

European Research Council Workshop:

Competing for ERC Grants with Computational and Theoretical Chemistry Projects

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As the premier European funding organization for excellent frontier research, the European Research Council (ERC) supports investigator-driven frontier research, including collaborative projects, across all domains of science, Physical and Engineering Sciences, Life Sciences, and Social Sciences and Humanities, through various funding schemes for all career stages, fostering excellence and empowering scientists to revolutionize their fields.

Led by an ERC Scientific Officer, a former computational chemist, this workshop aims at introducing the funding schemes of ERC, demystifying its application and evaluation processes, clarifying anecdotes, showcasing the key changes in the 2024 ERC Work Programme¹, and, most importantly, at providing practical advice to young and mid-career investigators on how and how not to successfully compete for ERC funding, especially with computational and theoretical projects.

Also, based on detailed statistical analyses on ERC funded projects, current trends in computational chemistry will be presented, aiming to identify ‘hot’ problems and contemporary topics in the field, with particular attention to DFT and post-HF methods. In addition, possibilities offered by the ERC funding schemes to finance collaborators, starting a lab, moving to Europe, etc. that are vital for the implementation of the project will be discussed.

The floor also will be given to ERC grantees and panel members to share their personal experiences and perceptions on the evaluation process and their interactions with the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA). The workshop will conclude with a Q&A session, where the speakers will address any remaining queries.



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References

- [1] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2024/wp_horizon-erc-2024_en.pdf