

ERC – European Research Council

Am I a candidate for an ERC Grant?

1. Starting Independent Researcher Grant

You have a realistic chance for an ERC Starting Grant if

- You fit in the profile outlined in the Work Programme: *A competitive Starting Grant Principal Investigator must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of maturity. For example, it is normally expected that applicants will have produced **at least one important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor**. Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a promising **track record of early achievements** appropriate to their research field and career stage, including significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field. They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes etc.*
- You are among the best 10% of the researchers in Europe in your domain and at your actual career step.
- Your achievements are comparable with those of past grant winners. Have a look at their CVs at the database of Cordis: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html (Note: choose FP7 ideas and your panel)

2. Advanced Investigator Grant

You have a realistic chance for an ERC Advanced Grant if

- You fit in the profile outlined in the Work Programme: Applicants for the prestigious ERC Advanced Grant are expected to be active researchers and to have a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years which must be presented in the application. There is little prospect of an application succeeding in the absence of such a record, which identifies investigators as exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions. Thus, in most fields, Principal Investigators of Advanced Grant proposals will be expected to

demonstrate a record of achievements appropriate to the field and at least matching one or more of the following benchmarks:

- Normally 10 publications as senior 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 peer-reviewed conferences proceedings of their respective field.
- Normally 3 major research monographs, of which at least one is translated into another language. This benchmark is relevant to research fields where publication of monographs is the norm (e.g. humanities and social sciences).

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

- Normally 5 granted patents
 - Normally 10 invited presentations in well-established internationally organised conferences and advanced schools
 - Normally 3 research expeditions led by the applicant
 - Normally 3 well-established international conferences or congresses where the applicant was involved in their organisation as a member of the steering and/or organising committee
 - International recognition through scientific prizes/awards or membership in well regarded Academies
- You are among the best 10% of the researchers worldwide in your domain.
 - Your achievements are comparable with those of past grant winners. Have a look at their CVs at the database of Cordis: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html (Note: choose FP7 ideas and your panel)

KW & JZ, 27 July 2010