What is ERC, what it funds?

The ERC program, part of the European Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020" programme, supports the best senior and emerging researchers and their research teams, providing attractive, long term funding to pursue groundbreaking, high-risk/ high-gain, 5 years, research projects.

Research funded by the ERC is expected to lead to advances at the frontiers of knowledge and set a clear and inspirational target for frontier research across Europe. No thematic priorities are set, applicants can submit bottom-up projects in one of the 25 scientific research areas, grouped in the three macro-areas corresponding to the three ERC research domains: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering and Social Sciences and Humanities. ERC covers up to 100% of the total eligible direct costs of the research plus a contribution of 25% of the total eligible costs towards indirect costs.

**Principal Investigators from anywhere in the world can apply for an ERC grant.** ERC encourage excellent proposals from Principal Investigators based outside Europe who wish to carry out a project with a host institution in the EU or in one of the Associated Countries. Although the host institution must be established in an EU Member State or Associated Country, team members may be based outside of the EU or an Associated Country. Grants are awarded to the host institution with the explicit commitment that this institution offers appropriate conditions for the Principal Investigator(s) to independently manage the ERC funded research. It is expected that Principal Investigators will be able to start their project within six months of receiving an invitation letter from the ERC.

**Scientific age** of researchers defines the eligibility to the different type of ERC grants.

The ERC **Starting Grant** finances PI with an excellent CV at the beginning of their career stage (2-7 from the PhD), to launch their position as independent researchers and carrying out highly innovative 5 years projects in any scientific area, offering up to €2.0 Mio.

The ERC **Consolidator Grant** finances PI with an excellent CV at an advanced career stage (7-12 from the PhD), for consolidating their position as independent researchers and carrying out highly innovative 5 years projects in any scientific area and offers up to €2.75Mio.

The ERC **Advanced Grant** finances PI with an excellent CV at the top of the career, exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions and offers up to €3.5Mio to pursue groundbreaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are set.
Which projects are eligible for an ERC funding?

- Projects in all fields of research are eligible for funding
- Individual research teams led by a single principal investigator (PI) are supported
- Research must be conducted in a EU organization
- Grants are awarded to the host institution that engages the PI
- The host institution guarantees the PI’s independence and provides the research environment to carry out the project and the administrative support to manage the funding

More information are available in the ERC Work Programme and in the ERC Guide for Applicants that when available are published in the EC portal at the following link