UK Research Office
Brussels

Horizon Europe

Pillar 1 Funding Opportunities

About UKRO

Mission

- Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe
- Support UK research organisations involved in EU R&I

UKRO Portal

- Dedicated **news articles, events and factsheets** to support participation
- **Alerts** to upcoming opportunities and call updates
- Access to the **UKRO portal** is free with your *@institution* email address

National Contact Point services

MSCA, ERC, WIDERA and COST funding opportunities

Pillar 1
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council (ERC)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)
- Research Infrastructures

€ 24.9 bn

Pillar 2
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

1. Health
2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
3. Civil Security for Society
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. Climate, Energy and Mobility
6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

€ 53.8 bn

Pillar 3
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

€ 13.4 bn

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRANGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

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Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Dr Anja Berndt

Interim MSCA NCP

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MSCA: A world reference for research and training

European Commission

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Doctoral Networks

Supporting programmes to train doctoral candidates in academic and non-academic organisations

Next call opens on **28 May 2025**

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Supporting career perspectives and excellence of postdoctoral researchers

Next call opens on **9 April 2025**

Staff Exchanges

Encouraging collaborations between organisations through staff exchanges

Deadline on **5 Feb 2025**

COFUND

Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes

Deadline on **24 June 2025**

MSCA and Citizens

Bringing research and researchers closer to the public at large

Next call opens on **17 June 2025**

European Commission

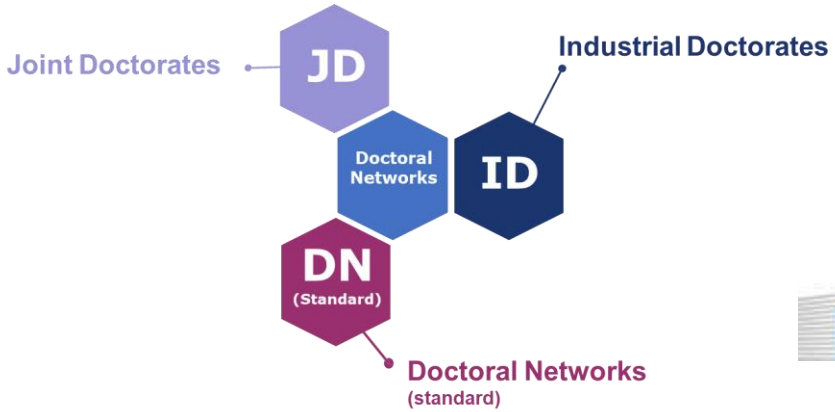
MSCA-Doctoral Networks (DN)

Objectives

- ✓ **Implement doctoral programmes** by partnerships of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond
- ✓ **Train highly skilled doctoral candidates**, stimulate their creativity
- ✓ **Enhance their innovation capacities**
- ✓ **Boost their employability** in the long-term

Implementation

- ✓ **One consortium** proposing a research project
- ✓ With **interlinked individual PhD research projects**
- ✓ For **doctoral candidates**



European Commission

Doctoral Networks

Basic Features

- **Scope** | All areas of research may be funded
- **Project duration** | up to **4 years** (up to 5 years for JD projects)
- **Fellowship duration** | min 3 /**max 36 months** (between 3 and 48 months in the case of JD fellowships)
- **Secondments** | Worldwide, **up to 1/3** of the fellowship duration

Who can apply?

At least 3 independent legal entities:

- Each established in a different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- Minimum of 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State

All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate

No more than 40.0% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country

- ✓ Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates
- ✓ Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80%

European Commission

Doctoral Networks – What does the funding cover?

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance	**Mobility allowance**	**Family allowance**** (if applicable)	**Long-term leave allowance** (if applicable)	**Special needs allowance** (if applicable)	**Research, training and networking contribution**	**Management and indirect contribution**
EUR **4010***	EUR **710**	EUR 660	EUR 4720 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit[1] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1600	EUR 1200

*A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers
** A family allowance to contribute to mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations which can be granted during the project.

