

Writing a Successful ERC Grant Proposal

In this webinar programme for ERC Starting Grant and Consolidator 2022 applicants we will discuss the ERC objectives and structure and how panels assess to what extent the proposed research is the best written proposal in your life time and contains high-quality research.

The ERC selection criteria applied by the panels use terms which have become familiar jargon, such as important challenge, groundbreaking, scientific approach and feasibility. Most of these terms are also used by other funding agencies but they are interpreted and applied differently. This webinar will explain in detail not only what these terms mean and imply under the ERC umbrella but also how the ERC panel members use these terms to assess, discuss and select project proposals. This process differs from panel to panel. Take for example feasibility of the scientific approach which is assessed differently by a life sciences panel focusing on basic research, resolving causes of diseases or applied research. Similarly, development of a new methodology has a different meaning in applied and basic research. What does this imply? This webinar will supply you with the necessary knowledge to write a successful ERC proposal and will be an invaluable aid in meeting the ERC standards and getting one step closer to being awarded an ERC grant.

Using the ERC guide "*Instructions for Applicants*" we will explain how you can address the ERC selection criteria and the panel specifics and draft a competitive project proposal. For example, we will examine keywords used in the ERC documentation and explain how to present a competitive proposal by focusing on high-quality research. We will discuss what defines high-quality research and how the ERC evaluation criteria can be used to translate your project idea into high-quality research. How can the term '*groundbreaking*' be used to mark the innovativeness or originality of the proposed research and the term '*high gain*' to demonstrate the potential breakthrough in science? How can your ambition be balanced by evidence for feasibility and back-up plans?

We will explain in detail how to address the evaluation criteria and in particular innovativeness and feasibility in view of the panel specifics and research fields.

1. Training objectives

To provide researchers with a good understanding of:

- the evaluation criteria and how to analyse them;
- how to write a competitive scientific proposal considering panel specifics and type of project; and
- what makes an excellent PI according to the reviewers of the different domains/panels.

2. Who should attend?

The webinars will be of value for applicants who want to submit an ERC proposal. Depending on the scientific backgrounds of the participants we will highlight domain-specific issues.

3. Methodology

The webinars will be in English, with no translation. The trainer(s) will provide practical information and discuss with the participants the requested information, the evaluation criteria and the best strategy for drafting the proposal.

The webinars are interactive and include moments for discussion to promote an exchange of views between participants and trainer(s). Each participant receives an extensive guide with information on the topics listed.

4. Trainer

Dr. Mette Skraastad is a founder and partner of Yellow Research and has successfully trained candidates in writing ERC proposals since the 2008 call. She has extensive experience

both in running ERC workshops and in pre-submission reviewing of ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy grants. Her knowledge and experience in pre-submission reviewing of ERC proposals is an important aspect of our success in this proposal writing training.

5. Programme webinars

Day 1 WEBINAR 1 - 9.30-11.30 am - 16-09-2021

- Part 1** **ERC in a nutshell: who is your audience**
ERC structure and evaluation procedure.
- Part 2** **How to write an abstract for ERC**
The abstract should provide the reader with core information on the objectives and how these will be achieved. We will discuss here successful abstracts.
- Part 3** **Challenge and potential breakthrough - Groundbreaking nature and impact**
We will discuss how to present the challenge(s) or research question (s), project idea and relevance to the critical reviewers. We will discuss ERC terms as challenges and innovativeness and how panels select proposals using the sole selection criterion excellence taking into account potential impact in view of high risk high gain balance.
- Part 4** **Feasibility of Scientific Approach - Maturity of proposed research**
The ERC panels are assessing the appropriateness of the methodologies for achieving the goals. Hereto they assess whether the proposed research and methodologies are feasible based on the information you provide on strategy, steps and key intermediate stages and goals. We will discuss this in the context of the proposed research..

Day 2 WEBINAR 2 - 9.30 - 11.30 on 17-09-2021

- Part 5** **Selecting ERC panel – Focus of panel**
We will discuss how to select the best panel to increase the likelihood of funding.
- Part 6** **How to write the B1 part**
We will discuss the different sections of the proposal and what information could or should be presented in each section and why. We will walk through all proposal sections being: Summary, Extended Synopsis and PI description.
- Part 7** **How to write the B2 part**
We will discuss the Scientific Proposal and the on line A3 form for justifying the costs. Going from promises made to the potential added value in view of ongoing research and how to structure the proposed research.
- Part 8** **Questions & answers and closing**

6. Date, Time and Contact

Date	16 and 17 September 2021
Time	9.30-11.30 am
Contact	grantsoffice@ki.se