- Supporting Documentation



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## Supporting Documentation



1. **Commitment of the Host Institution (.pdf)**
  - Binds Host to conditions of independence for PI
  - Template provided on EPSS
    - originally signed, stamped and dated by institute's **legal representative**
  - File name format: Host-letter\_[proposal-short-name].pdf
2. **Evidence of eligibility for grant (.pdf)**
  - Scanned copy of documents proving eligibility for grant, e.g.
    - PhD certificate (or equivalent degree) – with date of award/defence
    - If an extension to the eligibility window beyond 12 years has been requested include relevant documentary evidence (on maternity, paternity leave, national service, long-term illness, unavoidable leave for statutory reasons)
    - If an extension to the 2-7 year 'starter' window has been requested also include evidence.
  - File name format: PhD\_[Proposal-Short-Name].pdf
3. **Ethical Issues Annex (.pdf)**
  - Template provided on EPSS

- 
- Official documents can be submitted in any of the EU official languages.
  - Documents in any other language (including Latin) must be provided together with a certified translation into English.
  - All of these must be uploaded electronically on EPSS



## FAQs Supporting Documentation



- Where do you find the Commitment of the Host letter?
- Who should sign the Commitment of the Host letter?
- Can we/should we make any changes to the Commitment of the Host letter?
- Is the ERC looking for an explicit financial commitment from the host institution?
- What will happen if I do not attach the letter of Commitment from the Host Institution before the deadline?
- I had my viva on 4 May 03 and graduated on 2 October 04. Which date should I use?
- I don't have a copy of my PhD certificate - can I send it later?



## ERC Grants Granting Process and Grant Management





## What is a Grant Agreement?



- **Core Grant Agreement** (*between ERC and principal beneficiary*)
- **Description of work** (*Annex I*)  
(scientific/technical section taking into account panel's recommendations)
- **General Conditions** (*Annex II*)
- **Accession Form** (*if more than one beneficiary - Annex III*)
- **Financial Statement Form** (*Annex IV*)
- **Terms of reference for the certification of costs and on the methodology** (*Annex V*)
- **Supplementary Agreement** (*between PI and principal beneficiary*)
- *Special Clauses*

All available at [www.ukro.ac.uk/erc](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc) along with:

- *Guidance Notes for preparing the ERC Grant Agreement*
- *ERC Guide for Grant Holders*



70

## Management Issues to consider when preparing your application



- Grant Agreement
  - Technical annex – description of work
- Flexibility
  - Scientific
  - Portability
- Progress reporting
  - Scientific – submitted by the PI
  - Financial – submitted by the beneficiary
- Publication and exploitation of results
  - Open Access
- European Charter for Researchers & Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers



71

## What Happens Next?



- **After review process**
  - Funding decision and feedback
  - (Redress? Seek advice from UKRO? Redress requests should be raised within one month of the date of the initial information letter, see [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/redress\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/redress_en.html))
  - Preparation of the grant agreement between the host and the ERC
  - **No project negotiations as such**
  - Grant agreement based on the proposal and the peer review decision (budget)
  - Can accept/reject the offered grant
- **When the project starts**
  - Sign grant agreement
  - Also supplementary agreement between PI and host
  - Set up project account
  - Recruit staff onto project
  - "Expected that all projects start within 6 months from the award of the grant"



72

## Description of Work (DOW table)



"key intermediate goal" or work package	Estimated % of total requested grant	Detail* (optional)	Expected to be completed on month:	Comment
Key intermediate goal 1				
...				

\*If available, a detail by categories of costs (personnel, equipment, travel etc) may be provided here



## IPR in ERC Grant Agreement



### "background"

- Information which is held by *beneficiaries* prior to their accession to the grant agreement, as well as copyrights or other intellectual property rights pertaining to such information, the application for which has been filed before their accession to the agreement, and which is needed for carrying out the *project* or for using *foreground*.

