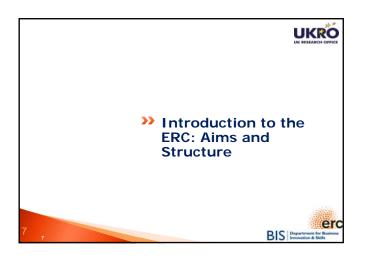


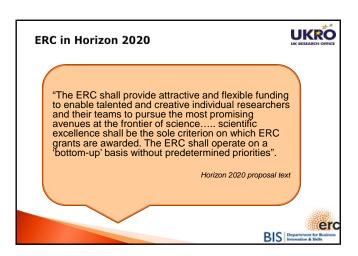
# WKRO's Mission: "To promote effective UK engagement in EU research, innovation and higher education activities" The office: Is based in Brussels, was established in 1984 Is sponsored by the seven UK Research Councils Around 130 research organisations subscribe to UKRO WATER ARMENTAL STATES OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

## WKRO Portal: tailored news articles and clear and accessible web pages on the latest in EU funding – <a href="http://www.ukro.ac.uk">www.ukro.ac.uk</a>. Enquiry service: individual support through your dedicated European Advisor Annual briefing visits: bespoke training for your institution Meeting room: a venue in Brussels List of UKRO subscribing institutions can be seen here: <a href="http://www.ukro.ac.uk/aboutukro/Pages/subscribers.aspx">http://www.ukro.ac.uk/aboutukro/Pages/subscribers.aspx</a>

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# European Research Council UK National Contact Point Helpdesk • Website: http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc • Sign up for ERC mailing list for events and key updates http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/Pages/erc\_newsletter\_registration.aspx • Helpdesk via email and telephone (email: erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk or phone 0032 2289 6121) • Advice on applying for ERC grants: • Eligibility • Application help • Results • Contractual issues • Advice to those with ERC grants • Specialist training courses and information events

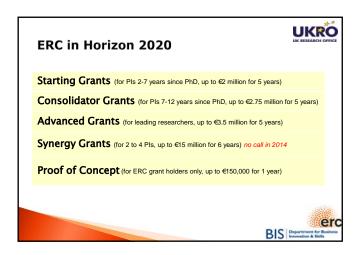


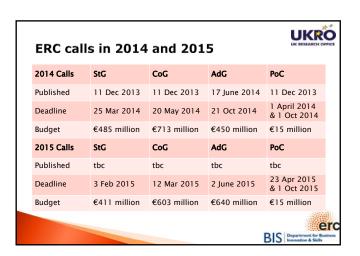


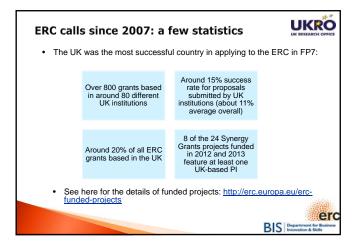
## FRC in Horizon 2020 - What can be funded? The ERC seeks to fund the best 'frontier research' proposals submitted by excellent researchers in the area of their choice. Will fund projects led by a Principal Investigator, if necessary supported by a research team (no requirement for collaboration or forming a team across different EU countries). 25 panels in 3 domains which proposals can be submitted to: Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE) Life Sciences (LS) Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)

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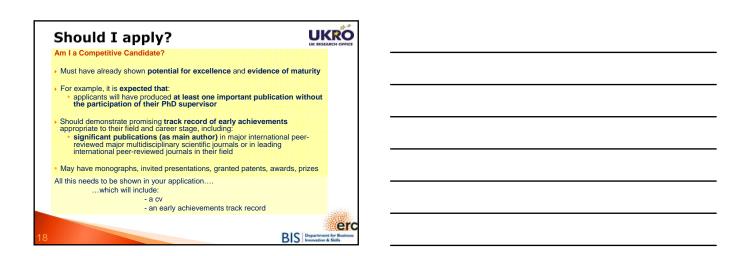


