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EU Research Funding: ERC Starting & Consolidator Grant calls 2024

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www.erc-germany.de



In a nutshell: ERC Starting ↔ Consolidator Grant

Profile	already evidence of potential for research independence	already evidence of research independence
Funding	max. € 1.5 million (5 years)	max. € 2 million (5 years)
	additional funding (up to € 1 million, special justification), e.g. for major equipment, access to RIs, major experimental/field work	
Host	in EU Member State or Associated Country	
Commitment	≥ 50% (≥ 50% in Europe)	≥ 40% (≥ 50% in Europe)
Procedure	Single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (+ interview)	



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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~~ are 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



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Application and evaluation

Eligibility (Work Programme 2024)

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant
<p>Reference for eligibility period:</p> <p>Defence of first PhD</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>→ Extensions possible</p> <p>→ Different rules for Medical Doctors</p> </div>	<p>> 2 and \leq 7 years prior to 1 January 2024</p> <p>Cut-off dates:</p> <p>Defence of PhD between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 (inclusive)</p>	<p>> 7 and \leq 12 years prior to 1 January 2024</p> <p>Cut-off dates:</p> <p>Defence of PhD between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016 (inclusive)</p>



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)

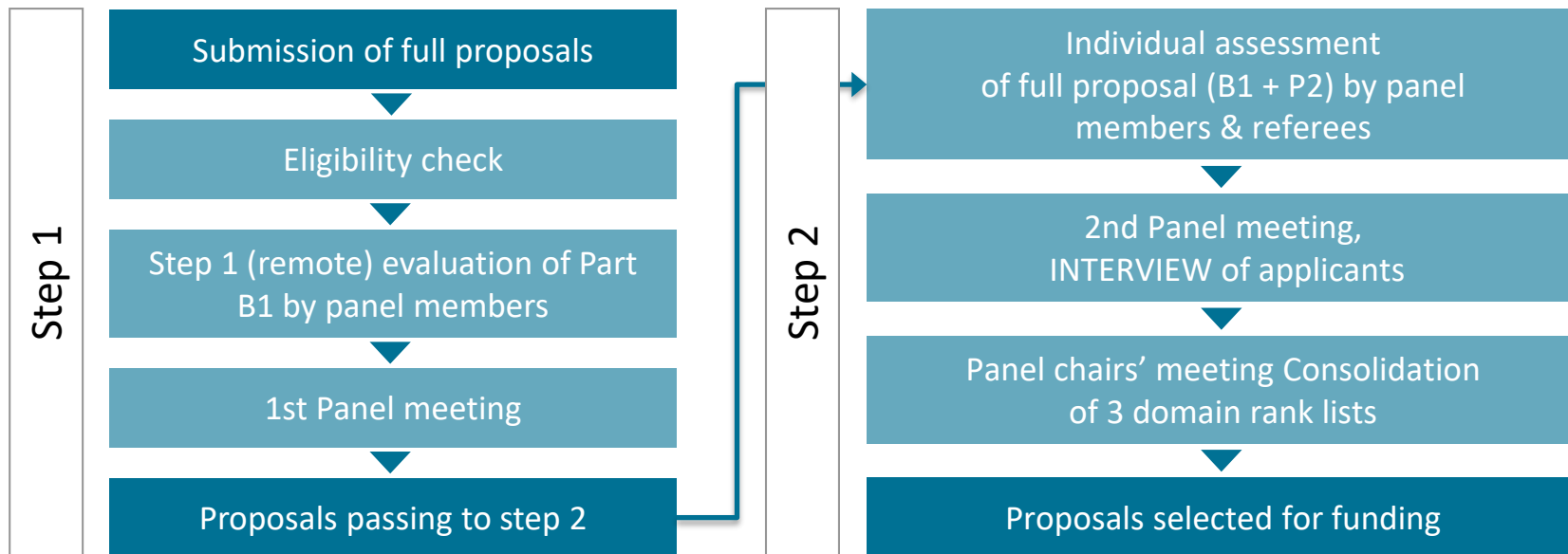
Administrative forms (online)	B1	B2
	Extended synopsis (5 pages)	Scientific proposal (14 pages)
	CV & track record (4 pages)	Resources & time commitment (2 pages)
Annexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host Institution: Support Letter of Support• StG & CoG: PhD-Certificate (and supporting documentation)• 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)