[1] The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

European Commission

MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Objectives

- ✓ **Support researchers' careers** and foster excellence in research
- ✓ **For PhD wishing to carry out their research abroad,** acquire new skills and develop their careers
- ✓ **Help researchers gain experience in other countries,** disciplines and non-academic sectors

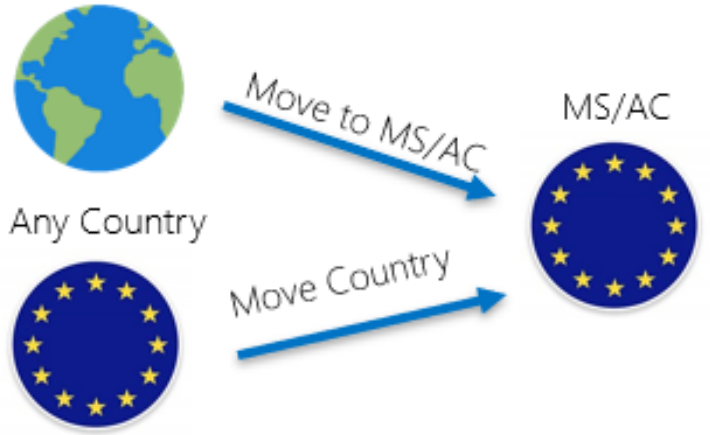
Implementation

- ✓ **Individual, bottom-up** research project - funds all research areas!
- ✓ For **individuals holding a PhD**
- ✓ Two types of implementation: *European* and *Global* Postdoctoral fellowships
- ✓ Fellowships **last between 12-36 months,** depending on the type of fellowship
- ✓ All fellowships **can include short stays, research trips, field work, secondments and placements** in the non-academic sector - *all are optional*

European Commission

2 types of MSCA Fellowships

European Fellowships
(12-24 months)



Mobility rule applies to the host organisation (the beneficiary)

Global Fellowships
(12-24 months) + (12 month return phase)

Mobility rule applies to the organisation hosting the **outgoing phase** (the associated partner)

**applicants must be considered a long-term resident of one or more EU Member States (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC) of at least 5 consecutive years.*

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European Commission

Postdoctoral Fellowships – What does the funding cover?

Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month					Institutional unit contributions per person-month	
Living Allowance*	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance**	Long-term Leave Allowance**	Special Needs Allowance**	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5990	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 6700 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

- EC contribution to recruited researchers is the GROSS amount!
  - subject to all national deductions and can include employers' contributions
- Research and training related costs (including visa fees, NHS surcharges and relocation costs of recruited researcher)

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*multiplied by the country correction coefficient (CCC)
** can be applied at any time (as and when needed)

European Commission

The fellow | eligibility criteria

- **Must be in possession of a doctoral degree** (or have successfully defended one's doctoral thesis)
- Have a **maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent research experience***
- No nationality requirements
  - Global Postdoctoral Fellowship or researchers who wish to reintegrate to Europe must be nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC
- **Mobility rule:** *Cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host institution (European Fellowship), or host of the outgoing phase for a Global Fellowship) for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline*
  - Researchers wishing to reintegrate from a third country must have direct mobility to a MS or AC within the last 12 months before the call deadline

*extensions possible for maternity leave, paternity leave, compulsory national service, times spent not working in research, long term sick leave

The Supervisor

- **Appropriate level of supervision** depends on the career stage of both parties, and the expectations of the project
- **The best proposals are constructed where the Supervisor has an active role in their development!**
- Think about/explain how the relationship will work day-to-day.
- Can be built on an existing collaborative relationship, but justify this in the application
- For less experienced supervisors, highlight any **mentorship/ support** for the supervisor; justify their involvement
- Additional individuals can take on a mentor/co-supervisor role
- **Supervisor needs to be committed and involved for the full duration of the fellowship – evaluators must be convinced of this!**
- Check out the Guidelines for Supervision

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Host Institutions

Why are they the best place to undertake the project?

Does the host have the necessary skills and experience to help meet the project objectives (research & training)?

Look beyond the potential supervisor – departmental & institutional level matters as well

How will you be integrated into the institution?

The institution needs to be aware of the submission!

Work closely with colleagues to set expectations and avoid surprises (during proposal development and project implementation)

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European Research Council

Dr Antonino Puglisi

ERC NCP

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What is the ERC?

