

European Research Council (ERC)
**Starting Independent Researcher Grants
Information and Proposal Writing Events**

The UK Research Office – in its capacity as UK National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Research Council (ERC) – and in partnership with institutions from across the UK, will hold a series of information events for researchers (based in the UK or moving to the UK) interested in applying for the ERC Starting Grants:

- **University of Bristol**, Wednesday 10th September 2008
- **University of Leeds**, Wednesday 17th September 2008
- **Goldsmiths, University of London**, Thursday 18th September 2008
- **University of Warwick**, Monday 22nd September 2008
- **University of Strathclyde**, Friday 26th September 2008

Aim of each session

The aim of each session is to provide participants with an overview of the ERC in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), focusing on the Starting Grant scheme. Participants should gain a deeper understanding of the proposal format and the key issues they are required to address in planning, writing and costing a Starting Grant proposal. Attendance will be free of charge, thanks to the support from the hosting organisations. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Who should attend?

The sessions will be of particular interest to UK-based researchers planning to submit a proposal for the ERC Starting Grants.

Programme outline

Two identical sessions will be held at each venue, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. **Please note it is only necessary to attend one session.** Both sessions will provide an overview of the ERC and will focus the application process for the ERC Starting Grants. There will be opportunities to ask questions during each session.

- **Morning session:**
The morning session will start at **09:30** promptly (with registration from 9.10) and close at **13.00**.
- **Afternoon session:**
The afternoon session will start at **14:00** promptly (with registration from 13.40) and close at **17.30**.

Registration

If you would like to attend please complete the on-line registration form at:
http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/08_events_stg/registration_form.htm

Funding Opportunities in Framework Programme 7 The European Research Council

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding agency for frontier research. Early stage researchers, as well as fully established investigators, from across Europe are able to compete for ERC grants with scientific excellence as the sole criterion for funding. The ERC is funded by the European Commission as one part of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for European Research & Technological Development (2007-2013).

ERC Grant Schemes

Two funding schemes will operate on a "bottom-up" basis across all research fields, without predetermined priorities. These two schemes are expected to be the core of the ERC's operations for the duration of FP7.

ERC Starting Grants

The scheme aims to provide support to the independent careers of excellent researchers, whatever their nationality, located in or moving to the EU and associated countries, who are at the stage of establishing or consolidating their own independent research team, or depending on the field, their independent research programme. The first call closed in April 2007 and the first projects are now underway. The second call [ERC-2009-StG] was published in July 2008, with deadlines in Autumn 2008.

ERC Advanced Grants

This scheme aims to encourage and support excellent, innovative research projects which are initiated and led by established top research leaders. It targets active researchers who have already established themselves as being scientifically independent and world-class leaders in their own right. The first call closed in spring 2008, the evaluation process is still underway. The second call is expected to be published in November 2008, with deadlines in spring 2009. The UK ERC NCP is planning to run events for the Advanced Grants in late 2008/early 2009. If you would like to receive e-mail notifications on future UK ERC events as well as updates on the ERC, please fill in the form at: www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm

Frequently asked questions on the ERC Starting Grants [ERC-2009-StG]

How much money is available per project?

The ERC Starting Grants will be up to €2 million and up to five years depending on the nature of the project. Institutions will be reimbursed at 100% of the direct eligible costs of the project, with an additional flat rate of 20% as a contribution to the overheads.

How many grants will be awarded?

250 – 300 grants are expected to be awarded in this call

Who is eligible?

For the current call, to be eligible Principal Investigators (PIs) must be at least three years 3 and less than 8 years after the completion of their PhD (compared to 2-9 years for the 2007 Call). Under certain circumstances it is possible to apply for an extension up to 11 years post PhD. Eligible PIs can from anywhere in the world, however they must carry out their research in host institution in an EU Member State or Associated Country. The PIs host institution is required to submit a letter commitment along with your proposal.

Which deadline should I apply to?

There are three separate deadlines, one per domain,

- Physical Sciences & Engineering domain (Panels PE1 - PE10) - 29 October 2008
- Social Sciences & Humanities domain (Panels SH1 - SH6) - 19 November 2008
- Life Sciences domain (Panels LS1 - LS9) - 10 December 2008

If I was unsuccessful at the first call, can I re-apply?

Yes, anyone who applied to the 2007 call is free to re-apply to the current 2009 call irrespective of the mark they were awarded. Different resubmission rules which will apply for future calls though, and these are explained in the 2009 Guide for Applicants.

Where can I find out more information?

Further information, including the ERC Work Programme and Guide for Applicants are available on the UK ERC NCP website:

<http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc>

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If you have any questions please e-mail the UK ERC NPC helpdesk at: erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk or phone 0032 2 2896121.