UKRO Annual Visit
University of Exeter

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UKRO European Advisor

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HAVE YOU SIGNED-UP?

European Research Council

Starting and Consolidator Grants

ERC in Horizon 2020

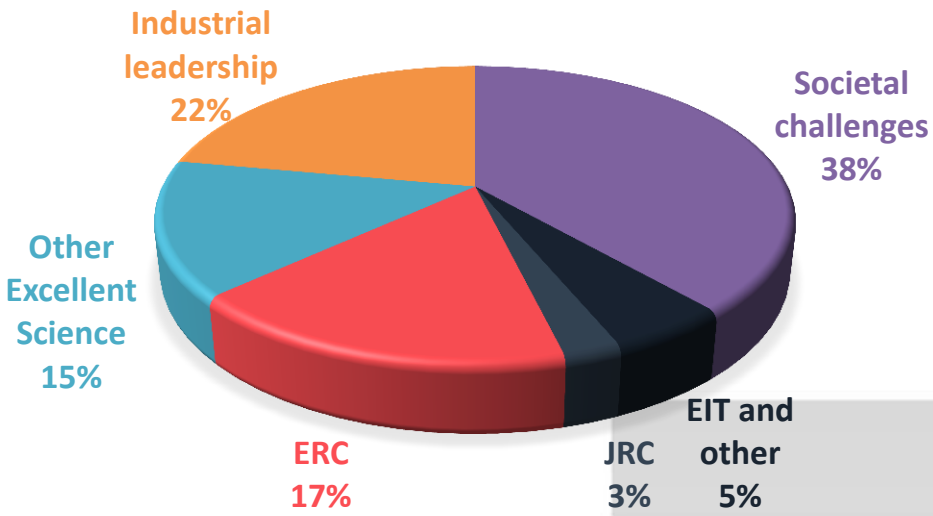
"The fundamental activity of the ERC is to provide attractive, long-term funding to support excellent investigators and their research teams to pursue ground-breaking, high-gain/high-risk research."

"Scientific excellence is the sole criterion on the basis of which ERC frontier research grants are awarded."

"The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities."

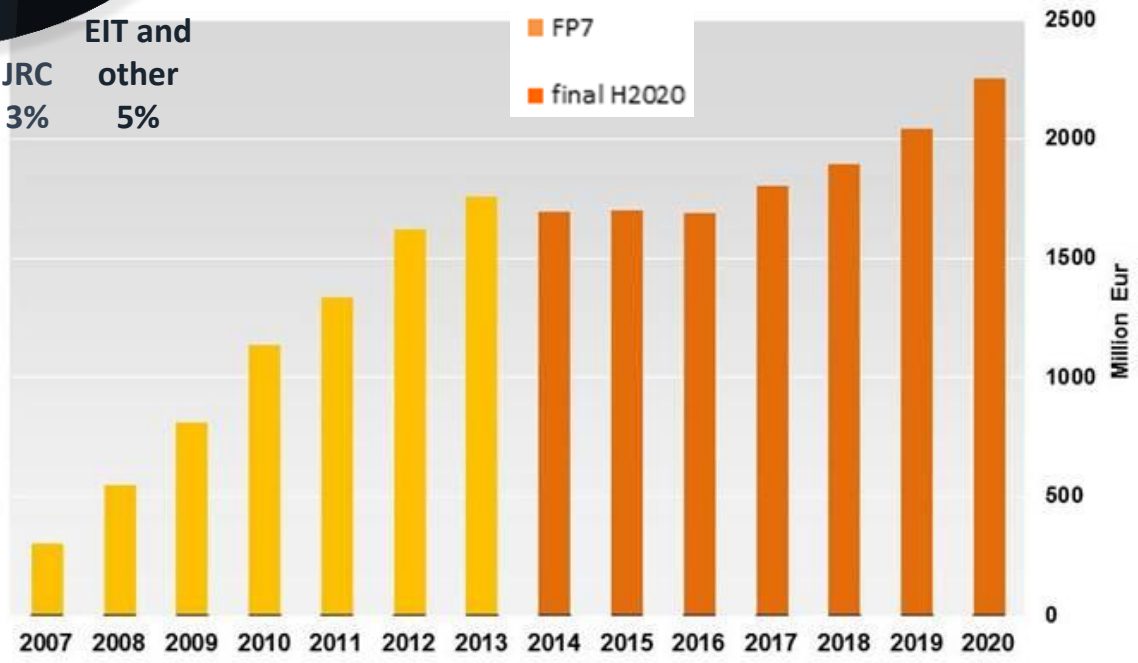
ERC Work Programme 2016 text

ERC Budget in Horizon 2020



ERC allocated around €12.7 billion for Horizon 2020 (compares to the allocation of €7.5 billion for FP7). Largest amount of funding will go to the Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants schemes.

Under Horizon2020, ERC funding will be below its 2013 level for 3 years



Source: ERC

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants

- For PIs 2-7 years from PhD, up to €2 million for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

- For PIs 7-12 years from PhD, up to €2.75 million for 5 years

Advanced Grants

- For leading researchers, up to €3.5 million for 5 years.

Synergy Grants

- for 2 to 4 PIs, up to €15 million for 6 years. No call in 2016 or 2017.

