

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 for researchers who are based in or moving to the UK and are interested in applying for the ERC Advanced Grants:

- **University of Nottingham**, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010
- **London School of Economics**, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010
- **London School of Economics**, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- **University of Strathclyde, Glasgow**, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**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 is expected to open on 2 November 2010, with deadlines in Spring 2011. Participants should 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**

The event timings are different according to the venue. Please note, however, that each session will be identical and will cover the same information. Therefore, ***please note that it is only necessary to attend one session***. Each session will provide an overview of the ERC and will focus on the application process for ERC Advanced Grants, including opportunities to ask questions.

- **University of Nottingham**, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010
  - The **morning session** will start at **09:30** promptly (with registration from 9.10) and close at **13.15**.
  - The **afternoon session** will start at **14:00** promptly (with registration from 13.40) and close at **17.45**.
- **London School of Economics**, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010
  - The sessions will start at **13:30** promptly (with registration from 13.10) and close at **17.30**.
- **University of Strathclyde, Glasgow**, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010
  - The session will start at **10:00** promptly (with registration from 09.40) and close at **15:30**. Please note that lunch will not be provided.

**Registration**

If you would like to attend please complete the online registration form at:

[www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events\\_ukro/10\\_events\\_adg/registration\\_form.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/10_events_adg/registration_form.htm)

## Funding Opportunities in Framework Programme 7 European Research Council

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding agency for frontier research. Early stage researchers, as well as fully established investigators, from across Europe can compete for ERC grants with scientific excellence as the sole criterion for funding. The ERC, which started in 2007, is funded by the European Commission as one part of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for 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 lead by a Principal Investigator (PI) and (if they wish) their team.

### ERC Starting Grants

This scheme aims to provide critical and adequate support to the independent careers of excellent researchers, whatever their nationality, located in or moving to the EU and associated countries, 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-2011-StG call are in Autumn 2010. The next call for Starting Grants after this (ERC-2012-StG) is expected to be published in Spring 2011 and close in Autumn 2011, and the UK ERC NCP plan to run a series of events on this call in Autumn 2011. 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](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm)

### ERC Advanced Grants

This scheme aims to encourage and support excellent, innovative research projects which are initiated and led by established top 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 10 years. For the second Advanced Grants call (ERC-2009-AdG), of the top 244 proposals selected for funding across Europe, the UK hosts the most grants with 61 (25%) and also has the most PI nationals (23%). The success rate of proposals with UK Host Institutions was ~19.9%, compared to an overall average of ~15.4%. **The fourth Advanced Grants call (ERC-2011-AdG) will be published on 2 November 2010, with deadlines in Spring 2011.**

### Frequently asked questions on the ERC Advanced Grants [ERC-2011-AdG]

#### How much money is available per project?

The ERC Advanced Grants will be up to a maximum of €2.5 million for a period of five years (pro-rata for projects of shorter duration). However, an additional €1 million can be made available to cover: eligible 'start-up' costs for a Principal Investigator moving from outside Europe; a 'Co-Investigator project' (which must be interdisciplinary); or the purchase of major research equipment. 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 commitment letter along with their proposal.

#### Which deadline should I apply to?

There are three separate deadlines, one per domain,

- Physical Sciences and Engineering domain (Panels PE1 - PE10) - **9 February 2011**
- Life Sciences domain (Panels LS1 - LS9) - **10 March 2011**
- Social Sciences and Humanities domain (Panels SH1 - SH6) - **6 April 2011**

#### If I was unsuccessful in a previous Advanced Grants call, can I re-apply?

A PI who has submitted an eligible proposal to the ERC-2010-AdG call may not apply to this ERC-2011-AdG call unless his/her proposal was evaluated above the quality threshold at the end of step 1 of the peer review process. The quality threshold is defined as scoring 2 or more out of 4 for each of the two evaluation criteria.

#### Where can I find out more information?

Further information, including the ERC Work Programme and Guide for Applicants (once published), are available on the UK ERC NCP website: [www.ukro.ac.uk/erc](http://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](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/erc/events_ukro/events_alerts.htm). If you have any questions, please e-mail the UK ERC NCP helpdesk at: [erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk) or telephone 0032 2 2896121.