

European Research Council (ERC)
**Advanced Investigator Grants
Information and Proposal Writing Events**

In its capacity as UK National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Research Council (ERC), the UK Research Office, in partnership with institutions from across the UK, will hold a series of information events. These are designed for researchers who are based in or moving to the UK and are interested in applying for the ERC Advanced Investigator Grants:

- **University of Edinburgh**, Tuesday 24th November 2009
- **University of Leeds**, Wednesday 25th November 2009
- **University College London**, Friday 27th November 2009
- **Cardiff University**, Monday 30th November 2009

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 Advanced Grants scheme. The Advanced Grants call opened on 29 October 2009, with deadlines in Spring 2010. Participants will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the proposal format and the key issues they are required to address in planning, writing and costing an Advanced Grant proposal. Attendance will be free of charge, thanks to the support from the hosting organisations.

Who should attend?

The sessions will be of particular interest to UK-based researchers planning to submit a proposal for the ERC Advanced Grants. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Programme outline

Two identical sessions will be held at each venue, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. **Please note that it is only necessary to attend one session.** Both sessions will provide an overview of the ERC and will focus on the application process for the ERC Advanced 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 **13.15**.
- **Afternoon session:**
The afternoon session will start at **14:00** promptly (with registration from 13.40) and close at **17.45**.

Registration

If you would like to attend please complete the on-line registration form at:
www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/09_events_adg/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 and fully established investigators from across Europe can compete for ERC grants where scientific excellence is the sole criterion for funding. The ERC, which was created in 2007, is funded by the European Commission as one part of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for European Research & Technological Development (2007-13). The ERC has two main funding schemes, Starting and Advanced Grants. These both operate on a "bottom-up" basis across all research fields, without predetermined priorities, and fund projects led by a Principal Investigator (PI) and, if appropriate, their team.

ERC Starting Grants

This scheme aims to provide critical and adequate support to the independent careers of excellent researchers of any nationality who are located in or moving to the EU or an FP7 associated country. It is designed for researchers who are at the stage of establishing or consolidating their own independent research team or, depending on the field, their independent research programme. The deadlines for the ERC-2010-StG call are in Autumn 2009. The next call for Starting Grants after this (ERC-2011-StG) is expected to be published in Spring 2010 and close in Autumn 2010, and the UK ERC NCP plan to run a series of events on this call in Summer 2010. 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

ERC Advanced Grants

This scheme aims to encourage and support excellent and innovative research projects which are initiated and led by established research leaders. It targets active researchers who have already established themselves as being scientifically independent and world-class leaders in their own right. ERC Advanced Grants provide an opportunity to established scientists and scholars to pursue frontier research of their choice. Applicants for Advanced Grants are expected to be active researchers who have a track record of significant research achievements in the last ten years. For the first Advanced Grants call (ERC-2008-AdG), of top 275 proposals across Europe, the UK is hosting the most grants with 59 (21%) and also has the most PI nationals (17%). The success rate of proposals with UK Host Institutions was ~19.7%, compared to an average across all countries of ~12.6%. **The third call for Advanced Grants (ERC-2010-AdG) was published on 29 October 2009, with deadlines in Spring 2010.**

Frequently asked questions on the ERC Advanced Grants [ERC-2010-AdG]

How much money is available per project?

The ERC Advanced Grants will be up to maximum of €2.5 million for up to five years (pro-rata). However, in certain cases the limit is increased to €3.5 million: a 'Co-Investigator project' (which must be interdisciplinary); the purchase of major research equipment; or a Principal Investigator who is coming from outside Europe. 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.

Who is eligible?

Eligible Principal Investigators (PIs) can come from anywhere in the world, however they must carry out their research in a host institution in an EU Member State or Associated Country. The PI's host institution is required to submit a letter commitment along with their proposal.

Which deadline should I apply to?

There are three separate deadlines, one per domain,

- Physical Sciences & Engineering domain (Panels PE1 - PE10) - 24 February 2010
- Life Sciences domain (Panels LS1 - LS9) - 17 March 2010
- Social Sciences & Humanities domain (Panels SH1 - SH6) - 7 April 2010

If I was unsuccessful for either of the first two Advanced Grants calls (ERC-2008-AdG or ERC-2009-AdG), can I re-apply?

Anyone who submitted an eligible proposal (as PI or Co-I) to either of the ERC-2008-AdG or ERC-2009-AdG calls can only apply to this ERC-2010-AdG call if they passed the 'quality thresholds' (**scoring 2 or more out of 4 for each of the evaluation criteria**) at the first step of peer review for their last proposal. Different resubmission rules will however apply for future calls, as explained in the 2010 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: www.ukro.ac.uk/erc. If you would like to receive e-mail notifications on future UK ERC NCP events as well as updates on the ERC, please fill in the form at: www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm