Support for ERC Starting/Consolidator Grants

- **Identification of suitable candidates**
  - EU Team proactively researches the best candidates via a staff list of eligible candidates provided by HR. Metrics such as H-Index, prizes, grant income are used to select standout candidates.
  - Faculty Pro-Deans for Research and FRIMs complement this with suggestions.

- **Briefing note**
  - A 1-page description of the scheme stating eligibility, key grant characteristics and outlining EU Team support is sent to all potential candidates. This is followed up by a brief meeting with interested candidates.

- **Introductory event**
  - An introductory event with VC or successful candidate. Details of the scheme and support are relayed.

- **Proposal-writing workshops**
  - A detailed workshop giving an overview of the proposal, the style of writing and what makes a competitive proposal. It is run 2 or 3 times to cover all candidates.

- **Provision of templates**
  - The EU Team has produced a template based on successful past applications, evaluation comments and ‘insider knowledge’ from panellists. Examples of successful proposals are provided (with PI permission).

- **Proposal advice – European Office**
  - Mainly B1 section – to check PI has sold themselves well enough and that need, aim and feasibility of project are apparent and clear in synopsis.

- **Peer review**
  - Candidates review an example proposal and then each other’s proposals, looking for key criteria that match the evaluation form. This encourages writing for a non-specific audience and facilitates sharing of ideas on presenting research for ERC.

- **Evaluation of Part B2**
  - Guidance is sent to peer reviewers in general process, as well as 1-2 named reviewers within group, to ensure internal evaluation is based on ERC criteria.

- **Consultant feedback on proposal**
  - An ERC-specialist consultant has been used on some proposals where funds allow

- **ERC Checklist**
  - EU Team-created checklist sent to all applicants to make sure application is completed correctly

- **Mock interview**
  - If candidate reaches Stage 2 evaluation, a panel similar to the internal review replicates the real interview scenario. A panel consists of Relevant Pro-Dean R&I, senior academics in the field, grant holder or ERC panellist, ODPL (for interview technique) and EU Team.

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**TIMELINE**

**Deadline (t=0)**

- **t – 4 months**
  - Identification of suitable candidates
- **t – 4 months**
  - Briefing note
- **t – 3 months**
  - Introductory event
- **t – 2 months**
  - Proposal-writing workshops
- **t – 2 months**
  - Provision of templates
- **t – 2 months**
  - Proposal advice – European Office
- **t – 4 weeks**
  - Peer review
- **t – 4 weeks**
  - Evaluation of Part B2
- **t – 2 weeks**
  - Consultant feedback on proposal
- **t + 4 months**
  - Mock interview