The ERC's mission

- encourage the highest quality research in Europe
- support investigator-driven frontier research *across all fields*
- fund projects *purely* on the basis of *scientific excellence*

What makes the ERC unique

- *Excellence* is the only criteria
- Funding split based on number of applications, *not* field/discipline/topic
- Freedom to work with and fund team members from anywhere in the world

BOTTOM-UP, CURIOSITY-LED EXCELLENT RESEARCH

ERC in Figures: After 15 Years, a Success Story

Over **13,000**
top researchers funded since
the ERC creation in 2007

Over **90,000**
researchers and other professionals
employed in ERC research teams

Over **2,400**
patents and other IPR applications
generated by ERC funding

Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded
or co-founded by ERC grantees

Over **250,000**
articles from ERC projects published
in scientific journals

Over **900** research institutions hosting
ERC grantees – universities, public or
private research centres in the EU or
Associated Countries

93
nationalities of
grant holders

12 Nobel Prizes, **6** Fields Medals, **11** Wolf Prizes
and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees

ERC Grant Opportunities

Years post-PhD

Starting Grant

€1.5M (+ **€1M** additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

Consolidator Grant

€2M (+ **€1M** additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

No PhD Requirements

Advanced Grant

€2.5M (+ **€1M** additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

Synergy Grant

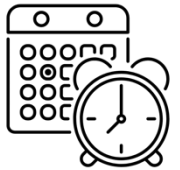
€10M (+ **€4M** additional)
Lasts up to **6 years** with **2, 3 or 4 PIs**

Proof Of Concept Grant

€150k Lump Sum
Lasts for **1.5 years**
Top-up grants for current ERC grantees

	StG	CoG	AdG	SyG
Identifier	ERC-2025-StG	ERC-2025-CoG	ERC-2025-AdG	ERC-2025-SyG
Call opens	10 July 2024	26 September 2024	22 May 2025	11 July 2024
Call deadline	15 October 2024	14 January 2025	28 August 2025	6 November 2024

Calls are on an annual basis



Principal Investigator Eligibility

Who?

No restrictions based on age, nationality, current location or current employment/contract status

Where?

Must have an institution **based in an EU member state or associated** country willing to host them

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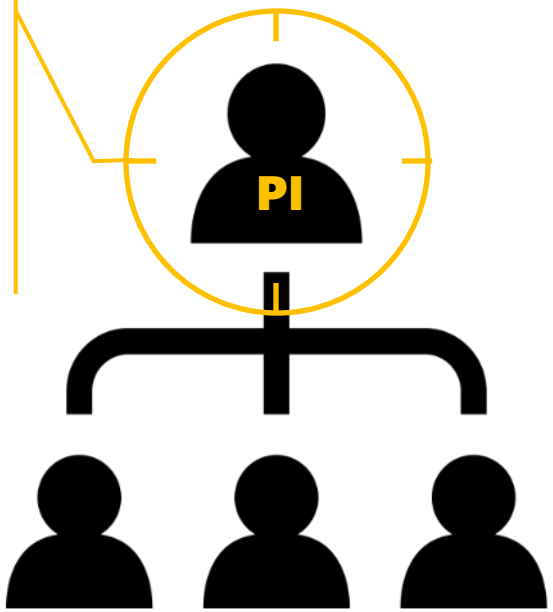
Principal Investigator & Team Members

- PI **leads** the research project - They are not collaborating as equals with their team
- PI has the **freedom to choose** how many team members are included in the project
- PI **names individuals or roles** that will be recruited in the proposal
- PI must **justify the team** and its composition and contribution



- Of any age, nationality or country of residence
- Can be based **at the Host Institution or any other organisation** in the world
- **Cannot be co-investigators**
- **Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks**
- Can be **research staff at any level** (including technicians and project managers)
- **EU funded** - Even outside member states or associated countries

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Funding rate

The ERC funds up to **100% of the total**

eligible costs + 25% of indirect costs

➢ Based on **actual costs**

+ 1 million of additional funding

- “Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs

Excluding personnel costs

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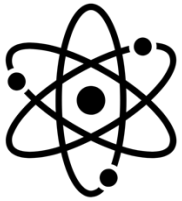
StG — **Up to 1.5 million euros** up to 5 years

