

# FAQ ERC 2014 Calls



ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)		
No	Question	Answer
1.	Do the re-submission rules apply only to Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators, or also to team members? Can a team member working in a project that is financed by an ERC Advanced Grant apply for a Starting Grant?	<p>The restrictions on applications only apply to Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators (Co-Investigator projects were supported under the Ideas Work Programmes from 2008 – 2011).</p> <p>There is no restriction for a team member to submit a proposal to an ERC grant as Principal Investigator as long as the required working-time commitment can be respected.</p> <p>For more information, please see the <a href="#">ERC Work Programme 2014</a>: Restrictions on submission of proposals.</p>
2.	Can a Principal Investigator who holds a permanent position in a research organisation in the US apply for an ERC Advanced Grant with a Host Institution located in Europe?	<p>Yes. A Principal Investigator engaged in the US or in a third country can apply for an ERC grant in cooperation with a Host Institution in Europe as long as (s)he will be engaged and hosted by a Host Institution based in an EU Member State or an <a href="#">Associated Country</a> for the whole duration of the grant (see the ERC Work Programme 2014: Eligible Principal Investigator and Eligible Host Institution). The Principal Investigator should be strongly committed to the project and willing to devote a significant amount of time to it: at least 30% of their total working time to the ERC funded project and spend at least 50% of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country (see the <a href="#">ERC Work Programme 2014: Advance Grant Profile</a>).</p>
3.	Can a Principal Investigator who is engaged part-time by two different research organisations at the same	<p>Yes, that is possible as long as the Principal Investigator is supported by one of the two research organisations as Host Institution (applicant legal entity) for the full duration of the grant (see the ERC Work Programme 2014: Eligible Host Institution). The other research organisation, location of additional team members, should be referred to as an additional partner in the research proposal (Part B) and its details given in the administrative proposal submission form in the <a href="#">Participant Portal Submission Service (PPSS)</a></p>

	time and leads a research group at both places apply for an ERC Advanced Grant with both research groups executing the proposed project as one team?	
4.	Can an SME (Small or medium-sized enterprise) qualify as Host Institution to support an ERC project?	Yes. Any SME (as defined by <a href="#">Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC</a> ) can be Host Institution for an ERC grant as long as it meets the conditions of eligibility of the Host Institution laid down in the ERC Work Programme 2014. The Principal Investigator decides in which Host Institution (s)he would like to implement the proposed project.
5.	Can a Principal Investigator, whose proposal was submitted to one of the 2013 ERC frontier research grant calls and evaluated at the end of Step 1 as of insufficient quality to pass to Step 2 (C category), submit an application for the Advanced Grant 2014 call?	No, a Principal Investigator cannot submit an Advanced Grant proposal in 2014, if the proposal submitted in 2013 to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls was evaluated as of insufficient quality threshold at the end of Step 1.  However, a Principal Investigator whose Synergy Grant proposal submitted in 2013 was evaluated as category C may submit a proposal to the Advanced Grant call under ERC Work Programme 2014.
6.	If a researcher <b>has less than ten years of research</b> experience, can (s)he apply to the Advanced Grant?	A Principal Investigator can apply for an ERC Advanced Grant even if (s)he does not yet have ten years of research experience. However, applicants for the prestigious ERC Advanced Grant shall be active researchers and have a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years which must be presented in the application. The emphasis lies on recent outstanding research results which are not older than 10 years.  For more information on the expected profile of the Advanced Grant applicant, please refer to the <a href="#">ERC Work Programme 2014</a> : Advanced Grant profile or the <a href="#">Information for applicants</a> relevant for the call.
7.	Can <b>only PhD holders</b> apply to an ERC	No, a PhD is not formally required to submit a proposal for an ERC Advanced Grant. As specified in the <a href="#">Information for applicants</a> relevant to the call, excellence is the sole criterion for the evaluation of a proposal.

