ERC

Charles University pays great attention to the European Research Council (ERC) grants, as it considers them, like all other scientific institutions in Europe, a benchmark of research quality. The University strives to provide systematic and long-term support to applicants with the aim of increasing our success rate in obtaining ERC grants in the years to come. The University has initiated and substantially participates in the ERC Expert Group, whose coordinator is Prof. Zdeněk Strakoš (MFF).

"Applying for an ERC grant is a long-term process, where the most important thing is not getting the grant, but the preparation itself, during which the scientist has to think carefully about the project and his/her professional direction - in context and with insight, to take a kind of inventory of his/her work.

We know from feedback that even unsuccessful applicants rate the ERC grant preparation process as valuable and determinant for their future scientific work. By preparing the project, they have gained the space to pause, to change the way they look at their work, and this gradually leads (even if they do not get the ERC grant itself) to better results, to other grants or a prospective position at a major institution. The investment of time and effort in preparing a quality ERC project will pay off at the individual level and the institution itself."

Prof. Zdeněk Strakoš
Coordinator of the ERC Expert Group

ERC Grantees

ERC Grantees 2025

Jakub DrápalStarting grant RE-CON-SENT
Sentencing Discretion in Continental Europe
This ERC project investigates how judicial discretion in sentencing is structured across European legal systems. By analysing legal frameworks, court practices, and guidelines, the research aims to understand how discretion affects consistency and punitiveness. Using advanced data methods and case studies from Finland and Czechia, the project also tests the impact of newly designed sentencing guidelines.
Andrea GálisováStarting grant PROVIDE
Utilizing Extracellular Vesicles for Targeted Therapeutic Delivery
This ERC-funded project focuses on engineering extracellular vesicles—naturally secreted nanoscale particles involved in cell-to-cell communication—for targeted in vivo delivery and monitoring of therapeutic proteins. The goal is to develop programmable systems capable of transporting bioactive molecules directly to specific tissues.

ERC Grantees 2024

Michal SmetanaStarting grant MICROCODE
How public opinion influences collective defence commitments
MICROCODE project aims to establish a new research agenda on the microfoundations of collective defence, focusing specifically on public opinion in allied countries. The project develop a theoretical model to explain how individuals form attitudes towards allied assistance in various defence scenarios. It will also examine how these individual attitudes aggregate to shape public opinion, which, in turn, influences decision-makers.
Tomáš DumbrovskýConsolidator grant RECONCILE
A closer look at constitutionalism for collective identity
RECONCILE project seeks to redefine constitutionalism as an integrative force, developing a new theory – identity constitutionalism. By analysing constitutional discourse in Europe and the MENA region, the project will explore how constitutions can foster unity through authenticity.

Klára HlouchováConsolidator grant LIFE-19
Challenging the main idea of life
LIFE-19 project aims to develop a bacterial strain that uses only 19 amino acids by mutating all tryptophan (Trp) sites in a minimal Mycoplasma genome. This research will provide insights into early cellular evolution and challenge the assumption that life requires all 20 canonical amino acids, advancing the field of synthetic biology.
Ondřej PejchaConsolidator grant ROGALLO
Unveiling the Dynamics of Binary Systems
This project pushes the boundaries of astrophysical research by developing ROGALLO, a novel simulation tool for binary systems involving stars, planets, neutron stars, and black holes. By combining advanced numerical methods with custom-designed meshes, it aims to unlock deeper insights into phenomena like gravitational waves, stellar explosions, and galactic evolution.
Martin SetvínConsolidator grant SPOT
Polarons Under the Microscope: Tracking Particles in Real Space
Polarons – quasiparticles formed in ionic crystals – play a key role in the electrical, optical, and magnetic properties of materials. Yet they have only been studied indirectly. SPOT aims to directly observe individual polarons in real space for the first time using noncontact Atomic Force Microscopy (nc-AFM), revealing their behavior at the atomic scale.
Jaroslav ŠvelchConsolidator grant GAMEINDEX
Who Gets to Be Real in Virtual Worlds
GAMEINDEX explores how digital games construct realism and representation. By analysing game content, media discourse, and conducting on-site ethnography, it investigates which places and people are digitised—and why. Using real-world data like motion capture and 3D scans, the project reveals how production choices shape what players see. Its goal is to develop a new theory of representation that uncovers hidden biases and promotes more inclusive virtual worlds.
Kateřina ČapkováAdvanced grant INHIST
An Inclusive Perspective on the History of the Visegrád Countries and Ukraine
The project focuses on a new, inclusive interpretation of the history of Central and Eastern Europe from the 19th century to the present. Its aim is to move beyond the traditional national narrative and, through the perspectives of Roma and Sinti, Jews, and people with disabilities, highlight the agency of historically marginalized communities and offer a more open view of society and its past.

ERC Grantees 2023

Anežka KuzmičováStarting grant WONDRE
Ways of imagining in children's lives with information texts
The WONDRE project explores how children experience information as personally engaging through nonfiction picturebooks. Unlike fiction, we lack tools to understand the imaginative impact of nonfiction. Combining literary and social science approaches, the research uses innovative methods to uncover how children connect facts with imagination. One of the outcomes will be a multilingual digital book co-created with children.
Zuzana MusilováConsolidator grant SensingDEEP
Exploring whether deep-sea fish can see colours
SensingDEEP project explores whether deep-sea fish can perceive colours using unique visual systems based on multiple rod opsins. By studying their sensory cells and genomes, the project investigates how these extraordinary adaptations may expand the known limits of vertebrate vision.

All ERC Grants - by category

ERC Starting Grants
2025
- **Jakub Drápal** - ERC project RE-CON-SENT
- **Andrea Gálisová** - ERC project PROVIDE

2024
- **Michal Smetana** - ERC project MICROCODE

2023
- **Anežka Kuzmičová** - ERC project WONDRE

2022
- **Erin Carson** - ERC project inEXASCALE

2021
- **Ondřej Dušek** - ERC project NG-NLG
- **Martin Kozák** - ERC project eWaveShaper

2019
- **Filip Kolář** - ERC project DOUBLE ADAPT

2018
- **Matyáš Fendrych** - ERC project CELLONGATE
- **Ondřej Pejcha** - ERC project Cat-In-hAT

2017
- **Jiří Klimeš** - ERC project APES

2016
- **Jana Kalbáčová Vejpravová** - ERC project TSuNAMI

2010
- **Jana Roithová** - ERC project ISORI

ERC Consolidator Grants
2024
- **Tomáš Dumbrovský -** ERC project RECONCILE
- **Klára Hlouchová** - ERC project LIFE-19
- **Ondřej Pejcha** - ERC project ROGALLO
- **Martin Setvín -** ERC projckt SPOT
- **Jaroslav Švelch -** ERC project GAMEINDEX

2023
- **Zuzana Musilová** - ERC project SensingDEEP

2017
- **Libor Barto** - ERC project CoCoSym
- **Vladimír Hampl** - ERC project Amitochondriates

2013
- **Michal Koucký** - ERC project LBCAD

ERC Advanced Grants
2024
- **Kateřina Čapková** - ERC project INHIST

ERC Synergy Grants
2022
- **Libor Barto** - ERC project POCOCOP

2018
- **Jaroslav Nešetřil** - ERC project DYNASNET

Information and who to contact

If you are considering submitting an ERC, please contact the **ERC University Consultant**, Veronika Syrovátková , well in advance.

For more INFORMATION ABOUT THE ERC, including an overview of university ERC grants, please visit CU Europe Centre website **.**

To support young scientists to become independent and start their research group, the UK has also established the PRIMUS programme , which also succeeds in supporting applicants for ERC grants.