



07.07.2026 (ONLINE)

Target groups: postdocs, established researchers, group leaders with typically 3 – 7 years of research experience after the doctorate. The workshop suited for researchers applying for an **ERC Starting Grant (StG)** or a **Consolidator Grant (CoG)**

HOW TO PLAN AND WRITE A COMPETITIVE ERC PROPOSAL

ERC grants are highly regarded as a measure of excellence in the international research community and have a sustained positive effect on research careers. How do you prepare for an ERC Grant effectively if success rates are at 15%?

This workshop provides essential guidance to navigate the ERC application process and address the evaluation criteria successfully. Building on more than 15 years of professional experience with the ERC and more than 100 successful proposals, the trainers translate ERC-specific terminology, such as groundbreaking and ambitious, for the individual setting and explain unwritten rules. The programme also covers typical profiles of ERC Grant holders, a self-assessment, the critical importance of panel selection and the timing of proposal submission.

Your Benefits

You will be better equipped to

- understand the competitive nature of the ERC evaluation process
- decide at which career stage to submit your ERC proposal
- respond effectively to ERC objectives and evaluation criteria
- tailor key parts of the proposal to different stages of the evaluation
- select the most appropriate evaluation panel
- prepare a realistic timeline for proposal development
- and identify and harness existing support services

Methods

The workshop employs theory input, plenary discussions, individual and small group work, experience sharing and expert advice. Participants are expected to prepare a one-page proposal of their envisaged ERC project and provide a copy of their current academic CV before the workshop. The individual follow-up consulting session provides the opportunity to probe further into the feasibility of the research project for ERC, review the individual track record and determine the next steps. The session is limited to 18 participants and will be in English.

07.07.2026 Tuesday

09:00

Welcome and introduction

Applying for ERC funding: why and for whom?

The impact of ERC Grants on research careers
Typical profiles of ERC Grant holders

Technicalities and evaluation process

Funding goals and relevant documents
Implications of single submission but two-step evaluation
Selecting your evaluation panel

Filling in the application template

CV and track record of the PI
Extended synopsis and scientific proposal
Work plan, resources and budget

12:30

Break

13:30

Practice scenario

Writing a high-impact one-page proposal

Managing the proposal preparation process

Typical development stages and timelines for submission
Why, where, and when to get professional support

Plenary discussion, transfer, and feedback

17:00

Close

The Trainers

Thomas Koch is a research management consultant and certified trainer and coach. Holding a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the UK, he brings 10 years of international experience as a researcher and 12 years of professional experience as a research manager at German universities. He held senior positions at Ruhr University Bochum and Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, providing strategic support and advisory services to researchers and university leadership. Since 2016, he has run his own consultancy, offering hands-on workshops and individual guidance to help researchers develop their ideas and advance their careers, while also supporting universities and research consortia in implementing strategic initiatives and preparing grant proposals.

Brigitte Weiss-Brummer is an expert in European research funding with extensive experience supporting ERC grant applications. At Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (2007–2017) she contributed to nearly 100 successful ERC proposals, headed the university's EU Office, and later served as acting director of the Division of Research Funding and Promotion of Junior Academics. She holds a Ph.D. and habilitation in molecular genetics and has more than 19 years of international research experience. Since 2018, she has worked as an independent consultant, providing workshops and individual guidance on ERC funding for researchers and research institutions.