European Research Council (ERC) Starting / Consolidator Grants 2025 Self-Assessment Checklist

Version of July 2024

1 - Are You Eligible?

— Starting Grant (StG): 2-7 post PhD\(^1\), any age, any nationality, all fields of research, project budget up to €1.5 million for a 5-year project

— Consolidator Grant (CoG): 7-12 post PhD\(^1\), any age, any nationality, all fields of research, project budget up to €2 million for a 5-year project

— Principal Investigator (PI) must spend ≥ 50% (Starting Grant); ≥ 40% (Consolidator Grant) of total working time on the ERC project and ≥ 50% of total working time in an EU member state and/or associated country

2 - Are You a Competitive Candidate?

— Are you amongst the best researchers in Europe in your scientific field at your academic age?

— We recommend comparing your achievements with those of past grant winners to get an idea of a ‘typical’ ERC grant PI in your research field by searching the ERC database of funded projects.

— Do you have at least one (for StG applicants) or several (for CoG applicants) important publication(s) without your PhD advisor?

— Can you demonstrate the potential for research independence (for StG applicants) or have you already demonstrated research independence (for CoG applicants)?

— Assess your potential as PI and your project idea in relation to the evaluation criteria\(^2\)

Contacts

— your Euresearch Regional Office (ROs)

— your ERC National Contact Points (ERC NCPs)

\(^1\) Extension of eligibility time window possible in case of maternity, paternity, long illness, military service or clinical training – see p. 24 of the ERC Work Programme 2025; specific eligibility rules for MDs – see Annex 2 of the ERC Work Programme

\(^2\) Evaluation criteria cf. ERC Work Programme 2025 p. 36