Proof of Concept

- For ERC grant holders only, up to €150,000 for 18 months

ERC 2016 Calls

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Proof of Concept
Call Identifier	ERC-2016-StG	ERC-2016-CoG	ERC-2016-AdG	ERC-2016-PoC
Call Opens	29 July 2015	15 October 2015	24 May 2016	22 October 2015
Deadline	17 November 2015	2 February 2016	1 September 2016	16 February 2016 26 May 2016 4 October 2016
Budget €M (estimated grants)	485 (335)	605 (335)	540 (235)	20 (130)

ERC 2017 Calls – tbc - not published yet

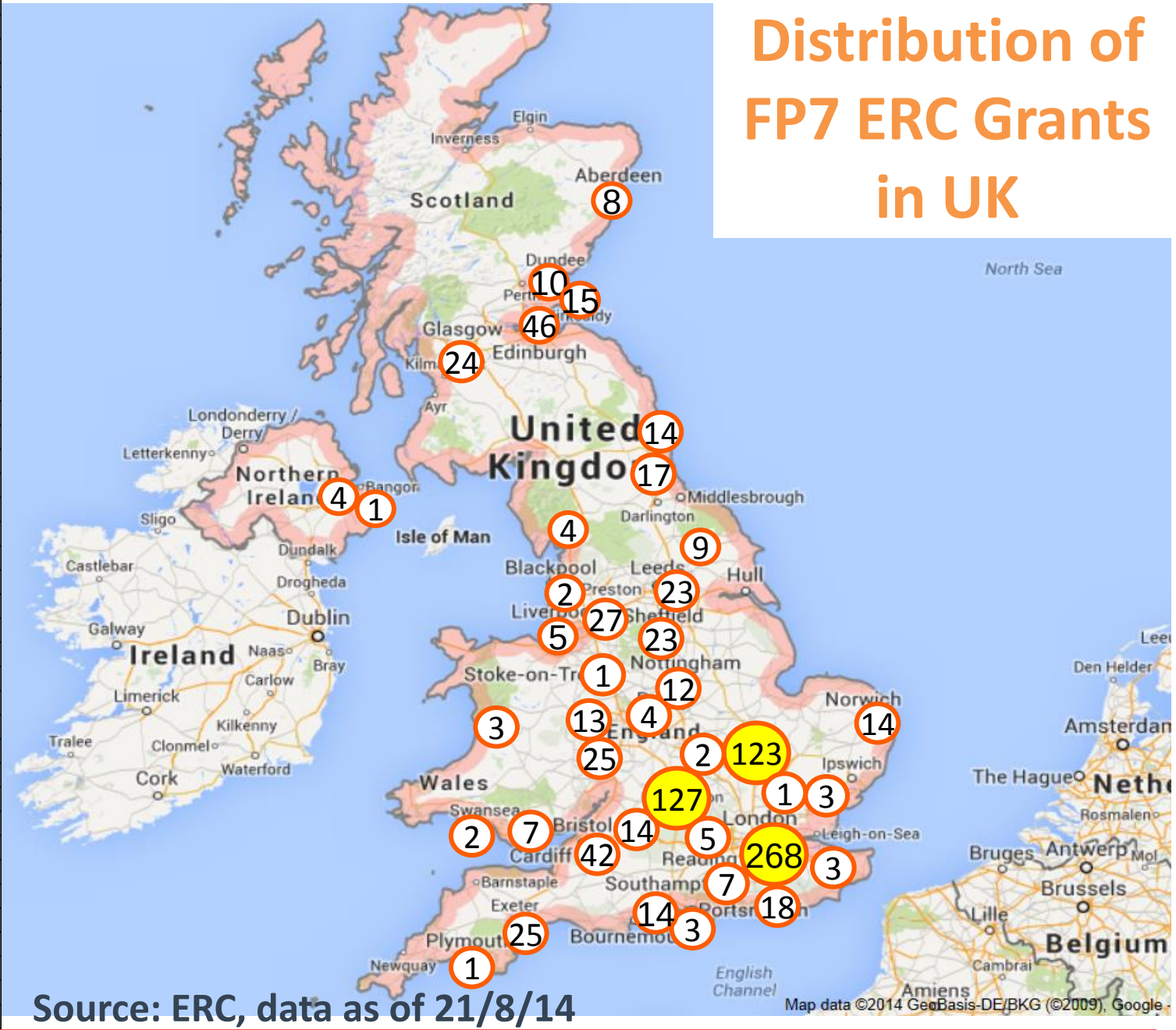
- Starting Grants: open mid-July 2016, deadline mid-October 2016
- Consolidator Grant: open mid-October 2016 , deadline first part of February 2017

UK Success in ERC

- The UK was the most successful country in applying to the ERC in FP7
- Around 20% of all ERC grants are based in the UK
- PIs at over 80 institutions in the UK have been awarded an ERC grant
- Over 1100 grants have been awarded to UK Host Institutions since 2007.
- See here for the details of funded projects: http://erc.europa.eu/erc-funded-projects
- And here for more statistics: http://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/statistics

