



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Vice President Research and Corporate Relations

ETH Zürich
Prof. Dr. Detlef Günther
HG F 57
Raemistrasse 101
8092 Zurich
Switzerland

To: Heads of Departments
Department Coordinators

Phone +41 44 634 53 50
Fax +41 44 634 53 51
grants@sl.ethz.ch
www.grantsaccess.ethz.ch

Zurich, July 2017 | jo/AZ

ERC Starting Grant 2018 (ERC-2018-StG) – ETH Zürich-internal application procedures

Dear Head of Department,
Dear Department Coordinator,

The ERC is about to publish (indicative publication date: 18.7.2017) the ERC 2018 Work Programme containing inter alia the 2018 Starting Grant Call (ERC-2018-StG). Deadline for proposal submission is foreseen for 17th October 2017. The European Research Council (ERC) started its operations back in 2007 and has rapidly become a valued player in the field of research funding, an important source of funding for excellent scientists and their ambitious projects, and an important benchmark for universities. ETH Zürich has been very successful in terms of ERC funded projects. The Executive Board and myself are very proud of our scientists' achievements.

In order to be eligible to apply for an ERC 2018 Starting Grant, the ERC requests:

- *Principal Investigator (PI) shall have been awarded her or his first PhD at least 2 and up to 7 years prior to 1st January 2018 (Cut-off dates: PhD awarded from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2015 (inclusive)).*
- *PIs have to spend a minimum of 50% of their total working time on the ERC StG.*

A Starting Grant has normally a duration of 5 years with a budget of 1.5 Mio Euros.

ETH Zürich, as the host organisation of the ERC StG applicants, is obliged to confirm to the ERC (in the so called Host Support Letter HSL) at the time of proposal submission, that it will support and employ successful researchers for the full duration of the project. Depending on the status of the researcher, this can lead to legal conflicts with various ETH-Zürich related regulations¹ (maximal possible appointment in a certain position, age). Consequently, the status of the researcher and the maximal residual time at ETH Zürich must be carefully evaluated before submission. As a consequence, the Department needs to confirm its intention to host and support a successful researcher for the duration of the grant and to make available all resources needed for a successful implementation of the project.

Based on the above, there are different internal deadlines as detailed below. Please inform all your colleagues as well as potential applicants accordingly.

For the Departments, there is one deadline on 20th September 2017. It is very important that this deadline will be met.

¹ ETH-Gesetz (www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/4/414.110.de.pdf); Richtlinien des Präsidenten über das Assistenzprofessuren-System an der ETH Zürich (<https://rechtssammlung.sp.ethz.ch/Dokumente/510.20.pdf>), insbes. Abs. 1.3 und 1.4; Verordnung über das wissenschaftliche Personal an der ETH Zürich (<https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20141390/index.html>), insbes. Art. 7.

Responsibility	Task	Deadline
Principal Investigator (PI)	Contacts EU GrantsAccess and sends her/his CV (grants@sl.ethz.ch) in order to check her/his eligibility for the ERC StG.	12.08.2017
PI	Informs her/his Head of Department about the planned ERC StG application.	12.08.2017
PI / Head of Department	Fills in the form “Bestätigung IB Immobilien” and gets the signatures of her/his Head of Department and of IBI. The countersigned form is sent to EU GrantsAccess by email.	20.09.2017
Head of Department	<p>Support letter of the Department on Head of Department’s letterhead confirming²</p> <p>a) For Postdocs/Scientific collaborators of ETH Zürich or any other person not holding a professorship: The letter states that, in case of success, the Department is willing to host the researcher for the duration of the ERC Grant as an Assistant Professor without Tenure Track (equal to “SNF-Förderprofessor/in”), if the PI is not older than 35² years at the time of the ERC’s funding decision (expected August 2018).</p> <p>If the PI is older than 35 years at the time of the ERC’s funding decision, the Department will host him/her as “ausserordentliche(r) Budgetverantwortliche(r)”. Exceptions can be made in case of maternity-related career breaks and have to be negotiated with the President. The duration of the proposed project depends on the maximum possible residual time at ETH Zürich, unless the Department confirms its willingness to employ the researcher permanently.</p> <p>b) For a person holding a non-tenure track assistant professorship at ETH Zürich, the letter states that, in case of success and depending on the maximum possible residual time at ETH Zürich, the Department is willing to host the researcher for the duration of the ERC Grant as an Assistant Professor (non-tenure track). However, these PIs cannot stay for more than a total of 8 years at ETH Zürich. Exceptions can be made in case of maternity-related career breaks and have to be negotiated with the President. Consequently, the duration of the project proposal has to be adapted accordingly.</p> <p>c) For a person holding a tenure track Assistant Professorship at the ETH Zürich, the letter states that, in case of success, the Department is willing to host the researcher for the duration of the ERC Grant as an Assistant Professor (or after promotion as Associate Professor).</p> <p>d) Full Professors (Ordentliche ProfessorInnen) as well as Associate Professors (Ausserordentliche ProfessorInnen) do not need to obtain their Head of Department’s confirmation. They do need, however, an IBI form countersigned by the Head of Department and IBI.</p> <p>In addition – for a) and b) –, the letter states that the salary of the PI is fully covered either by the ERC StG (up to a maximum of 80% or up to 100% depending on the individual case) and / or internal funds for the duration of the grant. Please note that no salary shares of ERC Principal</p>	20.09.2017 ³

² <https://rechtssammlung.sp.ethz.ch/Dokumente/441.pdf>

³ Should the critical meeting of the Department (Department-Conference, Professor’s Conference) be later than the indicated deadline, please inform EU GrantsAccess accordingly.

	Investigators will be funded by ETH Zürich's Executive Board. This letter will be addressed to the Vice President Research and Corporate Relations and sent to the attention of EU GrantsAccess.	
EU GrantsAccess	EU GrantsAccess with ETH Zürich's Executive Board (President / Vice President Research and Corporate Relations) will review all documents. A decision, based on the mentioned ETH-related regulations and the Department's recommendations, will be taken on the maximum length of the proposed grant and on the future status of the researcher in case the submission is successful.	01.10.2017
EU GrantsAccess	EU GrantsAccess provide the PI with the signed Host Support Letter	13.10.2017
EU GrantsAccess / PI	Finalisation of submission	17.10.2017
PI	Online submission of proposal	17.10.2017/5pm

We kindly ask you to respect the deadlines in order to prepare the applications in time.

The Executive Board and myself are looking forward to seeing many outstanding ERC applications. For all questions related to the submission of the proposals, please contact EU GrantsAccess (grants@sl.ethz.ch, 044 634 53 50).

Best regards,



Prof. Detlef Günther

Vice President Research and Corporate Relations