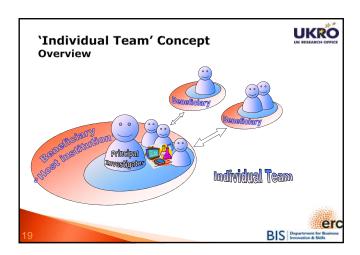
# Starting Grants – Continuity with FP7 Scheme aims to: Support excellent researchers at the stage of starting their own independent research team or programme Improve opportunities and independence at the start of a research career Provide structure for transition from working under a supervisor to independent research Enable PIs to create excellent new teams to bring new ideas to their disciplines



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### Principal Investigator (PI)



- Central to the grant and review criteria
- Must have the potential to be a future independent research leader in their own right...
- Has the power to assemble a research group of team members & freedom to chose the research topic
- Expected to lead their team and be fully engaged in the running of the grant
- Can be of any age, nationality or current location





### **Principal Investigator continued**



- Expected to spend a minimum 50% of total working time on the ERC project and a minimum of 50% of total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country (this does not exclude fieldwork/research outside Europe needed to achieve research objectives)
- Chooses a host institution in EU Member State or Associated Country (or an 'International European Interest Organisation')
- Applies in conjunction with host institution and, if funded, signs 'supplementary agreement' with the host
- Resubmission rules apply to PI only (not to team members)



### PI's Host Institution



- · Can be any type of legal entity
- Must be based in the territory of an EU Member State or Associated Country
- · The PI does not have to be based there at the time of application
- Has the infrastructure and capacity to carry out frontier research project
- Must not constrain the PI to the research strategy of the institution
- Normally employs the PI

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### PI's Host Institution

- Must provide appropriate conditions for the PI to direct independently the research and manage the ERC funding
- Not assessed as a separate criterion during Peer Review
- · Is the 'applicant legal entity'
- Signs a Supporting Statement as part of application
- If funded signs up to the Grant Agreement
- If funded, signs a 'Supplementary Agreement' with the PI
- Host institution should not really be changed during review process but researchers can move once funded

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### **Team Members**

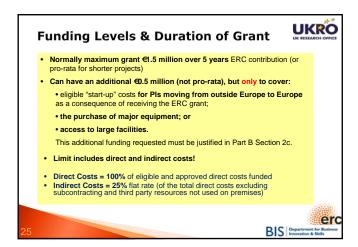


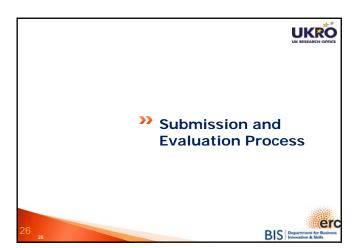
- PI has freedom to choose appropriate 'team members' (the ERC's term)
- Constitution of individual research team is flexible (senior research staff, post-docs, PhDs, non academic staff, etc...)
- PI's host institution normally the only institution; could have team members from other institutions in the same or different countries (institutions will sign Grant Agreement)
- Team members can be of any age, nationality & country of residence
- Team members do not need to be independent
- Resubmission rules do not apply to team members
- REMEMBER: Individual research team headed by a single PI (including any team members at other institutions) so NOT a traditional network or research consortium

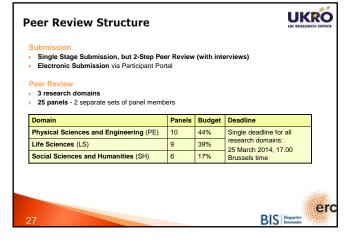
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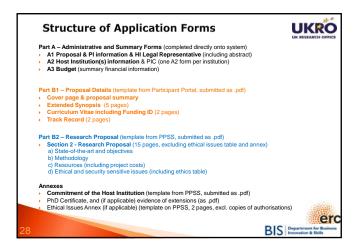
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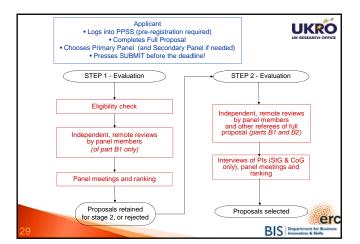
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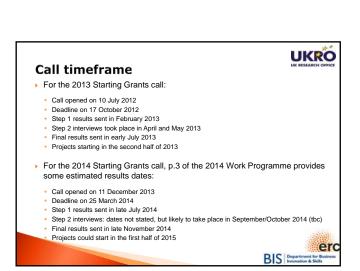




