



Technische
Universität
Braunschweig



ERC Grants - Basics

Eva Kremshuber, Research Services, Call 2024

Introduction and Overview

- Postdoctoral period as critical phase
- Grants as career boosting factor
- Prestigious European Research Council grant

ERC Funding lines

Starting Grant	Individual funding for 2-7 years after PhD
Consolidator Grant	Individual funding for 7-12 years after PhD
Advanced Grant	Individual funding for PI's with 10 years track record
Synergy Grant	2-4 PI's at any career stage

Content



- Objectives and focus
- Conditions
- Applicant profile
- Project requirements and evaluation criteria
- Evaluation process and review panels
- Online submission system and online forms
- Next deadlines
- Support by TUBS
- Experiences report

European Research Council Objectives

- Provide resources to the best talents and ideas across all fields of research
- Promote bottom-up frontier research of the next generation of top research leaders
- Enable outstanding research to be recognized

Focus on

- Frontier research
- The most promising heads in the world
- Excellence
- Research in Europe

Starting Grant Conditions



Who?	Promising early-career researchers
How much for how long?	<1.5 million € for 5 years
Restriction	2 to 7 years research experience after PhD*
For what?	Set up own research group for the start of independent work

*research experience after PhD starts counting on the date of defence; reference date is the 1st of January of the call year, e.g. 1st of January 2024 of the calls 2024

Successful defence of PhD from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021 (inclusive)

Consolidator Grant Conditions



Who?	Establishing experienced researcher
How much for how long?	<2 million € for 5 years
Restriction	7 to 12 years research experience after PhD*
For what?	Establish your independent work and your research group

*research experience after PhD starts counting on the date of defence; reference date is the 1st of January of the call year, e.g. 1st of January 2024 of the calls 2024

Successful defence of PhD from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016 (inclusive)

Who?	Active researcher with significant research achievements in the last 10 years
How much for how long?	<2,5 million € for 5 years
Restriction	No restrictions regarding career stage – no specific criteria
For what?	Long-term funding to pursue a ground-breaking high-risk project

PI profile



- Shows creative thinking
- Outstanding CV for the career stage
- High-impact publications as main author
- Invitations to talks in international conferences
- (Ability) to lead a research group
- (Ability) to mentor young researcher
- Fundamental research oriented
- Right timing in the career
- Right timing for the project idea



Source: erc.europa.eu

Project requirements and evaluation criteria

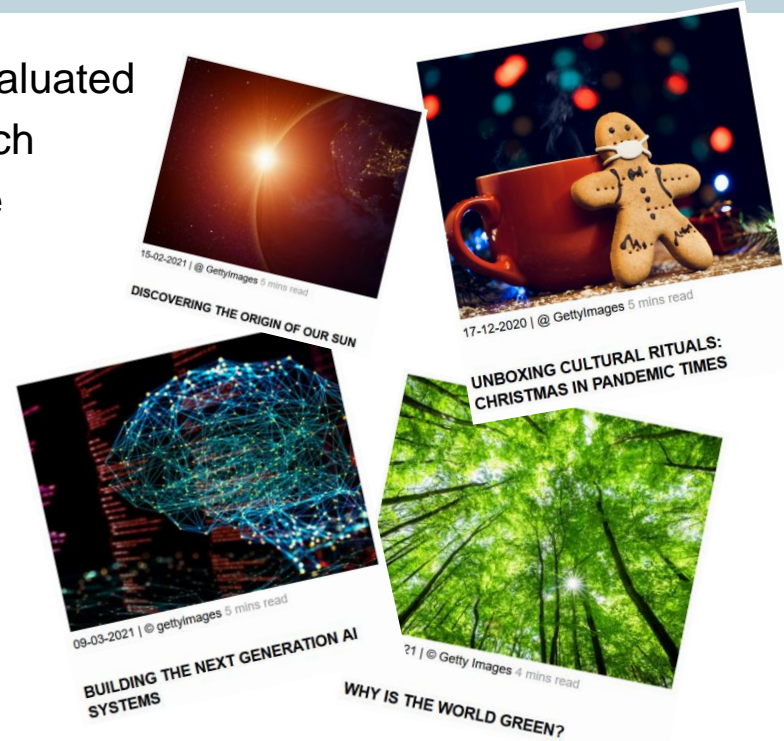


- Curiosity-driven approach to identify new opportunities in any field of research
- Single-institution submission
- Time commitment of the PI for the project of total working time
 - Starting Grant: at least 50%
 - Consolidator Grant: at least 40%
 - Advanced Grant: at least 30%
- Grant can cover salary of PI (to the extent of commitment)
- At least 50% of time working on project spend in EU
- Page limits: 14 p of Scientific Proposal, 5 p Extended Synopsis, 4 p CV
- Proposal language English
- Approval documents in any of the 24 official languages of the EU
- Commitment Letter of the Host Institution

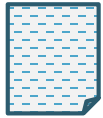
Project requirements and evaluation criteria



- CV (track record, achievements) only of PI evaluated
- Potential of PI to conduct independent research
- Sole evaluation criterion: Scientific Excellence
 - Ground-breaking nature
 - Potential impact (high risk / high gain)
 - Ambitious objectives
 - Feasibility of the research project
 - Intellectual capacity of PI
 - Creativity of PI
 - Commitment of PI



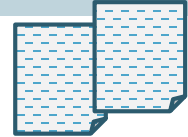
Proposal structure and evaluation process



STEP 1
(5 Mo)

Single submission!