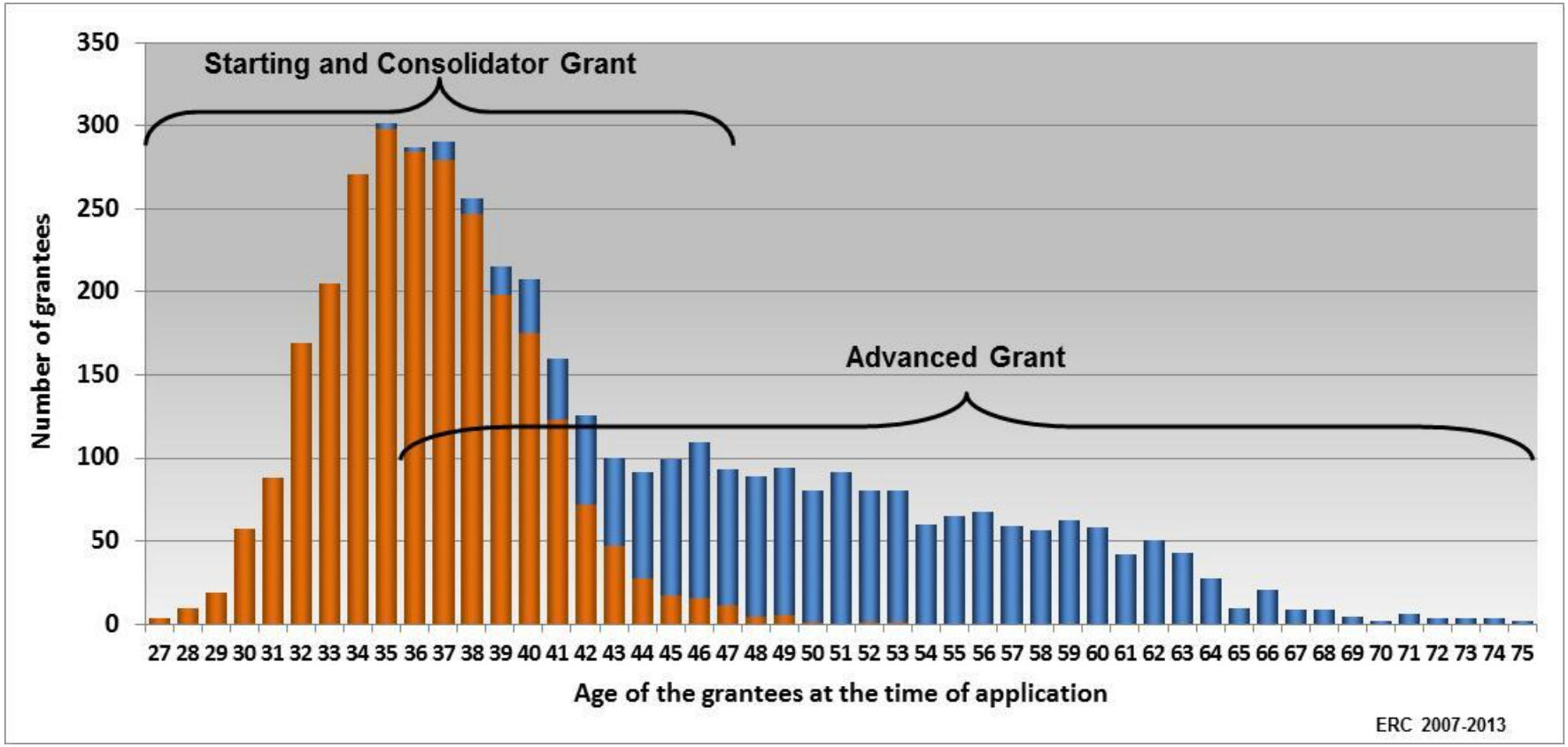
Distribution of FP7 ERC Grants in UK

ABERDEEN	8
ABERYSTWYTH	3
BANGOR	1
BATH	3
BELFAST	4
BIRMINGHAM	13
BRISTOL	39
CAMBRIDGE	123
CANTERBURY	3
CARDIFF	7
COLCHESTER	3
COVENTRY	25
DUNDEE	10
DURHAM	17
EDINBURGH	46
EGHAM, GUILDFORD	7
EXETER	25
FALMER, BRIGHTON	18
GLASGOW	24
HATFIELD	1
LANCASTER	4
LEEDS, HUDDERSFIELD	23
LEICESTER, LOUGHBOROUGH	4
LIVERPOOL	5
LONDON	268
MANCHESTER	27
MILTON KEYNES	2
NEWCASTLE	14
NORWICH	14
NOTTINGHAM	12
OXFORD	127
PLYMOUTH	1
PORTSMOUTH	3
PRESTON	2
READING	5
SHEFFIELD	23
SOUTHAMPTON	14
ST ANDREWS	15
STAFFORDSHIRE	1
SWANSEA	2
SWINDON	14
YORK	9
Total StG/CoG/AdG	**969**



Source: ERC, data as of 21/8/14

Age of PI at Time of Application



Source: ERC

2014/2015 Overall Call Results

Call	Deadline	No. of proposals evaluated		No. of retained proposals		Success Rate %	
		All	UK	All	UK	All	UK
ERC-2014-StG	27/03/2014	3204	566	375	67	11.7	11.8
ERC-2014-CoG	20/05/2014	2485	467	372	86	15.0	18.4
ERC-2014-AdG	21/10/2014	2250	466	190	45	8.4	9.7
ERC-2015-StG	03/02/2015	2862	489	350	61	12.2	12.5
ERC-2015-CoG	12/03/2015	2023	358	302	67	14.7	18.7

StG-2014 Results

- 375 proposals selected for funding from a total of 3272 submitted. Overall success rate around 11.5%, compared to around 9% in 2013 and the UK success rate is around 11.8%.
- The numbers by research domain are:
  - Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE): 1490 submitted (262 by UK institutions), 143 funded (31 UK)
  - Life Sciences (LS): 1037 submitted (153 by UK institutions), 124 funded (17 UK)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities (SH): 745 submitted (151 by UK institutions), 61 funded (19 UK)
- UK was awarded the second highest number of grants per country, with 67 grants awarded to different UK institutions This is 17.9% of all grants awarded in this call.
- Success rate for male applicants 11.9% and for female applicants 11.4% but female applicants made up 33% of funding list vs 29% in 2013.
- Resubmissions - Success rate 17.2 %

