



**Maynooth
University**

National University
of Ireland Maynooth

ERC Experience: Perspectives from Awardees & Evaluators

*Tuesday, 16th June 2015 - Council Room, South Campus
Research Development Office*



**Maynooth
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National University
of Ireland Maynooth



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Welcome & Lunch

Prof. Bernard Mahon, Vice President for Research



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Research Development Office

Time	Topic
1.15pm	Welcome (Lunch, Tea/Coffee)
2pm	Welcome - Prof. Bernard Mahon, Vice President for Research
2.05pm	Introduction to ERC schemes, Updates on 2016 Work Programmes Eilish Lynch, Research Development Office
2.15pm	Applying to the ERC: Application, Assessment, Assistance, Achievements Dr Graeme Horley, ERC NCP (PE & LS)
2.30pm	Applicant and Awardee: My Experience Prof. David Stifter (MU), ERC Consolidator Awardee 2014, SH5 Panel
2.45pm	Questions & Discussion
3pm	What is Excellence? Prof. Denis Weaire (TCD), Starter & Consolidator Evaluator
3.15pm	Make it easy for the panel to support you Prof. Peter Kennedy (UCC), Starter & Advanced Evaluator, Panel Chair
3.30pm	Questions & Discussion
4pm	<i>Close</i>

ERC in a nutshell



European Research Council
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The ERC aims to:

- **Support the best** of the best in Europe across **all fields** of science, scholarship and engineering
- Promote wholly **investigator-driven, or 'bottom-up' frontier research**
- Encourage the work of the established and next generation of **independent top research leaders in Europe**
- Reward innovative proposals by placing emphasis on the **quality of the idea** rather than the research area
- **Raise the status and visibility of European frontier research** and the very best researchers of today and tomorrow

H2020 – 3 Pillars

Priority	Excellent Science	Industrial Leadership	Societal Challenges
Funding Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• European Research Council• Future and Emerging Technologies• Marie Skłodowska-Curie• Research Infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies• Access to risk finance• Innovation in SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, demographic change and wellbeing• Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research, and the bio-economy• Secure, clean and efficient energy• Smart, green and integrated transport• Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials• Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies• Secure Societies
Focus	Bottom-up	Industry-led	Top-down

+ Others

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ERC – Principles

- **Frontier research** proposal in **any field** of science, engineering and scholarship (except nuclear energy)
- **High Risk/High Gain****
- **Ground-breaking research** (not incremental)
- Strongly encourages research proposals of a **multi- & interdisciplinary nature**
- Any nationality & any age
- Host Institution in an EU Member State or an Associated Country
- Prestigious and attractive grants

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Evaluation of excellence at two levels:

- Excellence of the Research Project

- ✓ Ground breaking nature
- ✓ Potential impact
- ✓ Scientific Approach – Novelty
- ✓ Ambition
- ✓ Feasibility

- Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Commitment

ERC – 3 major schemes

Starting Grants

(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 2.0 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2.75 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

10 year track-record of
significant research
achievements
up to € 3.5 Mio
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders

Eligibility Criteria

Career Breaks – reductions possible but documented proof required:

- **Maternity leave:** 18 months years per child born before or after the PhD award.
- **Paternity leave:** Actual amount of paternity leave taken for each child born before or after the PhD award.
- **Long-term illness, clinical training or national service:** Actual amount of leave taken for each incident which occurred after the PhD award.

Re-submissions

- If your proposal was evaluated as **Category C** under WP 2015, you cannot apply under WP 2016.

Extended Restrictions



**'C' in 2016 =
Out for 2 years**

- If you apply in WP 2016 and your proposal is evaluated as **Category C**, you cannot apply under WP 2017 or 2018.
- If you apply in WP 2016 and your proposal is evaluated as **Category B**, you cannot apply under WP 2017.



**'B' in 2015 =
Out for 1 year**

Call Deadlines for 2016

ERC Work Programme 2016 to be published soon

- **Starter Grant:** November 2015*
- **Consolidator Grant:** February 2016*
- **Advanced Grant:** September 2016*
- Also, modifications to keywords for Panels

* TBC in 2016 Work Programme

Supports

ERC Experience:

Perspectives from ERC grantees & ERC evaluators

Research Development Officer

- Dedicated support for ERC applicants. Work directly with applicants.
- ERC Workshops/Clinics to assist with concept development

H2020 National Support Network ERC Support Grant

Replacement cost, consultancy, interview training, assistive research staff - €8,000 max.

Maynooth University ERC Support Fund

- Internal funding scheme: ~ €2,000

25 panels for all areas of science

Please note that this may be modified for 2016!

