

Eligible Principal Investigator

The ERC actions are open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any Member State or Associated Country. Principal Investigators may be of any age and nationality and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application. However Principal Investigators funded through the ERC frontier research grants shall spend a minimum percentage of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country and a minimum percentage of their total working time on the ERC project (see profiles of Starting and Consolidator Grant Principal Investigators below).

Starting and Consolidator Grant proposals are submitted by the Principal Investigator who has scientific responsibility for the project, on behalf of the host institution. There are specific eligibility criteria for a Principal Investigator applying to the Starting or Consolidator Grants based on the date of award of his/her first PhD (or equivalent doctoral degree¹⁰) as below.

Profile of the ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant
Specific Eligibility Criteria	The principal Investigator shall have been awarded his/her first PhD ≥ 2 and ≤ 7 years prior to 1 January 2017	The principal Investigator shall have been awarded his/her first PhD > 7 and ≤ 12 years prior to 1 January 2017

The reference date towards the calculation of the eligibility period should be the date of the actual award according to the national rules in the country where the degree was awarded.

However, the effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD taken into consideration for eligibility can be reduced **in the following properly documented circumstances**.

For maternity, the effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD will be considered reduced by 18 months for each child born **before or after** the PhD award. For paternity, the effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD will be considered reduced by the documented amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child born **before or after** the PhD award.

For long-term illness¹, clinical training or national service the effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD will be considered reduced by the documented amount of leave actually taken by the Principal Investigator for each incident which occurred **after** the PhD award.

¹ Over ninety days for the Principal Investigator or a close family member (child, spouse, parent or sibling).