StG-2015 Results

- 350 proposals selected for funding from a total of 2920 submitted. Overall success rate around 12.2%, compared to around 11.5% in 2014 and the UK success rate is around 12.5%.
- The numbers by research domain are:
  - Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE): 1250 evaluated (187 UK), 156 funded (29 UK)
  - Life Sciences (LS): 917 evaluated (141 by UK institutions), 114 funded (19 UK)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities (SH): 695 evaluated (161 by UK institutions), 80 funded (19 UK)
- UK was awarded the highest number of grants per country, with 61 grants awarded to different UK institutions; this is 17.4% of all grants awarded in this call.
- Success rate for male applicants 13.1% and for female applicants 9.8% and female applicants made up 28% of funding list vs 33% in 2014.

CoG-2014

- A total of 2525 proposals were submitted in response to the 2014 Consolidator Grant call (ERC-2014-COG). 372 projects were funded giving a 15% success rate (an increase compared to 8.5% in 2013).
  - Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PE1 – PE10): 1205 submitted, 165 funded
  - Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9): 797 submitted, 139 funded
  - Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6): 526 submitted, 68 funded
- 457 proposals from the UK were evaluated and 86 grants were awarded to 32 different UK institutions (the highest number awarded and 23% of all grants awarded in call). The UK success rate was 18.4%

CoG-2015

- A total of 2023 proposals were submitted in response to the 2015 Consolidator Grant call (ERC-2015-COG). 302 projects were funded giving a 14.9% success rate (comparable to the 15% success rate in 2014).
  - Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE): 951 evaluated (158 from UK institutions), 141 funded (29 UK)
  - Life Sciences (LS): 614 evaluated (89 from UK institutions), 94 funded (16 UK)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities (SH): 458 evaluated (111 from UK institutions), 67 funded (25 UK)
- 358 proposals from the UK were evaluated and 67 grants were awarded to UK institutions (the highest number awarded and 22.2% of all grants awarded in call). The UK success rate was 18.7%

StG 2014	Evaluated step 1		Evaluated step 2		Funded		Overall Success Rate (%)	
Panel	All	UK	All	UK	All	UK	All	UK
LS1	92	12	29	3	13	1	14.1	8.3
LS2	93	16	26	8	13	3	14.0	18.8
LS3	85	20	30	4	13	1	15.3	5.0
LS4	108	6	34	3	17	1	15.7	16.7
LS5	150	30	45	7	22	2	14.7	6.7
LS6	93	15	29	4	13	2	14.0	13.3
LS7	188	17	44	1	26	1	13.8	5.9
LS8	93	20	32	12	13	4	14.0	20.0
LS9	108	17	34	10	12	2	11.1	11.8
PE1	119	29	31	6	15	3	12.6	10.3
PE10	106	29	31	13	11	4	10.4	13.8
PE2	157	27	46	9	20	4	12.7	14.8
PE3	154	24	36	8	17	3	11.0	12.5
PE4	122	17	33	3	12	2	9.8	11.8
PE5	161	32	36	7	18	3	11.2	9.4
PE6	214	43	52	12	25	4	11.7	9.3
PE7	133	16	37	4	14	2	10.5	12.5
PE8	188	24	42	9	21	3	11.2	12.5
PE9	102	21	29	8	10	3	9.8	14.3
SH1	93	12	18	5	9	3	9.7	25.0
SH2	221	55	36	10	21	5	9.5	9.1
SH3	71	17	18	7	7	2	9.9	11.8
SH4	152	23	33	8	14	4	9.2	17.4
SH5	93	21	21	4	8	1	8.6	4.8
SH6	108	23	24	10	11	4	10.2	17.4
Total	3204	566	826	175	375	67	11.7	11.8

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CoG 2014	Evaluated step 1		Evaluated step 2		Funded		Overall Success Rate (%)	
Panel	All	UK	All	UK	All	UK	All	UK
LS1	74	12	29	5	13	3	17.6	25.0
LS2	71	15	26	5	13	1	18.3	6.7
LS3	62	8	28	3	12	2	19.4	25.0
LS4	100	11	32	6	17	2	17.0	18.2
LS5	101	24	35	9	19	5	18.8	20.8
LS6	87	18	29	7	15	5	17.2	27.8
LS7	129	22	45	5	22	4	17.1	18.2
LS8	89	20	31	5	16	4	18.0	20.0
LS9	68	10	35	9	12	3	17.6	30.0
PE1	86	14	26	6	13	4	15.1	28.6
PE10	100	15	35	7	13	3	13.0	20.0
PE2	168	42	49	20	23	7	13.7	16.7
PE3	132	19	42	9	18	5	13.6	26.3
PE4	111	12	38	5	16		14.4	0.0
PE5	127	25	29	7	19	5	15.0	20.0
PE6	131	26	39	7	18	4	13.7	15.4
PE7	95	11	32	4	13	2	13.7	18.2
PE8	131	22	44	10	18	4	13.7	18.2
PE9	105	27	31	12	14	5	13.3	18.5
SH1	61	9	20	6	10	3	16.4	33.3
SH2	139	34	36	8	16	3	11.5	8.8
SH3	46	11	17	6	7	1	15.2	9.1
SH4	107	25	30	12	15	7	14.0	28.0
SH5	70	17	24	9	8	2	11.4	11.8
SH6	95	18	27	7	12	2	12.6	11.1
Total	2485	467	809	189	372	86	15.0	18.4

