

Identification of potential candidates for ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grants

This overview is designed as a tool (and not as such a checklist) for departments to identify researchers who have the potential to apply for an ERC Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant. It considers the researcher's career stage, research output, leadership and personal profile with a focus on creativity, independence, and international visibility.

Heads of departments and/or the Research Committee can play a key role in facilitating ERC success by identifying researchers with the necessary potential and profile to apply for an ERC grant.

Indicators	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Points of attention
Career stage and relevant experience	0-10 years post-PhD. Researchers at the beginning of their independent research career.	5-15 years post-PhD. Researchers consolidating their research group and their position as independent researchers.	No specific time limit for PhD completion. Established researchers with groundbreaking scientific results and with a strong CV.	Do not wait to apply until the end of the 'eligibility window' if the fundamental research idea is groundbreaking - there's no difference in success rates across the 'eligibility window'. Does the researcher's career stage match the grant type they want to apply for?
Researcher's independence and creative thinking	Independence: The researcher must demonstrate research independence, which includes being the lead author on publications, having achieved research advances early in their career and preferably having successful grant applications behind them.			Has the researcher published as lead author and demonstrated the ability to lead independent research projects? Can the researcher point to impactful scientific achievements challenging the research field?
	Creative thinking: Projects should aim to achieve scientific breakthroughs and paradigm shifts. The researcher's ability to innovate and challenge existing paradigms is a key criterion for ERC.	At least 1 important publication as lead author without his/her PhD supervisor.	Documented research independence.	

Researcher's CV: Quality and impact	An excellent CV and track-record is essential, and the researcher must be able to demonstrate recognition in their field, including highly cited publications (in the subject areas where relevant), awards and international visibility.			Does the researcher have a CV with strong (highly cited) publications, international awards and prestigious grants?
	There's an emphasis on early successes as a lead author, particularly publications in highly respected journals and e.g. significant awards or other forms of international recognitions.	The CV should demonstrate a growing influence, strong publications, an international network and collaborations. Researchers should be on the verge of consolidating their position as a researcher.	The researcher must have an extensive career marked by significant scientific breakthroughs, numerous highly cited publications, and international recognition.	Does the researcher's CV demonstrate increasing international influence and recognition?
International visibility and network	An international profile is central to ERC applications and the researcher must demonstrate international engagement.			Has the researcher held postdoc positions abroad or participated in significant international collaborations?
	Early postdoc positions abroad and early international networks are important.	The researcher must be part of recognized international networks and collaborations. Invited talks/ presentations at international conferences are important.	The researcher must be internationally recognized and lead or play significant roles in international research projects and networks.	Has the researcher been invited to present at important conferences in the field?
Research vision: Timeliness and ambition	The researcher's ability to innovate and challenge existing paradigms is a key criterion for ERC. ERC projects are non-incremental, groundbreaking and with a very high impact/importance for the research field in question.			Is the researcher's project original and ambitious and at the same time realistically feasible in relation to the researcher's experience?
	The research projects must be both ground-breaking and feasible in relation to the researcher's experience and career stage.			
	The focus is on the researcher's ability to build a research program with groundbreaking and at the same time feasible goals.	The research vision must be ambitious and original, but feasible based on the researcher's previous results and experiences.	The research vision must be pioneering in the field and of global importance, but the project must be realistic given the researchers extensive experience.	Does the project fit into the researcher's current career stage and research plan?
	The competitive researcher can demonstrate leadership skills and experience in managing large research projects.			Has the researcher led research projects or groups

Leadership potential and project experience	<p>Focus on the <u>potential</u> to build and lead a research group.</p> <p>The competitive researcher can demonstrate leadership skills and experience managing larger research projects.</p> <p>The researcher must be an established research leader with experience in managing complex, interdisciplinary research projects at an international level.</p>			<p>with the potential to grow as a research leader?</p> <p>Does the researcher have experience with complex research projects at an international level?</p>
Grants already achieved	<p>Keep track of researchers who have been granted individual excellence grants from both national and international funders – they will most likely be competitive for an ERC grant with the right ERC idea.</p> <p>Examples of individual excellence grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Research Fund Denmark – Sapere Aude • Lundbeck Foundation - Fellows • Novo Nordisk Foundation – Investigator grants • Villum Foundation – Young Investigator + Investigator • Carlsberg Foundation – Semper Ardens 			