

# The European Research Council – funding opportunities for bright minds

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Is an ERC grant for you? I will explain what the European Research Council is, who can benefit from its funding opportunities and what to expect in the application and selection process. The ERC supports researchers performing interesting and ambitious fundamental research. This could be you.

The mission of the European Research Council is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe. The concept is simple, competitive individual funding for researchers with a great idea, across all fields. ERC grants are awarded through open competition to projects headed by starting and established researchers of any nationality and age, who are working or moving to work in Europe or an associated country. The sole criterion of choice is scientific excellence.

The ERC approach allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in any field of research, rather than being led by set priorities. This ensures that funds are channeled into new and promising areas of research with a greater degree of flexibility and that scientists are the ones driving the development of their field. This is documented by numerous ongoing and completed ERC projects on topics in General Relativity, Gravitation and Gravitational Waves. You will have the opportunity to ask ERC grantees presenting in this session about their experience.