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ERC Frontier Research Grants

Main Features

Type of Research Funded

- Excellent, innovative and investigator-initiated research projects
  - can be basic or applied research, in any field of research
- Flexible projects to promote substantial advances in ‘frontier research’ (at or beyond the frontiers of knowledge)
- could be:
  - interdisciplinary proposals
  - proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research
  - proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions
- Not suitable for consortium type proposals

Principal Investigator (PI)

- Expected to spend:
  - StG: A minimum 50% of total working time on the ERC project or
  - CoG: A minimum 40% of total working time on the ERC project and
- A minimum of 50% of total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country (this does not exclude fieldwork/research outside Europe needed to achieve research objectives)
- Central to the grant and review criteria
- Expected to lead their team and be fully engaged in the running of the grant
- Can be of any age, nationality or current location

PI Eligibility

- **StG - 2 to 7 years from date of award of first PhD** or equivalent (as at 1 January)

- **CoG – 7 to 12 years from date of award of first PhD**

- Extensions for certain reasons (must be properly documented). These are:
  - Maternity leave (18 months per child), paternity leave (actual amount of documented leave taken), national service, long-term illness (over 90 days) of PI or a close family member (child, spouse, parent or sibling) and clinical training
  - For other 'unavoidable statutory reasons' please contact us for advice
- No extensions for part time working, non-research careers, travel etc. (but this is taken into account for evaluation of the PI's track record)

Aims of Starting Grant Scheme

- Support excellent researchers at the stage of starting their own independent research team or programme
- Improve opportunities and independence at the start of a research career
- Provide structure for transition from working under a supervisor to independent research
- Enable PIs to create excellent new teams to bring new ideas to their disciplines

Aims of Consolidator Grant Scheme

- Support excellent researchers at the stage of consolidating their own independent research team or programme
- Strengthen independent and excellent new individual research teams that have been recently created.
- Empower individual researchers and provide the best settings to foster their creativity.
- Provide structure for researchers to transition from working under a supervisor to becoming an autonomous investigator in their own right.

Host Institution

- Can be any type of legal entity
- Must be based in the territory of an EU Member State or Associated Country
  - The PI does not have to be based there at the time of application
- Has the infrastructure and capacity - must provide appropriate conditions for the PI to independently direct the research and manage the ERC funding
- Must not constrain the PI to the research strategy of the institution
- Normally employs the PI
- **Not assessed as a separate criterion during peer review** but must sign a letter of commitment as part of application
- If funded:
  - signs up to the Grant Agreement
  - signs a 'Supplementary Agreement' with the PI

Team Members

- PI has freedom to choose appropriate ‘team members’
  - Constitution of individual research team is flexible (senior research staff, post-docs, PhDs, non academic staff, etc…)
- PI's host institution normally the only institution but can have team members from other institutions in the same or different countries (institutions will sign Grant Agreement)
- Team members can be of any age, nationality & country of residence
- **Individual research team headed by a single PI** (including any team members at other institutions) so NOT a traditional network or research consortium
- Resubmission rules do not apply to team members

Funding Levels and Duration of Grant

- Normally maximum grant **€1.5 million for StG or €2 million for CoG or €2.5 million for AdG over 5 years** ERC contribution (or pro-rata for shorter projects)
- Can have an additional **top-up funds** of €0.5 million for StG / €0.75 million for CoG / €1 million for AdG . Not pro-rata but only to cover:
  - eligible "start-up" costs for PIs moving from outside Europe to Europe as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant;
  - the purchase of major equipment; or
  - access to large facilities.
- This additional funding requested must be justified in Part B Section 2c.
- Limit includes direct and indirect costs!
- Direct Costs = 100% of eligible and approved direct costs funded
- Indirect Costs = 25% flat rate (of the total direct costs excluding subcontracting and third party resources not used on premises)

Proposal

Participant Portal

- **Single Stage Submission, but 2-Step Peer Review** (with interviews for StG and CoG)
- Go to Submission Service
- Complete Part A forms online
- Download, complete and upload pdf files of Part B (10MB limit) and annexes
- Proposal formats and page numbers are strictly limited
- No additional documents allowed but reviewers can look at websites in order to further assess applicant's previous work
- Checklist given in **Information for Applicants**
  - Automated check of some things only

Structure of Application Forms

- **Part A – Administrative and Summary Forms**
  - 1. General information (including abstract)
  - 2. Administrative data of participating organisations (one form per institution, much of this will be pre-filled using information from PIC number)
  - 3. Budget (summary financial information)
  - 4. Ethics
- **Part B1 – Proposal Details**
  - Cover page & proposal summary
  - **Extended Synopsis** (5 pages)
  - **Curriculum Vitae** including Funding ID (2 pages excluding funding ID)
  - **Track Record** (2 pages)

Structure of Application Forms Continued

- **Part B2 – Research Proposal (15 pages)**
  - a) State-of-the-art and objectives
  - b) Methodology
  - c) Resources (including project costs)
- **Annexes**
  - Commitment of the Host Institution (template from PPSS, submitted as .pdf)
  - Ethical Issues Annex (if applicable) (see 'Information for Applicants' for guidance)

Principal Investigator Criteria

- Evaluators are commenting on **PI's intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment**
- Each of the following questions is marked Outstanding / Excellent / Very good / Non-competitive for StG, CoG:
  - To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research?
  - To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?
  - To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art?
  - To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50%/40% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

PI - CV (2 Pages Max.)