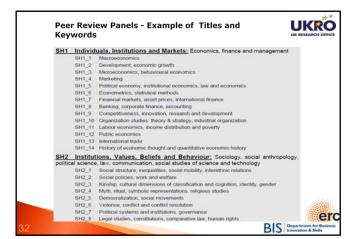








## Peer Review Panels Examples: PE10 - Earth System Science physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management LS8 - Evolutionary, Population & Environmental Biology evolution, ecology, animal behaviour, population biology, biodiversity, biogeography, marine biology, ecotoxicology, microbial biology SH3 - Environment, Space and Population environmental studies, geography, demography, migration, regional & urban studies For full list of all 25 panels and keywords see the Guide for Applicants Who will be evaluating my proposal? The lists of panel members for previous ERC calls can be found on the ERC website: http://erc.europa.eu/evaluation-panels



# Restrictions on Submission of Proposals (Rules for ERC-2014-StG Call) A PI may submit only one proposal for ERC calls (except for the Proof of Concept scheme) made under the same Work Programme. A PI whose proposal was evaluated as category C for a call under the 2014 Work Programme may not apply for a call made under the 2014 Work Programme. A Researcher may participate as Principal Investigator in only one ERC project at a time. A PI who holds an ERC grant cannot submit a proposal for another ERC grant unless the existing grant ends no more than 2 years after the call deadline A PI who is a serving panel member for a 2014 ERC call or who served as a Panel Member for a 2012 ERC call may not apply to a 2014 ERC call for the same type of grant.

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# In addition: A PI whose proposal is evaluated as category C in a call under the 2014 Work Programme may not submit a proposal to a call under the 2015 or 2016 Work Programmes. A PI whose proposal is finally evaluated as category B in the 2014 Work Programme calls may not submit a proposal to the calls for proposals made under the 2015 Work Programme. So – think about the timing of proposal and when to apply!

### **Using Participant Portal Submission Service**



- PPSS: not yet available at time of writing!!
- Forms should be completed online
- PI registers on PPSS and will be sent password and access details
  - · Passes on access to other participants
- Once registered, you can access PPSS directly
- Complete A forms online
- Download, complete and upload .pdf files of Part B (10Mb limit) & Annexes
- Format of name of pdf file given in Guide for Applicants
- Proposal formats and page numbers are strictly limited
- No additional documents allowed but reviewers can look at websites in order to further assess applicant's previous work
- Automated check of some things only
- Checklist given in Guide for Applicants



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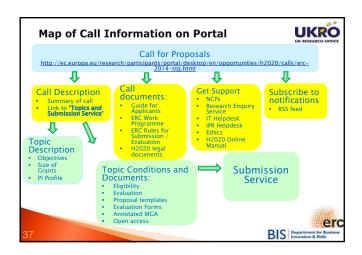
PPSS Tips



- ▶ Start in plenty of time, and check you can save as .pdf!
- Double check all details
- ▶ Can revise and resubmit up to deadline (submit often!)
- Remember to press 'submit' button!
- Deadline strictly enforced
- Check email acknowledgement contains all parts of your proposal
- Problems: Participant Portal IT helpdesk: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/api/contact/index.html

