



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the **Scientific Council**, and the ERC **President Prof. Maria Leptin**.

The ERC has a budget of over €16 billion and is part of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe (2021-2027).

ERC grantees have won prestigious prizes, including **14 Nobel Prizes, 6 Fields Medals, 11 Wolf Prize** and more.

2021-2027 budget: 16 billion euros.



Watch the ERC [video here](#).

*FRONTIER RESEARCH

European Research Council (ERC) activities are directed towards fundamental advances at and beyond the 'frontier' of knowledge.

The ERC encourages in particular proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries, pioneering ideas that address new and emerging fields and applications that introduce unconventional, innovative approaches.

Focus on the European Research Council (ERC)

Set up in 2007 by the European Union, the [European Research Council](#) is the first European funding organisation for frontier research* **across all fields**. It aims to stimulate **scientific excellence** in Europe. It selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of **any nationality and age** to run **five to six-year-projects** in a public or private research organisation based in any [EU Member States](#) and [Associated Countries](#) to the Framework Programme Horizon Europe.

ERC open to the world

The ERC strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. Since its creation in 2007, the ERC has funded over 13 000 top researchers at various stages of their careers.

ERC grants are **open to researchers of any nationality** who may reside in any country in the world at the time of application. For scientists moving to Europe, the ERC offers additional "start-up" funding (EUR 1 Million).

As of January 2024 in ERC main calls there are **1154** principal investigators of non-ERA nationality, representing 8% of all grantees. To date, **87** are nationals from LAC. They come from Argentina (**26**), Brazil (**20**), Chile (**11**), Mexico (**13**), Colombia (**3**), Costa Rica (**4**), Venezuela (**3**), Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Peru, Uruguay (**1** each). There is one ERC Synergy grantee in Chile.

Read our interviews with some of them at bit.ly/LACandtheERC.

Team members. On average, ERC grantees employ around seven team members during their ERC project, thus contributing to train a new generation of excellent researchers. An extrapolation from a sample of 1901 ERC grants estimates that some 17% of these team members are nationals from countries outside Europe, among them 1000 from LAC.

Time to spend on the project. ERC grantees can keep their affiliation with their home institute outside Europe. They must be strongly committed to their project and spend at least 50% of their working time in Europe.

What's in it for Latin American and Caribbean researchers?

1. ERC funding schemes

Researchers from Latin American and Caribbean states, independently of their current place of work, can apply for four types of ERC grants:

- [ERC Starting Grants \(StG\)](#) for young, early-career top researchers, 2-7 years after award of PhD.
- [ERC Consolidator Grants \(CoG\)](#) for already independent excellent scientists, 7-12 years after award of PhD.
- [ERC Advanced Grants \(AdG\)](#) for senior research leaders.
- [ERC Synergy Grants \(SyG\)](#) for group of two to four principal investigators presenting early achievement or a 10-year track-record. One of them can be based outside of Europe.

Additionally, ERC grant holders can apply for top-up funding ([Proof of Concept Grant](#) - PoC) to explore the commercial or societal potential of their research results.



EURAXESS LAC is seeking ERC Fellows

Are you an ERC fellow from a Latin American or Caribbean State? Would you like to share your experience?

Contact us by email lac@euraxess.net to organise an interview with our team and help us promoting the European Research Area.

Implementing Arrangements

To date, thirteen Implementing Arrangements have been signed, including with:

- [Argentina](#), with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, in 2015;
- [Mexico](#), with the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (Conacyt), in 2015;
- [Brazil](#), with the Brazilian National Council of the State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), in 2016.

For more details, please read the individual agreements on each partner's contribution.

In practice, ERC launches an annual Call for expression of interest amongst ERC grantees to inquire about their interest to host scientists from those 3 LAC countries in their research teams. The list is then sent to the Latin American institutions who inform their scientists about the opportunities.

The pre-selection of the scientists is done by the LAC funding agencies, without any ERC intervention (neither in the selection criteria nor in the selection procedure).

The different ERC funding schemes are shown in the figure below:



ERC calls are annual. They are published on the [Funding and tender portal](#).

2. Jobs in ERC teams: PhD and post-doc positions

ERC projects are carried out by individual researchers ('Principal Investigators', PIs) who can **employ researchers of any nationality as team members**. One or more team members can even be located in a non-European country.

⇒ **How to find a job in ERC teams?** Vacancies for team members interested in joining an ERC led research project can be published on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#). A quick search with the "European Research Council (ERC)" filter will list vacancies available in ERC teams in Europe. It is then possible to refine the results by research field, country, etc.

Find out some tips for successful applications in the **interview of Brazilian PhD candidates and postdoc within ERC funded projects** [here](#).

3. [Post doctoral visits to ERC teams in Europe](#)

Scientists from Argentina, Brazil and Mexico can temporarily join ERC-funded teams in Europe thanks to the **Implementing Arrangements (IAs)** signed between local funding agencies and the European Commission.

Research visits can be either one-offs and long-term (6-12 months), or multiple short-term visits (for Argentinian and Brazilian researchers).

The opportunity is open to:

- Top Argentinian scientists with an active National Scientific Technical Research Council (CONICET) project and at least ten years of full-time research experience after being awarded a PhD degree;
- Brazilian post-doctoral grantees from FAPs, CAPES and CNPq;
- Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) Research and Postdoctoral Fellows.

Check the calls launched by the LAC funding agencies for more details.