CoG — **Up to 2 million euros** up to 5 years

AdG — **Up to 2.5 million euros** up to 5 years

SyG — **Up to 10 million euros** up to 6 years

ERC Evaluation Panels



Physical Sciences & Engineering

PE1 Mathematics

PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences

PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials

PE6 Computer Science and Informatics

PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering

PE9 Universe Sciences

PE10 Earth System Science

PE11 Materials Engineering

Life Sciences

LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures & Functions

LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems

LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration

LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing

LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System

LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy

LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases

LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

Social Sciences & Humanities

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations

SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems

SH3 The Social World and its Interactions

SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity

SH5 Texts and Concepts

SH6 The Study of the Human Past

SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts

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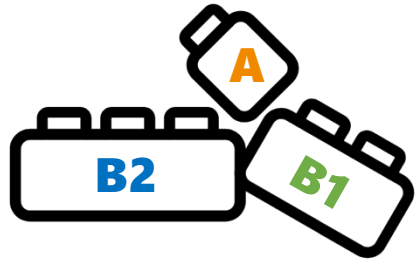
ERC Application – Your building blocks



Part A

Administrative Forms

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget
- Ethics Check

online

Part B1

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis
- CV & Track Record

Part B2

- State of the art
- Methodology
- Funding ID

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Evaluation Outcomes & Resubmission Restrictions

Step 1

A

B or C

Restrictions apply for resubmission

B stopped for 1 year
C stopped for 2 years

Step 2

A

If sufficient funds are available

B

No restrictions for resubmission

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Research Infrastructures

RINCPUK@stfc.ac.uk

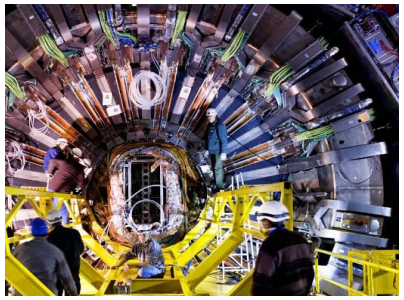
Horizon Europe: Research Infrastructures

Research Infrastructures: **facilities** providing **resources** and **services** for the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation (single site, distributed, virtual). They provide **access** to external users.

Knowledge-related facilities

e.g.: archives, collections, data infrastructures;

Major scientific instruments or equipment



telescopes, research vessels;

ICT infrastructures

computing systems, communication networks

Research Infrastructures contribute to:

1. Extending the frontiers of knowledge
2. Exchanging and transmitting knowledge
3. Training the next generation of top researchers
4. Supporting industrial innovation

UK Research and Innovation

The purpose of the RI Programme

Is not:

- **building** RIs. Member State and third countries come together to build RIs with Structural Funds and National Funding/in-kind contributions.
- Funding capital costs (with some exceptions)

It is aiming to:

- Develop an **advanced RI system** for the European Research Area
- Support **Trans-National & Virtual Access** to RI **"Erasmus for RIs"**
- Consolidate and enhance the EU RI landscape (via ESFRI)
- Foster **international cooperation** of facilities, links with the private sector, and support Open Science and data-driven research through **European Open Science Cloud**
- Push the limits of **frontier research**
- Develop **cutting-edge technologies** for RIs and foster innovation
- Enable and drive **green and digital transformations** through RI

UK Research and Innovation

Trans-national and/or virtual access

Trans-national access

Transnational Access ensures free of charge access to the best European research infrastructures. Apart from the cost of research itself being covered, travel, accommodation and subsistence costs may also be reimbursed by the projects budget.

This opportunity is open to all European researchers and to some extent to researchers from non-EU countries.

Virtual access

Virtual Access ensures free of charge access to e-infrastructure, namely to:

- **Sophisticated computer services;**
- **Powerful computers, networks, grids, repositories, databanks;**
- **Safely storing large quantities of scientific data;**
- **Participation in virtual research communities;**
- **World-class operational communication and computing infrastructure to facilitate scientific research.**

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Thank you

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Q&A

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