	Advanced Grant?	<p>However, a Principal Investigator is expected to have outstanding research results within the last 10 years.</p> <p>For more information, please refer to the <a href="#">ERC Work Programme 2014</a> : Advanced Grant profile or the <a href="#">Information for applicants</a> relevant for the call.</p>
8.	Can a researcher who is nearing retirement apply for the ERC Advanced Grant?	<p>Yes, an experienced researcher is welcome to apply for an ERC Advanced Grant at any stage of his/her career if (s)he can prove - independently of his/her age - that (s)he is (still) an active researcher with recent outstanding results. As stated in the <a href="#">ERC Work Programme 2014</a>, Principal Investigators may be of any age and nationality and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application.</p> <p>The commitment and official support of a Host Institution is nevertheless required for the whole duration of the grant.</p> <p>For more information, see the <a href="#">ERC Work Programme 2014</a> (sections related to Eligible Principal Investigator and Eligible Host Institution), or the <a href="#">Information for applicants</a> relevant for the call.</p>
9.	How can a candidate, who was not continuously engaged in research or other professional activities during the previous ten years due to maternity/paternity leave, demonstrate her/his merit for an ERC Advanced Grant?	<p>It is recommended that the researcher provides evidence of recent achievements of intellectual productivity and creativity. If a researcher returned to his/her original or new project(s) following a sabbatical leave, the reviewers are asked to take such circumstances into consideration.</p> <p>For <u>maternity</u>, the track record considered can be extended by 18 months for each child born before or during the last ten years.</p> <p>For <u>paternity</u>, the track record considered can be extended by the actual amount of paternity leave taken for each child born before or during the last ten years.</p> <p>For <u>long-term illness</u>, <u>clinical qualification</u> or <u>national service</u> the track record considered can be extended by the amount of leave taken for each incident which occurred during the last ten years.</p> <p>The track record considered should in no case surpass 14 years and six months.</p> <p>For more information, please refer to the <a href="#">ERC Work Programme 2014</a>, Profile of the ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator, or the <a href="#">Information for applicants</a> relevant for the call.</p>
10.	What are the <b>reporting requirements</b> for an ERC grant?	<p>Article 20 of the H2020 ERC Grant Agreement defines the reporting requirements and foresees two different reporting streams to cover the financial aspects on the one hand and the scientific aspects of the grant on the other hand. This approach distinguishes ERC projects from standard H2020 projects.</p> <p>Scientific reports are the responsibility of the Principal Investigator on behalf of the beneficiary and are</p>

		<p>submitted via the Host Institution usually only twice during the lifetime of a project (at mid-term and at the end).</p> <p>The financial reports are to be prepared by the Host Institution in consultation with the Principal Investigator and must usually be submitted every 18 months including information on the use of resources and the general implementation of the project (see Article 20.3 of ERC Model Grant Agreement H2020).</p> <p>Only once at the end of an Action, the Host Institution will also have to include a Certificate on Financial Statements for each beneficiary (and linked third party) depending on the amount of the costs claimed (if it requests a total contribution of €325.000 or more).</p> <p><b>Both types of reports (Scientific and Financial) are prepared and submitted online via the Participant Portal.</b></p>
11.	<p>What is the <b>best practice for communication</b> between the Host Institution, the Principal Investigator and the ERC Executive Agency <b>during the grant preparation and implementation?</b></p>	<p>In H2020 all interactions with the ERCEA will take place online via the Participant Portal.</p> <p>The handling of documents will be fully electronic as there is no need anymore to exchange any paper document. The grants will be prepared and then signed electronically. Requests of amendments will be prepared, submitted and, in case accepted or rejected electronically. All Reports will have to be drafted and submitted via the Portal. According to the various phases of the project-life cycle the correct actors (HIs and/or PIs) will be informed via email that certain tasks must be performed in the Portal.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above and in an effort to keep on offering a high level service, the Agency strongly encourages both the Host Institutions and the Principal Investigators to contact the respective Agency staff for discussion in an informal phase all developments of changes in their respective action. This is of utmost importance in order to avoid cancellation of documents or requests submitted via the Portal which are incomplete or incorrect;</p> <p>The general inquiry email: <a href="mailto:ERC-C2@ec.europa.eu">ERC-C2@ec.europa.eu</a>, as mentioned in the ERC Grant Agreement, should be used regarding questions on implementation of the grant.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ERCEA has set up a helpdesk to provide Principal Investigators with assistance and guidance throughout the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>The helpdesk can be contacted by email at: <a href="mailto:ERC-C2-PI-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu">ERC-C2-PI-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu</a></p>