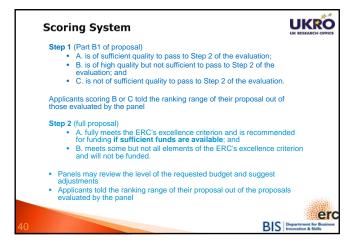
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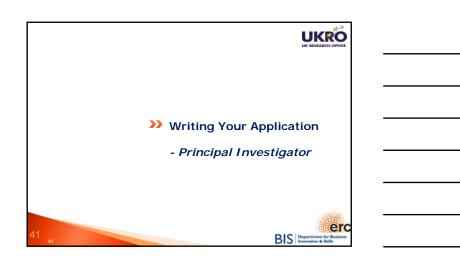
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### CV (2 pages max) Academic record Research record Concise 'Funding ID': Current research grants and their subject Ongoing applications for work relating to the proposal Any research career gaps and/or 'unconventional career paths' should be clearly explained so that they can be fairly assessed by the evaluation panels.

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Early Achievements Track Record
(2 pages max)

Publications

in major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals and/or peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or research monographs of their respective research fields.

Highlight

Figure 1 for presentative publications and those without the presence of your PhD supervisor as co-author.

Also indicate the number of citations (excluding self-citations) they have attracted.

Granted patent(s)\*

Invited presentations to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools.

## Sell yourself! Remember the Funding ID section in the CV is important Make sure you address the full requirements of the track record, and consider what makes you stand out Clarify specific points to strengthen your application and give additional relevant details Explain anything that is UK specific The evaluators will review the PI on the basis of their experience and information the PI provides on the application form! If you refer to journal impact factors, state which one you are using Add a link to your website, and then keep your website UP TO DATE!

### FAQ - PI Criteria



- Is there a set style for the CV? No set style, it can be a fairly standard CV.
- What if I have changed research fields? Fine, but state in the application the skills/expertise learned in the other fields, and how this makes you well-placed to tackle the proposed project.
- I've mainly been teaching for the last 2 years, but before that I was an active researcher can I still apply? Yes, although the ERC are primarily looking for currently-active researchers it is still possible to apply. Applications from PIs with 'unconventional career paths' are also welcomed.
- Which publications are considered to be high quality? Depends on the field, the ERC evaluators will have an appreciation of this.
- What about papers that are yet to be published? It is possible to mention these within the CV and/or Track Record section.

What if my experience does not match the profile of the PI? Then maybe it is better to wait until further experience has been built up

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### How to score highly for the PI criterion? Some recurring feedback from successful applicants....



- Pack the Track Record with evidence about your achievements panels are more likely to give an ambitious project the go-ahead if they 'trust' the PI, and are convinced of your credibility as an excellent researcher/project leader.
- Avoid British understatement and 'sell' yourself as an excellent researcher.
- > Quote positive reviews of your work, highlighting esteem for your research from others in your field.
- Provide specific details of prizes, citation data for publications, project management experience, papers at conferences, mentoring of students etc.
- If possible, provide evidence of international influence and activities.
- > Try to explain how you are exactly the right person to undertake this particular project, at this specific moment in time.
- Refer explicitly to the criteria used in the Starting Grant call documents.





# Research Project – application Part B1 (Section 1a) Extended Synopsis (5 pages): Concise presentation of the scientific proposal, with particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the research project and the feasibility of the outlined scientific approach. Describe the proposed work in the context of the state of the art of the field Include references. Part B2 (Section 2): Scientific Proposal (15 pages): Detailed descriptions of the project's aim, planning, execution, and required resources State-of-the-art & Objectives Methodology, Resources (incl. costs)

	Research Project - Criteria (1)	UKRO UK BESEARCH OFFICE
	Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project	)
	<ul> <li>To what extent does the proposed research address imports challenges?</li> </ul>	ant
	<ul> <li>To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond th of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or developme across disciplines)?</li> </ul>	
	How much is the proposed research high risk/high gain?	
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<b>5</b> 0	BIS	Innovation & Skills

# Research Project - Criteria (2) Scientific Approach To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible (based on Extended Synopsis)? To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on Scientific Proposal)? To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on Scientific Proposal)? To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on Scientific Proposal)?