- Should include standard academic and research records – **template available** (can be modified)
- Concise ‘funding ID’ (outside page limit) covering:
  - Current research grants and their subject
  - Ongoing applications for work relating to the proposal
- Any research career gaps and/or ‘unconventional career paths’ should be clearly explained so that they can be fairly assessed by the evaluation panels.

Competitive Candidates for StG and CoG

- Must have already shown potential for/demonstrated research independence and evidence of maturity
- For example, it is expected that applicants:
  - will have produced **at least one/several important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor**
  - can demonstrate promising track record of early achievements appropriate to their field and career stage, including:
    - Significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed major multidisciplinary scientific journals or in leading international peer-reviewed journals in their field
    - May have monographs, invited presentations, granted patents, awards, prizes

General Hints and Tips for PI Criteria

- ‘Sell yourself’
- Remember the Funding ID section in the CV is important
- Make sure you address the full requirements of the track record, and consider what makes you stand out
- Clarify specific points to strengthen your application and give additional relevant details
- **Explain anything that is UK specific**
- The evaluators will review the PI on the basis of their experience and information the PI provides on the application form
- If you refer to journal impact factors, state which one you are using
- Add a link to your website, and then **keep your website up to date**

Research Project Evaluation Criteria

- **Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project** (StG, CoG)
  - 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 across disciplines)?
  - To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain?

Research Project Evaluation Criteria Continued

- **Scientific approach** (StG, CoG)
  - To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?
  - To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
  - To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
  - To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)

Research Project Criteria General Tips

- Consider what excites you about the research and convey this in your application (and at your interview!)
  - Explain how the research will open new horizons or opportunities
- Think about your audience and remember to **explain UK-specific terminology**
- Provide a clear, concise work-plan, giving details of the intermediate goals
- Explain what each team member is doing (and their background/ recruitment profile)
- Clearly explain how you will manage and disseminate your project
- **Justify the resources** you need for your research proposal and ensure the resources are appropriate.
  - Have you included all staff costs?
  - Have you clearly shown the links between the costs and the research/methodology?

Project Costs and Budget

Costs

- **Direct costs:** up to 100% of eligible costs
- **Indirect costs:** Flat rate of 25% (of eligible direct costs)

- Information on eligible and ineligible costs on next slides and also given in detail in Article 6 of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement for Horizon 2020 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

Eligible Direct Costs

Direct eligible costs are those which support all the research, management, training and dissemination activities necessary for the conduct of the project such as: *Personnel, Equipment, Consumables, Travel and Subsistence & Publication Costs*

How are **eligible costs** defined?

- Actual
- Incurred by the beneficiary during the project and used solely for project objectives
- Recorded in accounts (identifiable and verifiable) and determined according to hosts usual accounting and management principles
  - must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security
  - Must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principles of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency
- Exclusive of non-eligible costs
- Non-recoverable VAT is now **eligible** in Horizon 2020-funded projects

Indirect Costs

Are those which **cannot be identified as directly attributable to the project**, but which are incurred in direct relationship with the project's direct eligible costs, such as:

- Costs related to general administration and management
- Costs of office or laboratory space, including rent or depreciation of buildings and equipment, and related expenditure such as water, heating, electricity
- Maintenance, insurance and safety costs
- Communication expenses, network connection charges, postal charges and office supplies
- **Common office equipment such as PCs, laptops, office software**
- Miscellaneous recurring consumables

Budget Form in Part A

- Each institution involved (other than subcontractors) will have a line on this form – pre-filled
- Important – The figures must match in the A3 and B2 forms (otherwise the figure from the A3 form will be used)

3 - Budget

Participant Number in this proposal	Organisation Short Name	Organisation Country	Total eligible costs/€ (including 25% indirect costs) ?	Requested grant/€
1	BBSRC	UK		
Total				

Part B2 Section 2c - Resources

Cost Category			Total in Euro
Direct Costs[1]	**Personnel**	PI[2]	
		Senior Staff	
		Postdocs	
		Students	
		Other	
	i. Total Direct Costs for Personnel (in Euro)		
	Travel		
	Equipment		
	Other goods and services	Consumables	
		Publications (including Open Access fees), etc.	
		Other (please specify)	
	ii. Total Other Direct Costs (in Euro)		
A – Total Direct Costs (i + ii) (in Euro)			
B – Indirect Costs (overheads) 25% of Direct Costs[3] (in Euro)			
C1 – Subcontracting Costs (no overheads) (in Euro)			
C2 – Other Direct Costs with no overheads[4] (in Euro)			
Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C) (in Euro)[5]			
Total Requested EU Contribution (in Euro)[6]			

The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. Significant mathematical mistakes may reflect poorly on the credibility of the budget table and the proposal overall. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced. The requested contribution should be in proportion to the actual needs to fulfil the objectives of the project.

