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**European Research College Amsterdam**

*Call: Grant for Researchers Exceeding Ambitious Targets (ERCA-GREAT)*



## GRANT FOR RESEARCHERS EXCEEDING AMBITIOUS TARGETS

European Research College Amsterdam (ERCA) is excited to announce the first edition of the ERCA-GREAT grant competition, designed to attract top-tier researchers and support investigator-driven projects that demonstrate excellence, originality, and the potential for societal impact.

### AIMS OF THE CALL

The ERCA-GREAT call supports excellent, investigator-driven research projects with the potential to advance academic knowledge and deliver societal impact.

**This call is open to proposals in two strategic fields:**

- Law and Legal Theory
- Political Science and International Relations

It aims to empower researchers to pursue original ideas with a high degree of scientific autonomy within ERCA's international and interdisciplinary environment. Proposals are expected to align with the mission and strategic goals of the European Research College Amsterdam and its founder – European Research University, including its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and societal relevance.

### GRANT STRUCTURE AND SCOPE

Successful applicants will be awarded:

- Project duration: **4 to 5 years**
- Annual funding: **Up to € 250,000 per project**
- Focus: **Ambitious, high-impact research with strong academic or societal relevance**
- Eligibility: **Open to researchers from early postdoctoral stage onwards**
- Purpose: **To support scientific autonomy and foster future research leadership**

## WHO SHOULD APPLY

The ERCA-GREAT scheme is intended for researchers who are establishing or consolidating their independent research careers and who demonstrate the potential to become future leaders in their field.

Applicants are expected to:

- Hold a PhD awarded within the past 10 years (extensions apply for parental or caregiving responsibilities)\*
- Have a proven record of research excellence, demonstrated through high-quality publications, invited presentations, or contributions to international research activities
- Show the ability to develop and lead an original, ambitious, and methodologically sound research agenda
- Demonstrate independence and scientific maturity, including experience in collaborative and interdisciplinary research environments
- Provide evidence of prior engagement with competitive research funding (as applicant or team member)
- Submit a proposal that aligns with ERCA's strategic goals and demonstrates strong academic and/or societal impact

*\* **Note:** The 10-year eligibility window may be extended in accordance with ERCA policy, for example to account for maternity, parental leave, or long-term caregiving responsibilities.*

The call is open exclusively to external candidates. Individuals who currently hold, or have recently held, an employment contract with ERCA or with the European Research University (its founder) are not eligible to apply.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

ERCA offers successful applicants access to a fully equipped research workplace located in central Amsterdam, providing an excellent academic setting within the EU research environment. Researchers will benefit from dedicated office space, institutional resources, access to databases, and administrative and technical support.

Physical presence at the Amsterdam site is expected, as the grant is designed to foster an active, collaborative research culture. In line with ERCA's commitment to equity and inclusion, the scheme supports researchers returning from parental leave or with ongoing caregiving responsibilities.

## HOW TO APPLY

Proposals must be submitted via the official ERCA online grant submission form. All applications must comply with the structure set out in the **Proposal Submission Guidelines** available on the [ERCA website](#).

The proposal must be submitted as **a single PDF file**, which must include all required parts and content in the structure set out in the Proposal Submission Guidelines. Incomplete or improperly structured proposals may be deemed ineligible.

## EVALUATION PROCEDURE

All proposals will be evaluated by an **independent international expert panel** composed of established researchers with recognised subject-specific expertise. The panel will assess applications based on scientific excellence, feasibility, and alignment with ERCA's mission. The **evaluation criteria** are detailed in the **Proposal Submission Guidelines**.

## KEY DATES

- Proposal submission deadline: **30 April 2026 (23:59 CET)**
- Notification of results: **25 May 2026**
- Project start date: **1 July 2026**

## CONTACT

For enquiries related to the call, proposal preparation, or the application process, please refer to the contact information provided on the [ERCA website](#).





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