### **General tips** - Research Project criteria

- Consider what excites you about the research and convey this in your application (and at your interview!)
- Think about your audience and remember to explain UK-specific terminology
- Explain how the research will open new horizons or opportunities
- Provide a clear, concise work-plan which gives details of the intermediate goals
- Explain what each team member is doing (and their background/ recruitment profile)
- Make the application a pleasure to read: use data and graphs, visualise your ideas
- Clearly explain how you will manage and disseminate your project
- Justify the resources you need for your research proposal and ensure the resources are appropriate.

  Have you included all staff costs?

  Have you clearly shown the links between the costs and the research/methodology?





### How to frame the project? Recurring feedback from successful applicants...



- Convey passion and make clear the way in which you think the proposal breaks new ground and is innovative. What is your vision for 'frontier research'?
- Balance your vision with a strong, confident plan and good project structure
- Use the ERC's terminology explicitly
- Should strike a balance between showing the experts in your field that you know your stuff, and engaging the non-experts
- Structure your proposal to address, in order, each of the evaluation criteria stated in the 2014 Starting Grant call documents
- The proposed research should be "safely adventurous", i.e. containing an important idea with a big long-term goal, but also being practically feasible
- Should convey the message that the project can be delivered, but also make an effort to "sell the dream" of an exciting piece of research
- Part B1 must be accessible and enthuse a range of evaluators, and should present a convincing case that the project is worth funding





### How to frame the project? Recurring feedback from successful applicants...



- Projects with a risky/new methodology are welcomed, as long as there is a good reason for trying it out and a potentially high reward
- Communicating a longer-term vision of where the project would lead
- > Seeking to establish a new interdisciplinary field of study at the junction of two related disciplines
- 'No virtue in economy' in applying for an ERC grant, and explain why the reviewers should award you significant funding for your project
- How will your project be an important contribution to the research area you have selected, and what will its scientific impact be?
- The project fits well with the main features of the ERC scheme, i.e. it is ambitious and innovative, different to a national funding application
- Provide measurable milestones, but make clear that you will be flexible
- Outline a step change in your field: "this ground-breaking project will deliver radically new approaches....

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### How to be frontier? 'Take the pulse' of your field Choose and clearly define an unmet need How to be even more frontier? Think inter-disciplinary Think latest technology, if appropriate

Aim high

> Try to emulate the leaders in your field



### ERC Starting Grants Writing Your Application



- ERC Finances - Your Project Budget

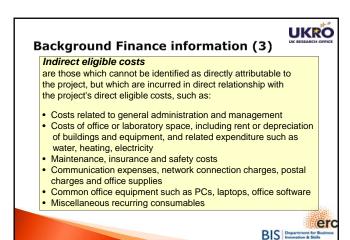


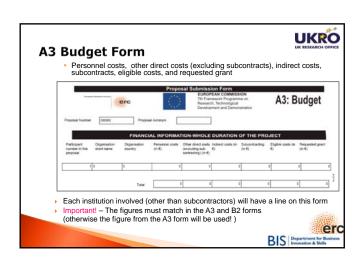
Background Finance information (1)	(RO
Direct costs: up to 100% of eligible costs     Indirect costs: Flat rate of 25% (of eligible direct costs)     Overall level of grant offered determined by peer review panels	
Direct eligible costs are those which support all the research, management, training and dissemination activities necessary for the conduct of the project such as Personnel, Equipment, Consumables, Travel and Subsistence & Publication Costs	
How are eligible costs defined?  Actual  Incurred by the beneficiary during the project  Determined according to hosts usual accounting and management principles  Used solely for project objectives  Recorded in accounts	
Direct eligible costs are those which support all the research, management, training and dissemination activities necessary for the conduct of the project such as Personnel, Equipment, Consumables, Travel and Subsistence & Publication Costs  How are eligible costs defined?  Actual Incurred by the beneficiary during the project Determined according to hosts usual accounting and management principles Used solely for project objectives	

