



European Research Council (ERC)
Advanced Grants: Call 2024
NUTSHELL NOTE



The ERC Advanced Grant 2024 call will open on **29 May 2024** with a deadline of **29 August 2024**. There will be a single step submission procedure with a two-step evaluation. The call will be published on the EU's Funding and Tenders portal [here](#).

Objectives

ERC Advanced Grants (ERC AdG) are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators (PIs) at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Applicant must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their research proposal. The PI must be based in a Host Institution in an EU Member State or Associated Country, but the composition of the team is flexible and team members may be located in another institution, including those located outside the EU, if duly justified. However, traditional network or research consortium proposals should not be submitted.

Eligible scientific fields

- Applications can be made in any field of research: the ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities.
- The ERC puts particular emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering. In particular, it encourages proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions. ERC proposals must have a high risk/high gain profile.

Profile of applicants

- The applicant PI may be any nationality, any age and may reside anywhere in the world at the time of application, providing they carry out the research project at a Host Institution in an EU Member State or Associated Country. (This does not exclude fieldwork/other research activities outside Europe necessary to conduct the project). Applications from PIs currently residing outside Europe are particularly encouraged.
- PIs are expected to be active researchers with a track record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years (this window may be extended for maternity, paternity, long term illness, national service, clinical training, natural disaster, seeking asylum – see [2024 Work Programme](#) for exact conditions).
- PIs must be able to commit **at least 30%** of their total working time to the ERC project and spend **at least 50%** of their total working time in an EU member State or Associated Country (may be averaged over lifetime of the project).
- There are restrictions on the re-submission of proposals - check the rules carefully (see [2024 Work Programme](#))

Profile of applicant

A competitive ERC AdG PI will be expected to demonstrate a record of achievements appropriate to the field and at least matching one or more of the following benchmarks:

- 10 publications¹ as main author (or in those fields where alphabetic order of authorship is the norm, joint author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals and/or peer-reviewed conferences proceedings of their respective field;
- 3 major research monographs. This benchmark is relevant to research fields where publication of monographs is the norm.

Other alternative benchmarks that may be considered (individually or in combination) as indicative of an exceptional record and recognition in the last 10 years:

- 5 granted patents;
- 10 invited presentations in well-established internationally organised conferences and advanced schools;
- 3 research expeditions led by the applicant PI;
- 3 well-established international conferences or congresses where the applicant was involved as a member of the steering and/or organising committee;
- International recognition through scientific or artistic prizes/awards or membership in well-regarded Academies or artefact with documented use (for example, architectural or engineering design, methods or tools);
- Major contributions to launching the careers of outstanding researchers;
- Recognised innovation leadership.

¹ Preprints may be included if freely available from a preprint server (they should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided)

Funding

Grants will be a maximum of **€2.5million²** for a period of up to 5 years (pro-rata if shorter). Additional €1.0m may be requested for relocation to EU/AC from elsewhere due to receiving the ERC grant, the purchase of major equipment, access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and field work costs. Reimbursement rates are 100% for direct costs plus a flat rate of 25% of direct costs (excluding subcontracting/third party contributions) towards indirect costs.

Proposal structure (B1 only is read at Stage 1 of evaluation; page limits are strictly applied):

Part A: Online admin forms, now includes: Budget table and resources (2 pages), please grant your local research team support access to your online proposal

Part B1: Cover page, Extended synopsis of the scientific proposal (5 pages), CV and track-record (4 pages).

Part B2: The scientific proposal (14 pages). Funding ID³ (no page limits)

Other documents: Host Institution Statement of Support (mandatory, prepared by Grants and Contracts; Evidence of Extensions (if applicable), Ethics review table and the supporting documentation (if applicable).

Consult the Information for Applicants for guidance on completing the above sections.

Evaluation criteria

1. Research project – groundbreaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

Scientific approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (based on the Extended Synopsis)?
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

2. Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity and creativity

- To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative and original thinking?
To what extent does/do the PI(s) have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

Further information

- The success rate for the 2022 call was 13.2%. Outcomes of the 2023 call are unpublished yet.
- Expected that PIs will be able to start projects within 6 months of receiving invitation letter from the ERC (planned date for sending letter 13 June 2025)
- The UK Research Office (UKRO) running an informative webinar series on the ERC Advanced Grant call on [10 June](#) and [12 June 2024](#) (registration for each).

Process at Newcastle:

- Your local research support team should always be your first point of contact for any research funding application, to confirm local procedures and requirements.
- The PI can then get in touch with the EU & International Team to request further support, which includes hints and tips on proposal writing and lay reading of the B1 and B2 sections – to access support, please send information at the latest (but before is fine!) by the dates below to jarlath.mckenna@newcastle.ac.uk or sarah.urquhart@newcastle.ac.uk
 - 01 July: Register your interest in applying for ERC AdG
 - 15 July: Last day for submitting either* Part B1 or B2 for review (*depending which part you write first)
 - 29 July: Feedback on Part B1/B2 sent to applicants
 - 05 August: Last day for submitting the second written part, Part B2 or B1, for review
 - 19 August: Feedback on Part B2/B1 sent to applicants
 - 22 August: Completion of NUP process, authorises Grants & Contracts to release HI-Letter of Support
 - 29 August: Deadline for submission to ERC

² Grantees may apply for Proof of Concept grants during an on-going or recently completed ERC AdG Grant.

³ Ongoing funding and submitted grants