### "foreground"

- The results, including information, whether or not they can be protected, which are generated under the *project*. Such results include rights related to copyright; design rights; patent rights; plant variety rights; or similar forms of protection.
  - Foreground shall be the property of the *beneficiary* carrying out the work and generating that foreground.
  - Employees or other personnel working for a *beneficiary* are entitled to claim rights to foreground.
  - Where foreground is capable of industrial or commercial application, its owner shall provide for its adequate and effective protection.
  - Access to foreground and background is royalty free if it is needed to carry out the work.

See Annex 2 of the Model ERC Grant Agreement for more information



## ERC Starting Grants Writing Your Application

### - Final Hints and Tips



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## Summary of Key Points for ERC Grants



- **Support for a PI and (if necessary) team members**
  - No need for collaboration or to work with other countries
  - Team all usually based at the same institution (in EU/AC), but possible to have team members in other organisations if strongly justified (anywhere in World - not just EU, AC and ICPC)
  - Also for Advanced Grants can have a Co-I (must be from a different discipline to the PI)
  - No nationality or mobility requirements
- **Investigator driven (bottom-up) substantial advances "Frontier Research"**
  - knowledge pursuit of questions at or beyond the frontiers of knowledge
  - any field of research (except nuclear)
  - interdisciplinary proposals crossing the boundaries between different research fields
  - pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research
  - proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions
  - but must have a significant impact on science, scholarship or engineering
  - reviewers understand the high-risk/high-gain profile
  - should aim to broaden scientific and technological knowledge
- **Excellence is only peer review criterion**
  - 50% for the PI (and any Co-I)s must have an outstanding cv, (potential) leadership profile & track record
  - 50% for the Research Project



## Positive ESR comments - PI Criteria Typical comments from highly-ranked, funded proposals



"his work has been rather influential in his field"

**"has been successful at raising funds for his work"**

**"PI has a strong publication record in high-quality journals"**

**"Is now recognised as an international leader"**

**"regularly published in the best journals in the field"**

**"the PI has established herself as one of the leading young researchers worldwide in the area of...."**

"there is no doubt that she is a first-class research leader"

*"papers emanating from the PI's group have been published in the most prestigious of journals"*

**"her work and that of her collaborators is highly respected indeed and very widely quoted"**

*"absolutely no doubt that the candidate is one of the World's leading scientists in her field"*

**"has already supervised a number of PhD students"**

*"outstanding publication record (2 papers in Nature, 2 in Science....)"*



## Negative ESR comments - PI Criteria Typical comments from low-ranked, unfunded proposals



"The PI has a solid track record of good quality papers. These reports however, remain in the mainstream of the senior PIs in whose laboratories this work was carried out, and do not demonstrate the initiation of new lines of thinking"

**"Fairly good CV, but not competitive at this level"**

**"The publications are rather specialized in medium/good quality journal"**

**"The PI has group leader experience but the papers are not impressive"**

*"Good potential of this PI. However, the bulk of this person's research has been directed towards improving existing systems, rather than developing new ideas or concepts."*

**"This PI has had a restricted background. He needs to benefit from visiting other institutions to expand his horizons"**

"Fair publication record with little impact on the field"

*"The applicant has no publication in a good journal. Hence, it is very unclear to which extent the applicant exhibits potential to do good research."*

*"Their research has not yet led to a distinct contribution in the research area"*



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ERC StG – Final Hints & Tips

**Positive ESR comments - Research Criteria**  
Typical comments from highly-ranked, funded proposals



- "the proposal addresses fundamental questions"
- "an exciting proposal, which is at the cutting edge"*
- "the two elements would constitute major advances in the field, but together they would really set a new standard"**
- "the implications of this work would be far reaching"
- "the proposal addresses important questions...it will greatly contribute to increase our knowledge"
- "the proposal outlines original, important and ambitious research"**
- "an appropriate mix of safe and risky research questions"*
- "proposed research tackles important issues and is based on sound methodology"*
- "project is ambitious and wide-ranging"
- "will attract the interest of both the academic and policy communities"



