



Programme
**“Support to Researchers for Applying to European
Research Council Programmes”**

Call identifier: ERC-10-2021

This Call has been drafted pursuant to general regulations of the Croatian Science Foundation. By applying to this Call, you shall accept the provisions thereof.

Gender-specific terms used in this Call shall be deemed neutral and shall apply equally to persons of both genders.

About the Call

European Research Council (hereinafter: the ERC) encourages national funding agencies, including the Croatian Science Foundation, to set up visiting fellowship programmes to fund potential candidates for ERC grants to visit teams of ERC-funded projects that are implemented at the time of the call and visit.

The purpose of the Call is to stimulate researchers from the Republic of Croatia to apply for ERC frontier research grants (*Starting Grant (StG)*, *Consolidator Grant (CoG)*, *Advanced Grant (AdG)* and *Synergy Grant (SyG)*) in order to increase their capabilities and increase the success rate of Croatian applicants to ERC calls.

The Croatian Science Foundation will implement the Call in line with ERC Guidelines published on 15 March 2019 and available at the link below:

https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/fellowship_visit_erc_grantee_en.pdf

Call in brief

Release date: 1 October 2021

Closing date: 29 October 2021 at 13:00 (CET)

The Call is open to all scientific fields.

Applicant: researcher with internationally recognised achievements in science and/or technology

Maximum monthly expenses per researcher: EUR 2,000 per month (net amount in HRK equivalent)

Duration of the visit: 1 to 4 months

Estimated end of evaluation: January 2022

Objective of the Call

The objective of the present Call is to develop collaboration between Croatian researchers (Visiting Researcher) and current ERC Principal Investigators (Host Researcher), with the aim to gain experience and to develop and prepare their own project proposal to ERC Grants.

Accordingly, the Call's ultimate objective is that the Visiting Researcher applies to the first available ERC Call (*Starting Grant*, *Consolidator Grant*, *Advanced Grant* or *Synergy Grant*) published after the visit. In case the Visiting Researchers' application to an ERC grant is not accepted for funding, he/she shall apply to the next available Call, taking into account resubmission restrictions. Resubmission

restriction is triggered by the proposal submitted to the first Call – please see the ERC Work Programme for the corresponding year for the latest information on resubmission restrictions.

Terms and Conditions of the Call

The Applicant to the Call is a scientific institution at which the Visiting Researcher is permanently employed (Home Organization). A single institution may submit more than one application to this Call.

The Visiting Researcher should meet the following criteria:

- S/he has an active research profile (PhD holder, project management experience, established research group, relevant publications and/or patents in the proposed research field) with internationally recognised results; the Visiting Researcher has to meet the profile for the ERC Principal Investigator as set out in the annual ERC Work Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/erc/h2020-wp19-erc_en.pdf);
- S/he is employed at a public university, public scientific institute in the Republic of Croatia, or at another legal person performing scientific activities and are registered in the Register of Scientific Organisations of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education and which meet the minimum criteria prescribed by the Ordinance on the conditions for approval to perform scientific activity, reaccreditation conditions for scientific organisations and the content of the approval document (Official Gazette No. 83/10). The Visiting Researcher can submit a project proposal only in the field for which his/her institution has been accredited.
- A single Visiting Researcher can submit only one application for this Call.
- Only researchers that are eligible to apply for ERC grants may submit applications to this Call. The only exception are researchers who are PhD holders and who will become eligible to apply for an ERC grant by the time their visit finishes.

Visiting researchers eligible to apply for AdG can only visit AdG or SyG grantees; those intending to apply for CoG can only visit CoG or AdG grantees; those planning to apply for StG can visit StG, CoG, or AdG grantees, while Visiting Researchers aiming for SyG can only visit other SyG grantees.

Research visit may be carried out at a Host Institution in an EU Member State or H2020 Associated countries listed in the following document: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding/find-partners_en.htm.

Documentation for the Call for Proposals includes a list of ERC grantees who expressed their willingness to host a Visiting Researcher.