Please indicate the duration of the project in months:[6]	

Budget - General Hints and Tips

- **Speak to your host institution's research/finance office as early as possible**
- The overall grant amount is determined by the peer review panels
- If your team members are at other institutions, those institutions will need to be involved in costing their part of the proposal
- All costs must be calculated and claimed according to your host organisations own accounting rules.
- You can only budget for costs directly related to carrying out the project
- Link the budgets clearly to the proposed activities

Panel Comments on the Resources Section

- Anonymous feedback taken from panel comments on successful proposals in PE, LS and SH domains
  - "The budget is justified in respect to the aims."
  - "The budget of the project is reasonable. No cuts are suggested."
  - "The panel found the justification for the … equipment insufficient, both in terms of the required performance and in the cost estimate, and reduced the grant budget accordingly."
  - "The panel considered that for the successful execution of the project [x] postdocs … are sufficient. The panel recommends the budget to be reduced accordingly."
  - "The budget for consumables appeared somewhat overestimated, and was therefore reduced accordingly"

Management issues to consider when preparing your application

- Grant Agreement
  - Annex 1 – description of the action (what you wrote in the proposal)
- Flexibility
  - Scientific
  - Portability
- Progress reporting
  - Scientific – submitted by the PI (mid-term and final)
  - Financial – submitted by the beneficiary (18 months)
- Publication and exploitation of results
  - Open Access
  - IPR
- European Charter for Researchers & Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

Ethics in ERC Application

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- Part A4 - Ethics Issues Table

4 - Ethics issues table ?

1. HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUSES		Page
Does your research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	○ Yes ◉ No	
Does your research involve the use of human embryos?	○ Yes ◉ No	
Does your research involve the use of human foetal tissues / cells?	○ Yes ◉ No	
2. HUMANS		**Page**
Does your research involve human participants?	○ Yes ◉ No	
Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	○ Yes ◉ No	
Does it involve invasive techniques?	○ Yes ◉ No	
3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES		**Page**

- Ethics Self-Assessment Annex (only if answered 'Yes' to any questions on ethical issues table)
  - Brief explanation of the ethical issue(s) involved & how it will be dealt with
  - You may include supporting documentation, such as authorisations already received. (Not counted in page limit)

Peer Review

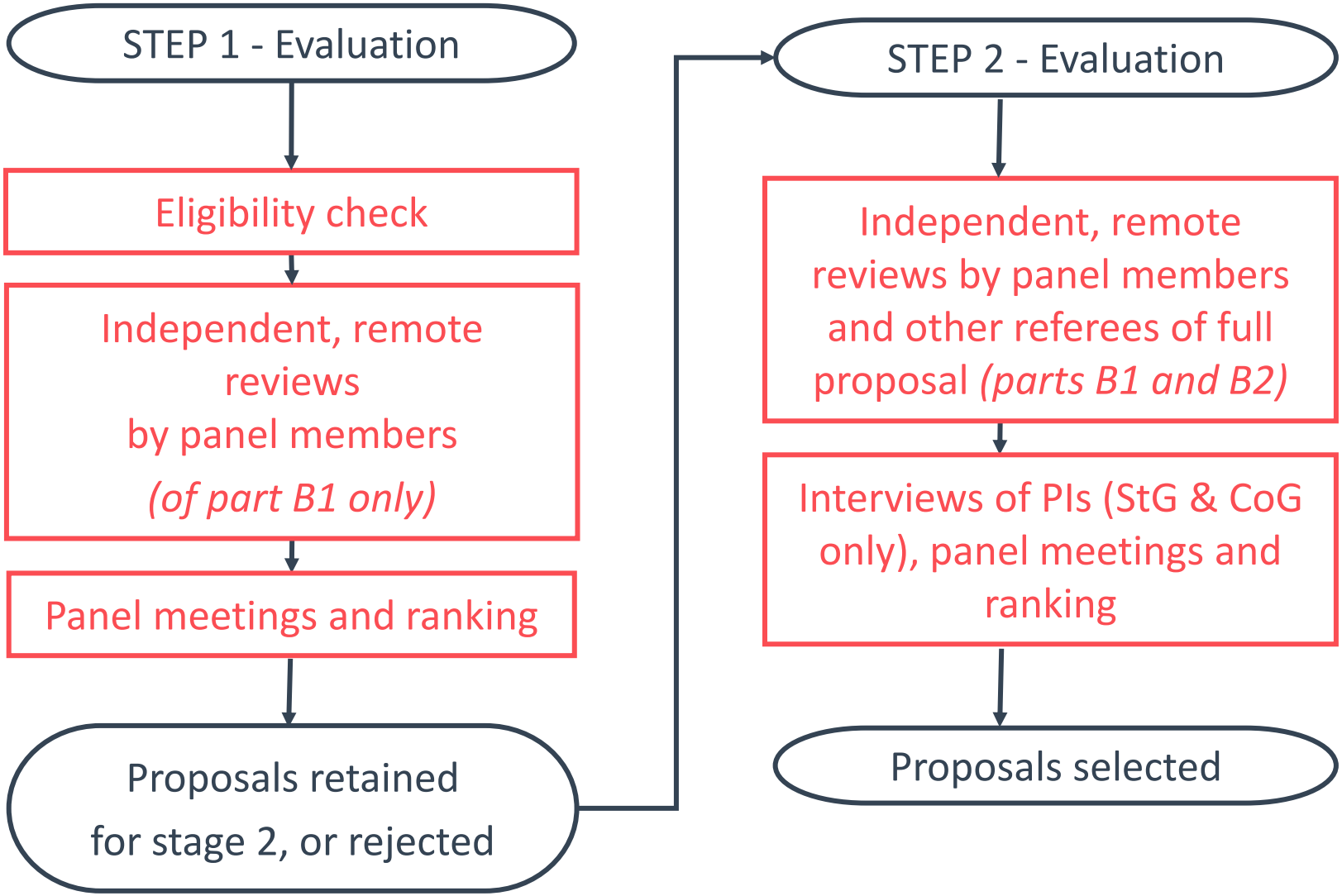
- 3 research domains
- 25 panels - 2 separate sets of panel members
- Budget between the 3 domains will be determined based on the number of applications received to each domain – not pre-allocated.