## Background Finance information (2) Non-eligible costs, in particular: Interest owed Provisions for possible future losses or charges Exchange losses Costs declared, incurred or reimbursed in respect of another EU project Costs related to return on capita Debt and debt service charges Excessive or reckless expenditure Any costs not related to the project Non-recoverable VAT is now eligible in Horizon 2020-funded projects

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rtrongly suggester	Cost Category	Month	Month	Month	Month	Total		
		1-18	19-36	37:54	55-60	(MI-60)		
Direct Costs	Personnels			_				
Date Cont	D19							
	Senior Staff							
	Post docs							
	Students							
	Other							
ľ	Total Personnel							
	Other Direct							
	Costs:							
	Equipment							
	Consumables			_	-			
	Travel			-	-	_		
	Publications, etc. Other							
-	Total Other			-	-	_		
	Direct Costs							
	Total Direct Costs							
Indirect Costs	Mar 20% of			_	_	_		
(overhead d:	Direct Costs							
Subcontracting	(No overheads)							
Costs								
Total Costs of	(by reporting							
project:	period and total)							
Requested	(by reporting							
Grant':	period and total)			1	1			

### Part B2, Section (2c) Research Project - Resources (including project costs)



- Describe the size and nature of the team, key team members and their roles.
- Participation of team members at other host institutions
   Should be justified in relation to the additional financial cost it may impose
- Describe other necessary resources, such as infrastructure and equipment.
- Resources requested should be reasonable and fully justified in the proposal
- Justify if asking for > €1.5 million (PI moving to Europe or major equipment)
- Specify any existing resources that will contribute to the project.
- It is advisable to include a short technical description of the equipment requested, a justification of its need as well as the intensity of its planned use.
- Specify briefly your commitment to the project and how much time you are willing to devote to the proposed project.



### Part B2, Section (2c) Research Project – Resources (including project costs)



- State the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the objectives:
  - Should be a reasoned estimate of the project costs.
  - Take into account the percentage of your dedicated time to run the ERC funded activity when calculating your personnel costs.
- Include the direct costs of the project plus a flat-rate financing of indirect costs of 25% towards overheads.
- State how the costs will be distributed over the duration of the project.
- The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible.
- The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced.
- There is no minimum contribution per year; the requested contribution should be in proportion to the actual needs to fulfil the objectives of the project.

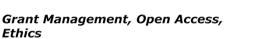
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### General hints and tips **Budgets**

- **UKRO**
- > The overall grant amount is determined by the peer review panels
- ▶ Work closely with your European Officer or Finance Office!
- If your team members are at other institutions, those institutions will need to be involved in costing their part of the proposal  $\,$
- All costs must be calculated and claimed according to your host organisations own accounting rules.
- > You can only budget for costs directly related to carrying out the project
- Link the budgets clearly to the proposed activities
- Financial rules are in the updated version of the ERC Guide to Grant Holders: http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/legal\_financial/Pages/index\_aspy



**ERC Starting Grants** Writing Your Application





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### Management issues to consider when preparing your application



- Grant Agreement
  - Technical annex description of work
- Flexibility
  - Scientific
- Portability
- Progress reporting

  - Scientific submitted by the PI
     Financial submitted by the beneficiary
- Publication and exploitation of results
  - Open Access
- European Charter for Researchers & Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

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### UKRO What happens next? After review process Funding decision and feedback (Redress? Seek advice from UKRO? Redress requests should be raised within one month of the date of the initial information letter, see <a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideak/redress\_en.html">http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideak/redress\_en.html</a> Feedback from ethics review? Preparation of the grant agreement between the host and the ERC No project negotiations as such Grant agreement based on the proposal and the peer review decision Can accept/reject the offered grant When the project startsSign grant agreement Set up project account Recruit staff onto project Expect that all projects start within 6 months from the award



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### **IPR in ERC Grant Agreement**

"background"
 Information which is held by beneficiaries prior to their accession to the grant agreement, as well as copyrights or other intellectual property rights pertaining to such information, the application for which has been filed before their accession to the agreement, and which is needed for carrying out the project or for using foreground.

