



Stockholms  
universitet

REIS

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## ADVICE NOTE - ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants

The different parts of the proposal are summarized at the bottom.

- **Begin early.** The most common mistake is to begin too late. You need to write “two proposals”: Parts B1 and B2. You will need feedback from others, which then may take some time to implement. Another common mistake is to write in a too vague fashion. Be specific.
- **Read the evaluation criteria carefully.** Some criteria are applied in step 2 only. Note that the instructions in the proposal template are slightly different from the evaluation criteria.
- **Choose the panel(s) carefully.** In step 1, the *Extended Synopsis* needs to be written for the “generalists” in the panel(s) selected by you. Check the subdisciplines included in your chosen panel(s). Also compare the panel members two years ago, who may return this year.
- **Study already funded ERC projects.** Use [the search engine at the ERC web site](#). Compare your idea with the funded ideas and compare your CV with the CV:s of the ERC grantees.
- **Describe expected breakthrough.** ERC looks for projects of ground-breaking nature. Be clear about how your scientific field may change if your project succeeds completely.
- **Be specific when describing your ambitious project.** Explain in what way you consider the project to be ambitious and how you will mitigate steps of high risk.
- **Present key intermediate goals.** For an ambitious project, ERC asks for a checkpoint when you may decide to use your alternative plan B, which also should generate valuable results.
- **Explain the significance of each of your publications.** Add text after each of your publications in the *CV and track record* (B1b) and explain the significance and your contribution in a way graspable for the generalists in the panel. Read details in [Instructions for applicants](#) (p 22). Other contributions to the scientific community are very appreciated.
- **Present a narrative CV.** One option is to describe the pathway of your scientific career and explain why you have chosen transitions between different positions/organisations and scientific areas. Refer to your selected publications and tell how your experiences and outputs have made you fitted for this project right now. Be engaged and passionate when possible.
- **Show your independence in relation to your supervisor(s).** Emphasize papers, ideas and other contributions you have made without your supervisor(s).
- **Justify your budget well in the textbox Resources.** If you don't justify, ERC might cut your budget. Do use subtitles in this text, to make it easier to follow. Describe your team.

### Parts of the ERC proposal:

A – *Administrative information and some scientific data (choice of panel(s), budget, etc)*

B1a – *Extended synopsis (in step 1 - for panel members only; accessible also in step 2)*

B1b – *CV and track record (in both steps 1 and 2)*

B2ab – *The scientific proposal (in step 2 only - for external reviewers and panel members)*

Funding ID (in step 2 only)

B2c – *Budget and Resources (in step 2 only; data is entered in Part A)*

*Please get in touch with the REIS at Stockholm University as soon as you plan to apply. If you contact us early, then we can provide more extensive support.*