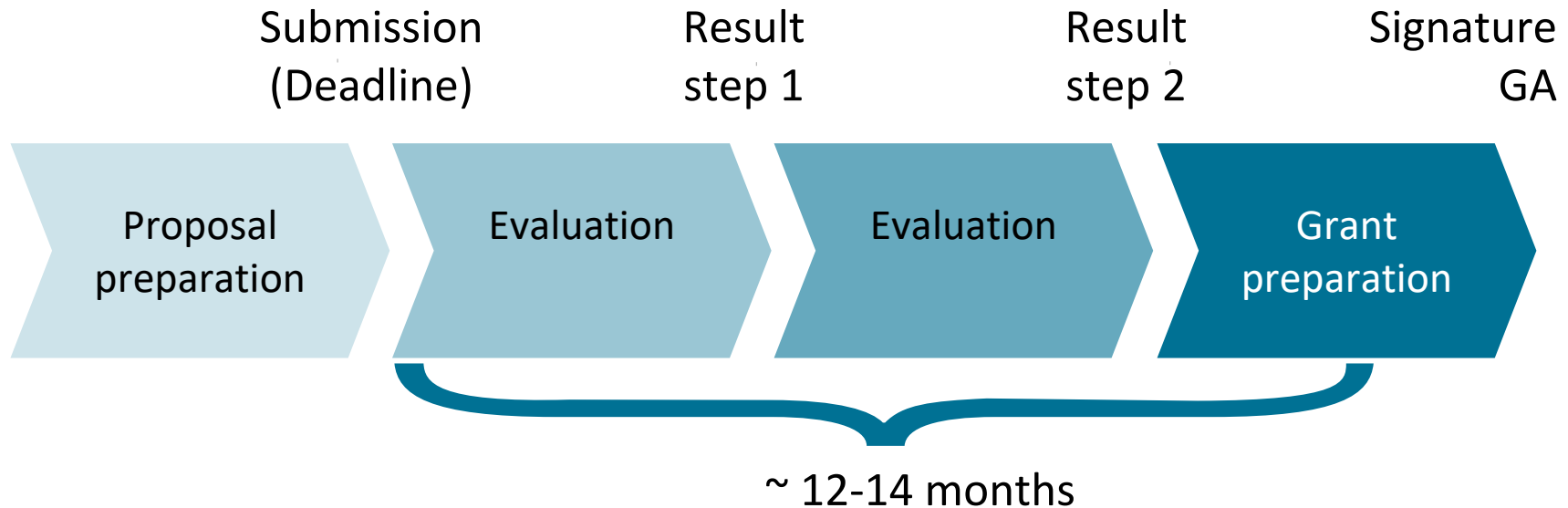


ERC calls 2024 (indicative – please check [WP 2024](#))

	Starting	Consolidator	Advanced	Synergy
Call open	11/7/2023	12/9/2023	29/5/2024	12/7/2023
Call deadline	24/10/2023	12/12/2023	29/8/2024	8/11/2023
Budget	601 million €	584 million €	578 million €	400 million €
Information to applicants (1 st , 2 nd stage)	10/5/2024; 23/8/2024	21/6/2024; 13/12/2024	31/1/2025; 13/6/2025	3/5/2024; 30/8/2024; 4/11/2024
Plan to sign GA	December 2024	April 2025	November 2025	March 2025



Timeline: Submission to funding





Resubmission rules (for 2024 calls)

	PI participated in a 2022 call (StG, CoG, AdG) with the following result:	PI participated in a 2023 call (StG, CoG, AdG) with the following result:
1 st evaluation stage	C → not eligible in 2024 (StG, CoG, AdG)	B or C → not eligible in 2024 (StG, CoG, AdG)
2 nd evaluation stage		A or B → eligible in 2024 (StG, CoG, AdG)



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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 Work Programme 2024



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Guide for Peer Reviewers
Starting and Consolidator Grant Calls



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ERC instructional videos

How to get started





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Discussion...