- oreground: The results, including information, whether or not they can be protected, which are generated under the project. Such results include rights related to copyright; design rights; patent rights; plant variety rights; or similar forms of protection.
- Foreground shall be the property of the *beneficiary* carrying out the work and generating that foreground.
- Employees or other personnel working for a  $\emph{beneficiary}$  are entitled to claim rights to foreground.
- Where foreground is capable of industrial or commercial application, its owner shall provide for its adequate and effective protection.
- Access to foreground and background is royalty free if it needed to carry out the work.

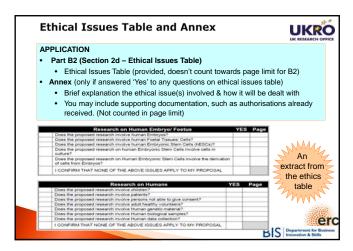


### **UKRO**

### **Open Access requirements**

- Manuscripts resulting from ERC-funded work that are accepted for publication during or after the funding period should be deposited in at least one appropriate repository.
- Open Access is to be provided through this chosen repository.
- Obligations under Special Clause 39 ERC also apply to monographs and/or books with the same maximum delay of six months.
- No formal Open Access obligation for review articles (not project 'foreground').
- Open Access fees should be budgeted for when submitting the application.





ERC Starting Grants Writing Your Application - Final Hints and Tips	erc
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Points to consider if resubmitting a proposal				
› Any specific changes to call and rules of operation				
Can I resubmit? Depends on the score you received, please see earlier slide 35.				
<ul> <li>Should I resubmit? This is of course up to the PI, although many successful applications have come from PIs who were unsuccessful with a previous application and subsequently improved their proposal.</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>When should I resubmit? Will the panel members be the same? The ERC operates two sets of panel members, which sit in alternate years.</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>How can I improve my proposal? Should I take into account feedback? In general, yes – take into account the evaluators' feedback, while highlighting your increased experience/achievements since the previous application.</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>Will the evaluators know it is a resubmission? There is no obligation to state "this is a resubmission" in the proposal, and this is up to the PI to decide.</li> </ul>				
Department for Business				

### **Interviews**



- All PIs whose proposals are retained for Step 2 of the peer review process will be interviewed by the peer review panel
- Takes place in Brussels (travel costs reimbursed), and must attend in person
  - except in exceptional cases (i.e. pregnancy, immobility due to illness, out in research fieldwork) video or telephone interview can be arranged
- Interview lasts approximately 30 minutes (depending on panel)
- Start with a presentation by the PI on the outline of the research project
- Followed by a question and answer session
- Not formally weighted, but the panel will take into account the results of the interview alongside the individual reviews.





### Interviews: recurring feedback

- Be prepared for a wide range of questions from different panellists, i.e. from people not necessarily expert in your specific field
- Keep the presentation as simple as possible
- Arrange mock interviews in advance, and practice extensively
- It's a project pitch rather than a lab meeting, so can also include a short overview of your key achievements as a researcher
- > Similarly, can include a short update of CV since the proposal was submitted
- What do you want people to remember from a short presentation?
- Acknowledge any possible uncertainties/gaps in knowledge, but make clear that you have plans to address them = panel should be confident that PI will be able to deal with potential difficulties



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### Final general tips on writing your application

- 1. Liaise with your HoD and Research Office
- Use clear and concise language
- 3. Pay careful attention to each section
- Be ambitious, but show awareness of cutting edge
- Look at examples of successful applications
- Read all the documentation, including the Grant Agreement Be realistic with the budget, clearly link your budget to activities. Has your institution agreed your budget?
- 8. Proofread your application9. Get application reviewed by colleagues
- 10.Stick to page, font size, budget limits and format
- 11.Check submission checklist from Guide for Applicants
  12.It is possible to submit your proposal on the Participant Portal as many times as you like before the deadline



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