



Writing a Competitive ERC Grant Proposal

Are you considering to apply for an ERC individual grant in the coming few years? Then it is time to attend this webinar programme and understand what ERC panels are looking for and how the 2024 call revisions will acknowledge the different types of 1) research conducted addressing scientific challenges across the world and 2) Principal Investigator (PI) track records. The information provided will enable you to develop an excellent conceptual research idea and scientific approach and to enhance the likelihood of funding of an ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant. Now is the right moment to prepare yourself.

The ERC selection criteria applied by the panels use terms which have become familiar jargon, such as important challenge, ground-breaking, scientific approach and feasibility. Most of these terms are also used by other funding agencies but they are interpreted and applied differently. This webinar will explain in detail not only what these terms mean and imply under the ERC umbrella but also how the ERC panel members use these terms to assess, discuss and select project proposals. This process differs from panel to panel, depending on the needs in science. Take for example feasibility of the scientific approach which is assessed differently, depending on the research field and scientific approach. Similarly, the term challenge is interpreted differently across the panels and research fields. What does this imply in your case? This webinar programme will supply you with the necessary knowledge to write a successful ERC proposal and will be an invaluable aid in meeting the ERC standards and getting one step closer to an ERC award. We will also discuss profiles of competitive PIs and the ERC plan to weigh the proposed research more than the PI track record.

Using the ERC guide "*Instructions for Applicants*" we will explain how you can address the ERC selection criteria and the panel specifics and draft a competitive project proposal. For example, we will examine keywords used in the ERC documentation and explain how to present a competitive proposal by focusing on high-quality research. We will discuss what defines high-quality research and how the ERC evaluation criteria can be used to translate your project idea into high-quality research. How can the term '*ground-breaking*' be used to mark the innovativeness or originality of the proposed research and the term '*high gain*' to demonstrate the potential breakthrough and impact on science? How can your ambition be balanced by factual evidence for feasibility of the research approach and back-up plans? But also signal that you are have the right scientific expertise and experience required for successfully executing the proposed research?

We will explain in detail how to address the evaluation criteria and in particular innovativeness and feasibility in view of the panel specifics and research fields.

1. Training objectives

To provide researchers with a good understanding of:

- the evaluation criteria and how to analyse them;
- how to write a competitive scientific proposal considering panel specifics and type of project; and
- what makes an excellent PI according to the reviewers of the different domains/panels and type of ERC grants.

2. Who should attend?

The webinars will be of value for applicants who want to submit an ERC proposal. Depending on the scientific backgrounds of the participants we will highlight domain-specific issues.

3. Methodology

The webinars will be in English, with no translation. The trainer(s) will provide practical information and discuss with the participants the requested information, the evaluation criteria and the best strategy for drafting the proposal.

The webinars are interactive and include moments for discussion to promote an exchange of views between participants and trainer(s). Each participant receives an extensive guide with information on the topics listed.

4. Trainer

Dr. Mette Skraastad is a founder of Yellow Research and has successfully trained candidates in writing ERC proposals since the 2008 call. She has extensive experience both in running ERC workshops and in pre-submission reviewing of ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy grants. Her knowledge and experience in pre-submission reviewing of ERC proposals is an important aspect of our success in this proposal writing training.

5. Programme of 2 webinars

Part I ERC in a nutshell

ERC in a nutshell: what makes ERC different than any type of other funding agency?

Part II What are ERC panels looking for?

Scientific Excellence is the sole selection criterion. We will discuss what defines excellent proposed research in the context of ERC and how to balance high risk and high gain. We will discuss the different terms used by the ERC to clarify what kind of research is being funded. Addressing the writing instructions for State-of-the-Art and Objectives (B2 part).

Part III How to present Methodology + Appropriateness?

The ERC panels are assessing the appropriateness of the methodologies for achieving the goals. Hereto they assess whether the proposed research and methodologies are feasible based on the information you provide on objectives, strategy and key intermediate stages and goals. We will discuss maturity of the proposed research in the context of the proposed research and different disciplines. Addressing the writing instructions for the Methodology of the B2 part

Part IV Selecting an appropriate ERC panel and keywords

The panel decides to whom the grant is awarded. We will discuss the role of the panel and how to select the most appropriate ERC panel and ERC keyword(s) for your proposal and your track record.

Part V How to design an implementation plan

We will discuss how to structure the B2 part and add a logical work and implementation plan in view of the high risk and high gain balance. We will also discuss how to put together a good team including expertise and design working arrangements. Addressing the writing instructions for feasibility, key intermediate goals, intermediate stages and working arrangements of the B2 part and justification of the working arrangements and resources.

Part VI How to write the abstract and Extended Synopsis?

Based on the B1 part the selected ERC panel will decide whether your proposal will progress to step 2. We will discuss how to summarise the B2 part information in the abstract and the Extended Synopsis (B1 part) and present concisely the proposed research (B2 part) and what information could or should be presented in this part and why.

Part VII What are competitive PI profiles?

We will discuss what panels are looking for in the PI parts and how to present your CV and track record taking into account your research field and career stage (B1 part).

INFO

DATE, TIME and CONTACT

Date: Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September 2023
From 9.00 till 11.50
E-mail address: ogpi@us.es