

EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL Starting Grant

The mission of the European Research Council (ERC) is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research.

Are you an **excellent young researcher at the start of your independent career, with a promising track record of early achievements**? You show high potential to become a research leader? The ERC Starting Grant could be for you! It will help researchers at the beginning of their career to launch their own projects, form their teams and pursue their most promising ideas.

Eligibility:

- Any field of research can apply on a 'bottom-up' basis, without predetermined topics.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) can be of any nationality, but the **PI's Host Institution (HI) must be established in an EU member state or associated country**.
- The applicant is usually a single entity. Co-beneficiaries may be added if they are established in countries eligible for funding (EU member states, countries associated to the ERC, lower and middle income third countries).
- **Eligibility window:** PIs are eligible **between 2 years and 7 years after completing their PhD**. Due to the cut-off dates of the current call, **the date of PhD defense must lie between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023. This timeframe may be extended under special circumstances**, e.g. maternity/parental leave (for women: 18 months per child justified by the birth certificate(s), for men: extension by the period of documented parental leave); military/national service (documented amount of leave); inability to work (documented period) for the following reasons: long-term illness, disability, major disasters, asylum seeking, being a victim of (gender-based) violence; for medical doctors: clinical training (documented training period of up to 4 years).
- **Working time commitment:** The PI must spend at least 50% of his/her total working time for the ERC Grant and 50% in an EU member state or associated country.
- **Re-submission restrictions:** Rating B or C in step 1 for an ERC Starting Grant proposal submitted in 2025, rating C for a Starting Grant proposal submitted in 2024.

Funding:

- Up to a **maximum of EUR 1 500 000 for a period of max. 5 years**.
- Additional funding: up to EUR 2 000 000 for PIs from third countries moving to an EU member state or associated country. For researchers inside the EU, additional EUR 1 000 000 can be made available to cover, e.g., large equipment, expensive field work or major experiments.
- If the project duration is less than 5 years, the grant will be proportionally reduced.
- Actual costs: You will be reimbursed for the actual costs incurred up to the total budget limit.

Submission Deadline: 14 October 2025

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