

Writing a Successful ERC Grant Proposal

In this webinar programme for ERC Advanced Grant 2021 applicants we will discuss how to draft a competitive ERC proposal.

Most senior researchers know how to draft a competitive research proposal. ERC proposals are however somewhat different because of the specific evaluation criteria and procedure applied. To enhance the likelihood of an ERC award, a good understanding of how panels assess ERC proposals and what they are looking for **is a must**. It is not sufficient to submit a project proposal with an appealing project idea having a major potential impact since ERC Advanced Grant calls attract excellent applicants from all over the world. This programme will show even experienced proposal writers what they have to add to their “usual proposal recipe” to be successful in ERC.

In two webinars we will discuss five key elements for drafting a competitive ERC proposal, by stepping into the role of the panels and evaluators and looking into the ERC objectives and evaluation criteria.

The first two parts will explain what ERC panels are looking for and how to they select research proposals. The third part will give you insight into how to select the most appropriate ERC panel having the capacity to assess your research proposal. The last two parts will supply you with the necessary knowledge to draft a successful ERC proposal. Using the ERC guide “*Instructions for Applicants*” we will explain in Part IV and V how you can address the ERC selection criteria and the panel specifics, convey the key messages and draft a competitive project proposal. Being a timely and innovative proposal with the right risk and gain balance and a research leader having the expertise and capacity to lead the team but also to train the next generation of researchers.

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 and trainer

The trainer(s) will provide practical information and discuss the requested information, the evaluation criteria and the best strategy for drafting the proposal with the participants.

Dr. Mette Skraastad, founder and partner of Yellow Research has extensive experience in running ERC workshops and in pre-submission review of ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy grants. At Yellow Research we have successfully trained candidates for writing ERC proposals since the 2008 call. Her knowledge and experience in pre-submission review of ERC proposals is an important aspect of our success in training.

4. Webinar Programme

DAY 1 WEBINAR 9.00 - 11.00 AM on 31-05-2021

- Part I Challenge and potential breakthrough - Groundbreaking nature and potential 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.
- Part II 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 the feasibility of the scientific approach of the proposed research by the ERC panel to assess whether the proposed research and methodologies are feasible. This implies that the proposed research needs to have well-structured work plan with clear intermediate goals and expected results/outcomes. and evidence for feasibility and appropriate back-up plans. We will discuss how to present the scientific approach.
- Part III Short questions and answers session**

DAY 1 WEBINAR 14:00 - 15.30 on 31-05-2021

- Part IV Selecting ERC panel - Focus of panel**
We will discuss how to select the best panel to increase the likelihood of funding.
- Part V 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 VI 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 VII Questions and answers and closing**

5. Date, Location, Contact

Date	See programme above
Location	Zoom webinars – Link will be sent after registration
Booking	https://fserc2021.sciencesconf.org