Eligible expenses

The overall budget for the present Call is HRK 200,000.

The Foundation will finance the following expenses:

- Cost of one roundtrip to and from the city of the ERC Principal Investigator's Host Organization (by public transport – dates on the travel tickets need to be within the planned dates of the visit);
- The cost of accommodation and living expenses in total sum of EUR 2,000 net per month (the salary of the Visiting Researcher during the period of the visit will continue to be covered by his Home Organization).

Duration of project/visit

From **one to four months**.

Submission of application

The application shall include the following documents:

1. Application form
 - Part A – Information about the Visiting Researcher (Curriculum Vitae, demonstrating scientific excellence and achievements consistent with the ERC's instructions for a specific Call);
 - Part B – Outline of the project proposal that will be submitted to one of the ERC calls. The outline needs to be written in the form prescribed by the ERC;
 - Part C – Information about the ERC Principal Investigator (Host Researcher);
 - Part D - Information about the visit.
2. Signed statement of the Visiting Researcher that s/he will meet all the requirements for a particular ERC Grant at the time of submitting the proposal to that Call ([Starting Grants](#), [Consolidator Grants](#), [Advanced Grants](#), [Proof of Concept](#) or [Synergy Grants](#)).
3. Signed statement of the Applicant's Home Organization and the Visiting Researcher declaring that the Head of the Organization approves the Visiting Researcher's leave and that the Visiting Researcher will apply for the first available ERC Grant (Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant, Advanced Grant or Synergy Grant) that s/he is eligible for. In case the Visiting Researchers' application for the ERC Grant is not accepted for funding, he/she shall apply for the next available call, taking into account resubmission restrictions, that he/she shall meet

the requirements of the Call and that the Applicant's Home Organization for the current Programme will also be the Applicant Institution for the ERC Call.

4. Support letter from the ERC Principal Investigator (he/she will describe the plan for inclusion of the Visiting Researcher into the ongoing ERC project).

The application shall be submitted in both Croatian and English. The Applicant is responsible for any differences between the two language versions of the application and the Foundation shall be not held responsible for potential differences.

Application to the Call is submitted on official forms of the Foundation via the email address ercpotpora@hrzz.hr.

The application has to be complete and submitted before the deadline. **Applications that are incomplete and were not submitted in time shall not be considered for financing.**

Evaluation

External review will be used for the purpose of evaluating project proposals. Evaluation will be conducted by the Evaluation Panel, composed of experts from all scientific disciplines represented in the submitted applications. The Evaluation Panel will be nominated by the Board of the Croatian Science Foundation. Former and present Croatian ERC Panel members will also be a part of the Evaluation Panel.

Panel members will evaluate the applications according to the criteria defined in the Evaluation Form (available at the Foundation's website). The following elements shall be evaluated: Visiting Researcher's scientific excellence in the last five years, ERC project proposal abstract (the importance of proposed research, possibility to conduct ground breaking result, scientific results) and the quality of the proposed cooperation between the Visiting Researcher and the ERC Principal Investigator.

The Panel will prepare a ranking list of projects proposed for financing. The Board of the CSF will adopt the final decision on the selection of applicants to be financed.

Visiting Researchers' obligations

The Visiting Researcher shall be responsible for meeting the following obligations:

- Participation in the research within the ERC project implemented by the Host Researcher;
- Submission of a narrative and financial report (in English) within 30 days after the visit's conclusion, co-signed by the ERC Principal Investigator that hosted the Visiting Researcher;
- Application to the first available ERC Call that s/he is eligible for. In case the Visiting Researchers' application for the ERC grant is not accepted for funding, he/she shall apply for the next available call, taking into account the resubmission restriction.

Deadline for submitting the application

The deadline for submitting the application: 29 October 2021 at 13:00 (CET).

Applications that are not consistent with any details of the Call or the Foundation's Regulations shall not be accepted.

Contact

All additional information related to the Call can be obtained only via the following email: ercpotpora@hrzz.hr.