ERC StG – Final Hints & Tips

**Negative ESR comments - Research Criteria**  
Typical comments from low-ranked, unfunded proposals



- "Well written proposal, but the questions asked are not original and innovative"
- "The proposal is unclear, unfocused, and the techniques to be applied are not very well defined. The road to success is vague."*
- "The project is feasible, but not very original."**
- "The idea is rather original but overall the project remains generic and the link between the experimental steps is unclear"
- "Methodology not tightly specified"
- "This would not be a major step forward in science and not develop new concepts or ideas, but rather lead to better application of XX technologies; and incremental step forward."*
- "The subject matter is solid but the proposal did not make a case for it being topical and at the cutting edge of their field"**
- "Many of the essential experiments will be actually carried out in the collaborating laboratory and not in the PI's lab."*
- "Link between conceptual framework and case studies is a bit unclear"
- "The project description is too vague and too generic to really evaluate the contributions to the field."



## Lessons learned (StG)



- Often applicants did not **fully understand ERC concepts** (frontier research, 'individual team')
- Applicants often not **ambitious** enough
- Often applicants did not explain **why the research is important or what the impacts** would be
- Many StG applications resembled job description written by a supervisor rather than showing the PI's ideas
- ERC StGs have funded both fairly experienced (i.e. having UK fellowships/grants) PIs and those where the ERC grant is their first grant.
- Applicants should aim their proposal at generalist reviewers (panel members) in Step 1
- Although the top ranked proposals were outstanding, many average ones were also submitted



## Tips on Writing your Application



1. Liaise with your HoD and Research Office
2. Use clear and concise language
3. Pay careful attention to each section
4. Be ambitious, but show awareness of cutting edge
5. Look at examples of successful applications
6. Read all the documentation, including the Grant Agreement
7. Be realistic with the budget, clearly link your budget to activities. Has your institution agreed your budget?
8. Proof read your application
9. Get application reviewed by colleagues?  
(StG - Mock Interview?)
10. Stick to page, font size, budget limits and format
11. Check submission checklist from Guide for Applicants
12. Remember you can submit your proposal on EPSS as many times as you wish before the deadline
13. Make sure you press submit on EPSS!



## Checklist (for reference)



- Have you submitted all parts to your applications
  - Administrative Forms A1, A2 (each institution), A3
  - Part B1 – Sections 1a-1d
  - Part B2 – Section 2 (including ethical issues table) and 3
  - Supplementary Documents:
    - Commitment of Host Letter
    - Documents proving eligibility (incl. PhD certificate and evidence for an extension if applicable)
    - Ethical Issues Annex, including any ethical approval already received (if applicable)
- Has your institution agreed your budget?
- Can you clearly answer questions about your proposal and how you will manage your team?
- Remember you can submit your proposal on EPSS as many times as you wish before the deadline.
- Make sure you press submit on EPSS!



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## Interviews



- PIs with proposals taken to the second step of the review process will be interviewed by the Peer Review Panel or Sub-Panel
- Must attend in person
  - although in very exceptional cases (pregnancy, immobility due to illness, out in research fieldwork) video or telephone conferencing are offered.
- Interviews last approximately 30 minutes (depending on panel)
  - Start with a presentation by the PI on the outline of the research project
  - Followed by a question and answer session
- Panels will take into account the results of the interviews alongside the individual reviews.
- Travel is reimbursed



## Other FP7 Funding Sources to Explore (For reference only)



85

BIS Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

## FP7 Funding Opportunities

Plus JRC  
and Euratom



### Co-operation – collaborative research

Health
Food, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Biotechnology (FAPB/KBBE)
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies (NMP)
Energy
Environment (including Climate Change)
Transport
Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities (SESH)
Space
Security

### Capacities

Research Infrastructures
Research for the Benefit Of SMEs
Regions of Knowledge
Research Potential
Science in Society
Activities of International Co-operation
Coherent Development of Policies

### People - Marie Curie

### Ideas – European Research Council

Starting Independent Researcher Grants
Advanced Investigator Grants
Calls for Tender on ERC.