STEP 2
(5 Mo)



Extended Synopsis (B1) – 5 pages

+ CV and track record – 4 pages

References don't count towards page limit

Scientific proposal (B2) – 14 pages

+ Resources section – 2 pages, in online form (Part A)

Only B1 is evaluated in step 1

B1 and B2 available to reviewers in step 2
+ interview in Brussels (or online)



Panel Members – Generalists (10-16)



Remote reviewers – Specialists (min. 3)

Next Deadlines Call 2024

ERC Starting Grants
24th of October 2023

ERC Consolidator Grants
12th of December 2023

Advanced Grants
29th of May 2024



The Research Services and European Office provides

- Explanation of the framework conditions
- Discussion of the application documents
- Reviewing and commenting on proposal versions
- Support in the budget calculation
- Coordination with the National Contact Point ERC
- Coordination with presidency for host institution letter
- Interview training

MWK Europaprogramm

- Up to 40.000€ for creating your proposal, e.g. for proposal check

MWK Stay Inspired

- If evaluated excellent but unfunded: up to 400.000€ for project-related work and preparation for a second submission in the next year

External researchers

- May apply for an Agnes-Pockels Fellowship if they come with an ERC Starting or Consolidator Grant to TU Braunschweig
- up to 40.000€ per year for up to three years (max. total 120.000€)

Questions to yourself



Curriculum Vitae

- ✓ Compare to your peers
- ✓ Is my CV outstanding?
- ✓ Does the project fit in my career stage?
(build a research group)
- ✓ Do I have high-level publications? Without my doctoral supervisor?
- ✓ Am I connected to peers around the world?
- ✓ Do other relevant researcher know my name?



Project

- ✓ Is my idea ground-breaking?
- ✓ Is it the right time for my idea?
- ✓ Will it bring my scientific field substantially forward?
- ✓ Does it come with a high risk of failing but enough feasibility and impact worth trying it?



Questions?

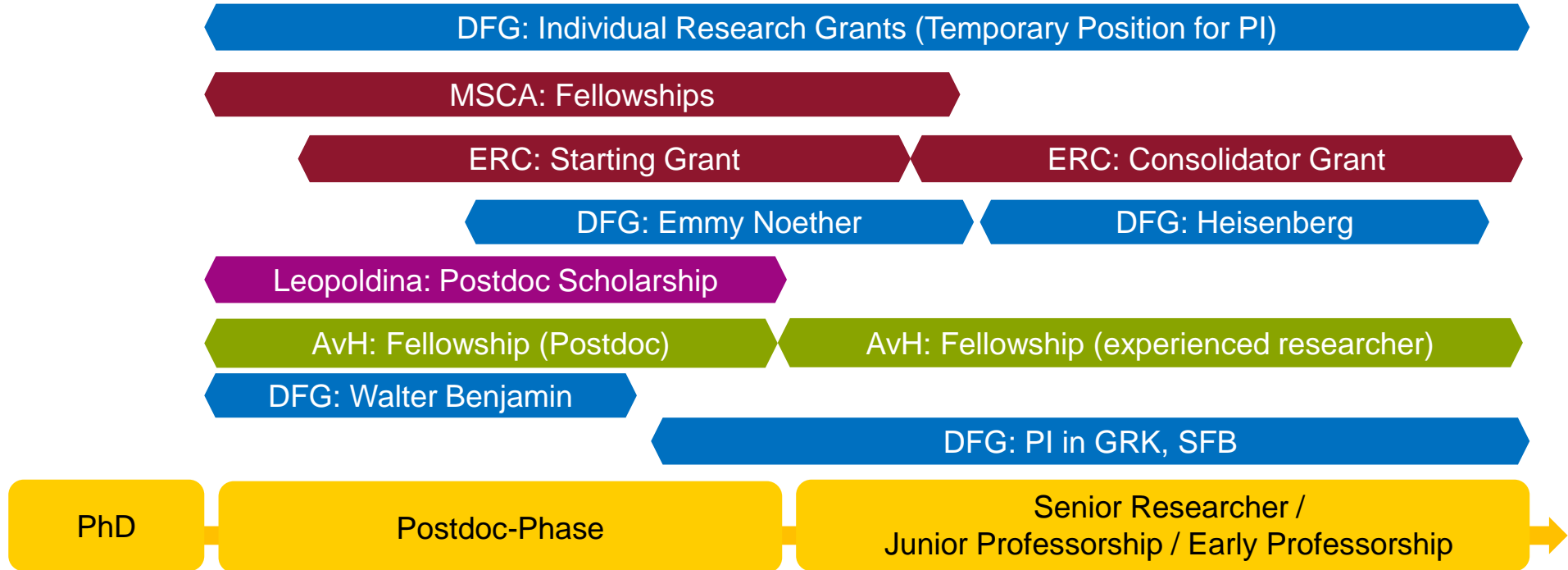


Useful links



Content	Link
ERC official website	https://erc.europa.eu/
NCP Germany	https://www.euburo.de/erc-germany.htm
Funding & Tenders Portal	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home Specific calls to be announced
ERC practical information	https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/japan/journey-erc-personal-advice-twice-awarded-researcher https://cdn1.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/news/erc_dr_danupon.pdf https://enspire.science/category/erc-posts/ https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtv6FnsXqnXAYRk6HCErwMxwML0ZKoMcy

Funding Matrix – Scientific Career



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