

**Helmholtz ERC Recognition Award
for ERC Starting Grant and Consolidator Grant Applicants of
Horizon 2020, ERC-2019-StG and ERC-2019-CoG Call**

Call for applications, 15 July 2019

1. Aim of funding

The Helmholtz Association has committed itself to the objectives of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation, e.g. promoting excellent young researchers and driving forward the internationalization of the association. The Helmholtz ERC Recognition Award is designed to give support to outstanding ERC grant applicants when resubmitting an ERC project proposal, and at the same time show recognition of their academic achievements to date.

2. Subject, scope and duration of funding

Researchers who submitted a proposal for ERC 2019 StG or ERC 2019 CoG within the framework of Horizon 2020 and who were then invited to an interview, proving the excellence of the researcher and the proposal, can apply for a grant of up to €200,000 from the Helmholtz Association's Initiative and Networking Fund. All applicants who reached Step 2, but were subsequently not awarded an ERC grant, are eligible. The grant is accompanied by the condition that the applicant must resubmit the ERC application within 24 months of the beginning of the funding period and that a Helmholtz Centre is once more the hosting institution.

Funding is designed to support the resubmitting of applications in response to one of the next appropriate ERC calls 2021 or 2022. The Helmholtz Recognition Award cannot be applied for when the ERC application is re-submitted directly, i.e. for ERC-StG-2020 (deadline 16.10.2019), ERC-CoG-2020 (deadline 04.02.2020) or ERC-AdG-2020 (deadline 26.08.2020).

Funding can be awarded up to €100,000 p.a. for up to two years for research activities pertaining to the ERC application to be resubmitted. The grant is intended in particular as a contribution towards the financing of the applicant's own or their staff's salary within the context of the specific research project, or for travel expenses or equipment. Under certain circumstances, it can be used for equipment for additional research work up to €30,000 p.a.

Funding is open to applicants who were already employed at a Helmholtz Centre at the time of their ERC submission or submitted their original proposal via a Helmholtz Centre as host institution.

3. Funding conditions

In order to be eligible for funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund, the following documents must be submitted:

- Formal application by the authorised department of the Helmholtz Centre, using the template provided,
- letter from the ERC showing the evaluation results at Step 2, and the final evaluation report for the project proposal,
- complete official version of the proposal submitted to the ERC,
- brief description of the proposed use of the award (see application template).

4. Application Submission

a) The complete set of documents is to be submitted per email to alexandra.rosenbach@helmholtz.de and angela.richter@helmholtz.de.

b) The hardcopy of the application bearing the original signatures of the authorised body of the Helmholtz Centre and of the applicant him/herself is to be submitted by post to:

Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft
Geschäftsstelle
Impuls- und Vernetzungsfonds
Herrn Rainer Nicolay
Ahrstraße 45
53175 Bonn

4. Deadline

The complete documents must reach the Helmholtz Head Office by **31 May 2020**.

5. Further Stipulations

The awards of up to € 100.000 p.a. will be transferred to the host centre, who will make the funding available to the researcher. In contrast to the ERC grants, the “money follows researcher” principle does not apply. If the researcher leaves the Helmholtz centre, funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund ceases. This is also the case, if it becomes obvious that, contrary to the commitment taken, the ERC grant application is not going to be re-submitted. The Helmholtz Head Office must be informed immediately if it is not the intention to resubmit the proposal, explaining the reason for this. Funding will then cease at the end of the month. If the Head Office is not notified immediately of such an intention and an acceptable explanation given, the funding grant will be deemed invalid and the amount already paid out must be reimbursed in full.

This call for applications applies to the ERC Call 2019 for Horizon 2020. The next call, ERC Call 2020, is planned for July 2020.