Individual Fellowships & Reintegration Grants
Initial Training Networks
Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways
International Research Staff Exchange Scheme
Researcher's Night


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FP7 Programme	Research areas Types of activity	Key points
Co-operation	Aims to build research collaborations across Europe & beyond - Top-down, priority driven research in 10 themes - Research, training, technology transfer, dissemination, SMEs projects, networks...	- No requirement to move - Normally requires collaboration with other countries
Capacities	Aims to build research capacity - Some top-down, some bottom up - Research Infrastructures, Research for the Benefit of SMEs, Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential, Science in Society, Development of Policies, International Co-operation	- No requirement to move - Normally requires collaboration with other countries
Marie Curie Actions (People)	Aims to support training, careers development & knowledge transfer - Bottom-up - Individual Fellowships & Reintegration Grants - Initial Training Networks (ITNs) - Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPPs) - International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) - COFUND, Researchers Night....	- Fellows required to move for most actions - IAPPs/ITNs/IRSES normally require a consortium across countries
European Research Council (Ideas)	Aims to support the best researchers and best research ideas in Europe - Bottom-up, frontier research - PI leads an independent research team - Starting and Advanced Grants - Support Actions	- No requirement to move - No requirement for collaboration with other countries
Euratom	Aims to support nuclear research - Some top-down, some bottom up - Nuclear research (fission, fusion, uses of radiation...) - Research, training, technology transfer, dissemination...	- Nuclear research is not eligible under other FP7 Programmes and is only funded through Euratom


FP7 – Marie Curie Actions

# Marie Curie Actions

## Overview: Marie Curie Actions



Host Actions	Individual Actions
Initial Training Networks (ITN)	Intra-European Fellowships
Industry Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP)	Incoming International Fellowships
	Outgoing International Fellowships
International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) <b>NEW 2008</b>	Career Integration Grants




+ Co-Fund **NEW**, Researchers Night

+ Co-Fund **NEW**, Researchers Night


FP7 – Marie Curie Actions

## Definition of researchers



UK RESEARCH OFFICE

Early-Stage Researchers	0 - 4 years (FTE) <i>from obtaining degree that qualified them to embark on a doctorate</i>
Experienced Researchers	i) in possession of a PhD or i) at least 4 years experience (FTE)



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Marie Curie  
National Contact Point Helpdesk



- **Website** <http://www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie>
- **Helpdesk** via email and telephone  
(email [mariecurie-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:mariecurie-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk) or phone 0032 230 0318)

- Advice on applying for Marie Curie actions
  - Eligibility
  - Application help
  - Results
  - Contractual issues
- Advice to those with Marie Curie funding

- Specialist **training** courses and information events  
(to be notified of events, sign up at [http://www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie/events/events\\_alerts.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie/events/events_alerts.htm) )



ERC Grants  
Further Information



BIS | Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

91

European Research Council  
National Contact Point helpdesk



- **Website** <http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc>
- **ERC mailing list** for events and key updates  
[http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events\\_ukro/events\\_alerts.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm)
- **Helpdesk** via email and telephone  
([erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk) or 0032 2289 6121)

- Advice on applying for ERC actions
  - Eligibility
  - Application help
  - Results
  - Contractual issues
- Advice to those with ERC grants

- Specialist **training** courses and information events





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### Further Information (1)



- **UK ERC NCP Website**
  - <http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc>
  - UK ERC NCP Newsletter
  - [http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events\\_ukro/events\\_alerts.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm)
- **ERC Website**
  - <http://erc.europa.eu>
  - ERC Newsletter
  - <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=reg.edit#01>
  - ERC Europa Helpdesk
  - <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=enquiries>
- **UKRO Information Services** (For UKRO subscribers)
  - <http://ims.ukro.ac.uk>



### Further Information (2)



- **EPSS Helpdesk**
  - E-mail: [support@epss-fp7.org](mailto:support@epss-fp7.org)
  - Tel: +32 2 233 3760
- **IPR helpdesk Website**
  - [www.ipr-helpdesk.org](http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org)
- **European Commission FP7 Ethics Website**
  - [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics\\_en](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en)
- **Cordis FP7 pages**
  - [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

