Emmy Noether-Treffen | 8 July 2022

EU Research Funding: ERC Starting & Consolidator Grant calls 2024

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www.erc-germany.de
**In a nutshell: ERC Starting** ↔ **Consolidator Grant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Profile</strong></th>
<th>already evidence of <strong>potential</strong> for research independence</th>
<th>already <strong>evidence</strong> of research independence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>max. € 1.5 million (5 years)</td>
<td>max. € 2 million (5 years)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>additional funding (up to € 1 million, special justification), e.g. for major equipment, access to RIs, major experimental/field work</td>
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<td><strong>Host</strong></td>
<td>in EU Member State or Associated Country</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment</strong></td>
<td>≥ 50% (≥ 50% in Europe)</td>
<td>≥ 40% (≥ 50% in Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Procedure</strong></td>
<td>Single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (+ interview)</td>
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Novelties in the ERC Work Programme 2024
ERC-Calls 2024: novelties → application

- **no/less prescriptive** Principal Investigator profiles
- **new** CV and track record **template**:
  - research achievements (≤10): demonstrating advancement in the field, emphasis on **more recent** achievements, short **narrative** on significance of achievements
  - peer recognition: e.g. prizes, fellowships, academy membership, etc.
  - career breaks, diverse career paths, contributions to the community
- Funding ID: shifted to B2 part
ERC-Calls 2024: novelties → research assessment

- evaluation: increased focus on proposed research project:
  - ground-breaking nature, ambition, potential impact, feasibility
- adjusted and streamlined evaluation questions:
  - To what extent is the proposed research high risk-high gain and the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art...?
  - ...scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research is high risk-high gain...?
  - ... PI provide evidence of creative independent and original thinking?
ERC-Calls 2024: novelties → panel structure

- new panel: **SH8 (Studies of Cultures and Arts)** → combines cultural studies, art history, architecture, music, performing arts, museum studies, cultural heritage and other fields (from SH5) with social anthropology (from SH3)

- **LS3: Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration**
  → new title: both stem cell and regeneration biology fields are addressed

- **LS5: Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System**
  → new sub-title (“in humans and all other organisms”): covers research in humans, as well as in other organisms
ERC-Calls 2024: novelties → evaluation

- **Limit of up to 44 proposals per panel** in step 2 of StG, CoG, AdG (instead of previous budget multiplier rule)
- **new A-score** at step 1 (StG, CoG, AdG, SyG):
  - “A invited” → high quality proposals to pass to Step 2
  - “A not invited” → high quality proposals exceeding the threshold for Step 2, but not subject to resubmission restrictions
- additional resubmission restriction: applicants preparing a grant agreement in a 2023 ERC call → may not apply to 2024 ERC calls (StG, CoG, AdG)
ERC-Calls 2024: novelties → lump-sum funding (AdG)

- pilot lump sum funding model for the Advanced Grant call:
  - **lump sum contribution** for the entire project (defined upfront, 80% pre-financing)
  - payment based on **completion of activities** (not on successful outcome)
  - possibility of additional funding and grant portability to be continued
Application and evaluation
## Eligibility (Work Programme 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference for eligibility period: Defence of first PhD</th>
<th>Starting Grant</th>
<th>Consolidator Grant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 2 and ≤ 7 years prior to 1 January 2024</td>
<td>&gt; 7 and ≤ 12 years prior to 1 January 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut-off dates: Defence of PhD between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 (inclusive)</td>
<td>Cut-off dates: Defence of PhD between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016 (inclusive)</td>
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→ Extensions possible
→ Different rules for Medical Doctors
Extension of eligibility period (beyond 7 or 12 years)

- **Maternity** leave (before/after PhD, 18 months per child)
- Extension by *documented* time regarding the following cases:
  - Paternity leave (before/after defence of PhD)
  - National (military/civil) *service* (after defence of PhD)
  - Long-term (>90 days) *illness* of PI (or close family member, after PhD)
  - **Clinical training** (after reference date of 1st eligible degree, for up to 4 years)
  - Inability to work due to **natural disaster** (after defence of PhD)
  - Inability to work due to seeking **asylum** (after defence of Phd)
PhD equivalency for medical degrees

• **Shifted eligibility window**: certified date of medical degree completion (reference date in Germany: 3rd Staatsexamen) plus two years → 4-9 years (StG) or 9-14 years (CoG)
  • proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (i.e. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment)
  • evidence on research qualification (peer reviewed publications)
• PI with **double degree** in medicine & PhD: date used for calculation of eligibility period → date of **earliest** degree that makes PI eligible
## Proposal structure (StG & CoG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative forms (online)</th>
<th></th>
<th>B1</th>
<th></th>
<th>B2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extended synopsis (5 pages)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scientific proposal (14 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CV &amp; track record (4 pages)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources &amp; time commitment (2 pages)</td>
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### Annexes
- Host Institution: Support Letter of Support
- StG & CoG: PhD-Certificate (and supporting documentation)
- Ethics issue table, further documents (if applicable)
Evaluation

• Peer-review: by domain-specific evaluation panels (chair + 10-16 members) plus remote experts (in 2nd stage only)
• Panels structured in 3 scientific domains (LS, PE and SH)
• Applicants: to choose panel(s) and keywords (NB: Panel titles, subtitles and descriptors do not reflect funding priorities)
• Names of up to 3 potential reviewers can be excluded in advance
• Panel composition (NB: rotation system of active & shadow panels)
• Panel structure for the 2024 calls
Evaluation process (StG, CoG, AdG)

**Step 1**
- Submission of full proposals
- Eligibility check
- Step 1 (remote) evaluation of Part B1 by panel members
- 1st Panel meeting
- Proposals passing to step 2

**Step 2**
- Individual assessment of full proposal (B1 + P2) by panel members & referees
- 2nd Panel meeting, INTERVIEW of applicants
- Panel chairs’ meeting Consolidation of 3 domain rank lists
- Proposals selected for funding
## ERC calls 2024 (indicative – please check WP 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Starting</th>
<th>Consolidator</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Synergy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call open</td>
<td>11/7/2023</td>
<td>12/9/2023</td>
<td>29/5/2024</td>
<td>12/7/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call deadline</td>
<td>24/10/2023</td>
<td>12/12/2023</td>
<td>29/8/2024</td>
<td>8/11/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>601 million €</td>
<td>584 million €</td>
<td>578 million €</td>
<td>400 million €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information to applicants (1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} stage)</td>
<td>10/5/2024; 23/8/2024</td>
<td>21/6/2024; 13/12/2024</td>
<td>31/1/2025; 13/6/2025</td>
<td>3/5/2024; 30/8/2024; 4/11/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan to sign GA</td>
<td>December 2024</td>
<td>April 2025</td>
<td>November 2025</td>
<td>March 2025</td>
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Timeline: Submission to funding

- **Proposal preparation**
- **Evaluation**
- **Evaluation**
- **Grant preparation**

~ 12-14 months
Resubmission rules (for 2024 calls)

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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Stage</th>
<th>1st Evaluation Stage</th>
<th>2nd Evaluation Stage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>C → not eligible in 2024 (StG, CoG, AdG)</td>
<td>A or B → eligible in 2024 (StG, CoG, AdG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>B or C → not eligible in 2024 (StG, CoG, AdG)</td>
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Further information
Relevant documents

- ERC Work Programme
- Standard application form
- Information for Applicants
- ERC Rules for Submission and Evaluation
- ERC Guide for Peer Reviewers
- Letter of Commitment of the Host Institution
- Online submission system (landing page)
- Funded projects & statistics
ERC instructional videos

How to get started
Discussion...