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE) 10 panels	Mathematics Fundamental constituents of matter Condensed matter physics Physical & analytical chemical sciences Synthetic chemistry and materials Computer science and informatics Systems and communication engineering Products and processes engineering Universe sciences Earth system science	Social Sciences & Humanities 6 panels Individuals, institutions and markets Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour Environment, space and population The Human Mind Cultures and cultural production The study of the human past
Life Sciences (LS) 9 panels	Molecular and structural biology and biochemistry Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology Cellular and developmental biology Physiology, pathophysiology and endocrinology Neurosciences and neural disorders Immunity and infection Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health Evolutionary, population and environmental biology Applied life sciences and biotechnology	

Funded Projects – how to find them

<http://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/erc-funded-projects>

The screenshot shows the top of the ERC website. On the left is the ERC logo with the text "European Research Council Established by the European Commission". To the right is the slogan "Supporting top researchers from anywhere in the world". Further right is a search bar and links for "Advanced Search | Glossary / A-Z | Sitem". Below this is a navigation bar with six items: "Home", "Funding and Grants", "Projects and Results" (highlighted in green), "Media and Events", "About ERC", and "Contact us".

ERC Funded Projects

Prizes and Awards

ERC Stories

Statistics

Filter by funding scheme:

Filter by subpanel:

(PE) Physical Sciences & Engineering

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PE1 | <input type="checkbox"/> PE2 | <input type="checkbox"/> PE3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PE4 | <input type="checkbox"/> PE5 | <input type="checkbox"/> PE6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PE7 | <input type="checkbox"/> PE8 | <input type="checkbox"/> PE9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PE10 | | |

(LS) Life Sciences

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS1 | <input type="checkbox"/> LS2 | <input type="checkbox"/> LS3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS4 | <input type="checkbox"/> LS5 | <input type="checkbox"/> LS6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS7 | <input type="checkbox"/> LS8 | <input type="checkbox"/> LS9 |


(SH) Social Sciences & Humanities

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SH1 | <input type="checkbox"/> SH2 | <input type="checkbox"/> SH3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SH4 | <input type="checkbox"/> SH5 | <input type="checkbox"/> SH6 |

ERC Funded Projects



The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Accordingly the portfolio of ERC funded projects spans a wide range of topics and research questions.

 have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over **43,000 project proposals** for its calls.

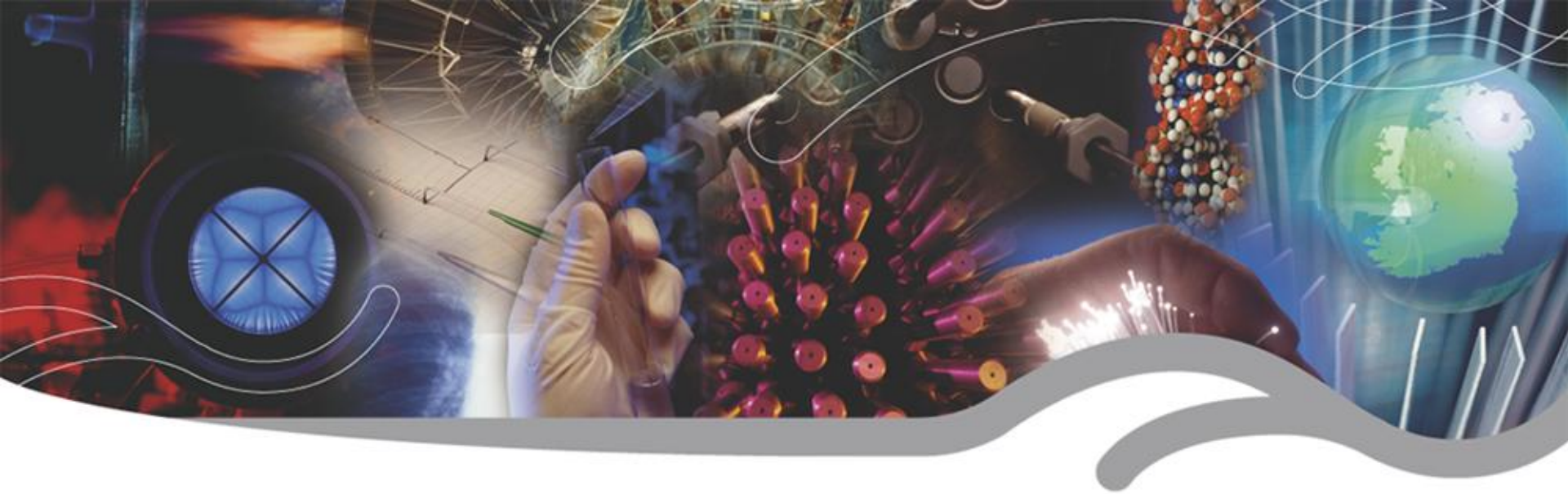
You can use the menu on the left to search quickly and easy ERC funded projects under FP7

Projects can be filtered according to: Funding scheme, Research area (Panel / Domain), Country of Host Institution and/or free keyword(s).

Horizon 2020 projects are available on the [EU Open Data Portal](#) . The projects will also be available in the search in the next few weeks.

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the [CORDIS](#) platform.

Please note that only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this database. For this reason, the total number of projects in this database may differ from the figures provided in the statistics section which include also projects selected for funding whose grant agreements have not been signed yet.



Applying to the ERC: Application, Assessment, Assistance, Achievements

Maynooth University: 16th June 2015



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Dr. Graeme Horley

NCP (Life Sciences and Physical
Sciences & Engineering)