Domain	Panels	Deadline
Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)	10	Single deadline for all research domains : **17.00 Brussels time**
Life Sciences (LS)	9	
Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)	6	

Example of Peer Review Panels

- Examples:
  - PE4 – Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences – Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics.
  - LS7 – Diagnostic Tools, Therapies and Public Health – Aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of disease, public health, epidemiology, pharmacology, clinical medicine, regenerative medicine, medical ethics.
  - SH2 – Institutions, Values, Environment and Space – Political science, law, sustainability science, geography, regional studies and planning.
- For full list of all 25 panels and keywords see the Information for Applicants document
- Who will be evaluating my proposal? The lists of panel members for previous ERC calls can be found on the ERC website: http://erc.europa.eu/evaluation-panels

Proposal Evaluation Process



Scoring System

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Step 1 (Part B1 of proposal)

- **A** is of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation;
- **B** is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation; and
- **C** is not of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation.

- Applicants scoring B or C told the ranking range of their proposal out of those evaluated by the panel

Step 2 (full proposal and interview for StG and CoG)

- **A** fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available; and
- **B** meets some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded.

- Applicants told the ranking range of their proposal out of the proposals evaluated by the panel

Proportions Per Score (From 2014 Calls)

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Evaluated Step 1			
Score	**StG-2014**	**CoG-2014**	**AdG-2014**
A	26%	33%	25%
B	43%	37%	43%
C	31%	30%	32%
Evaluated step 2			
Score	**StG-2014**	**CoG-2014**	**AdG-2014**
A (funded)	45%	46%	34%
A (non-funded)	27%	27%	35%
B	27%	27%	30%

Restrictions on Submissions of Proposals for 2016 StG, CoG Calls

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- A PI may submit proposals to different ERC frontier research grant calls made under the same Work Programme, but **only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated**.
- A PI whose proposal was evaluated as category A in the frontier research calls under Work Programme 2015 may submit a proposal to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2016.
- *A PI whose proposal was evaluated as **category B at step 2** in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programme 2015 **may submit a proposal** to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2016.
- A PI whose proposal was evaluated as **category B at step 1** in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programme 2015 **may not submit** a proposal to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2016.

***New for 2016**

Restrictions on Submissions of Proposals for 2016 StG, CoG Calls

- A PI whose proposal was evaluated as **category C** in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programmes 2014 or 2015 **may not submit a proposal** to frontier research calls made under Work Programme 2016.
- *A PI whose proposal was rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity in the calls for proposals under Work Programmes 2014 or 2015 may not submit a proposal to the calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2016.
- A researcher may participate as PI (or Co-I) in only one ERC frontier research project at any one time.
- A researcher participating as PI in an ERC frontier research project may not submit a proposal for another ERC frontier research grant, unless the existing project ends no more than two years after the call deadline.
- A PI who is a serving Panel Member for a 2016 ERC call or who served as a Panel Member for a 2014 ERC call may not apply to a 2016 ERC call for the same type of grant.

***New for 2016**

Interviews

Interviews

- All PIs whose proposals are retained for Step 2 of the peer review process will be interviewed by the peer review panel
- **Takes place in Brussels** (travel costs reimbursed), and must attend in person
  - except in exceptional cases (i.e. pregnancy, immobility due to illness, out in research fieldwork) video or telephone interview can be arranged
- Interview lasts approximately 30 minutes (depending on panel)
  - Start with a presentation by the PI on the outline of the research project
  - Followed by a question and answer session
- Not formally weighted, but the panel will take into account the results of the interview alongside the individual reviews.

Interviews Tips

- **Be prepared** for a wide range of questions from different panellists, i.e. from people not necessarily expert in your specific field
- Keep the presentation as simple as possible
- **Arrange mock interviews** and practice extensively
- It's a project pitch rather than a lab meeting, so can also include a short overview of your key achievements as a researcher
  - What do you want people to remember from a short presentation?
- Similarly, can include a short update of CV since the proposal was submitted
- Acknowledge any possible uncertainties/gaps in knowledge, but make clear that you have plans to address them = panel should be confident that PI will be able to deal with potential difficulties

What Happens Next?

- After the review process:
  - Funding decision and feedback
  - (Redress? Seek advice from UKRO? Very low success rate. Redress requests should be raised within one month of the date of the initial information letter, details will be given in your letter from the ERC)
  - Feedback from ethics review?
  - Preparation of the grant agreement between the host and the ERC
  - No project negotiations as such
  - Grant agreement based on the proposal and the peer review decision
  - Can accept/reject the offered grant
- When the project starts
  - Sign grant agreement
  - Set up project account
  - Recruit staff onto project
  - Expect that all projects start within 6 months from the award

Final General Tips on Writing Your Application

1. Liaise with your HoD and Research Office
2. Use clear and concise language
3. Pay careful attention to each section
4. Be ambitious, but show awareness of cutting edge
5. Look at examples of successful applications
6. Read all the documentation, including the Grant Agreement
7. Be realistic with the budget, clearly link your budget to activities. Has your institution agreed your budget?
8. Proofread your application
9. Get application reviewed by colleagues
10. Stick to page, font size, budget limits and format
11. Check submission checklist from Guide for Applicants
12. It is possible to submit your proposal on the Participant Portal as many times as you like before the deadline

Useful Links

- Participant Portal
- ERC website
- ERC statistics on funded projects
- ERC panel members
- ERC funded projects
- 2016 ERC Work Programme
- NCP – erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk
- ERC Annual Report
- ERC report on activities in FP7 (2007-2013)