

TÜBİTAK-Science Fellowships and Grant Programmes Department
2247-Pioneer Researchers Support Program
(2247-B European Research Council (ERC) Support Program)
2019 Call Announcement

1. Aim and Scope of the Call

The aim of this call is to provide support for researchers in order to improve/strengthen their projects having potential to make significant discoveries and/or inventions and be able to receive support from the European Research Council (ERC) for increasing the rate of return to our country from the European Union funds.

This call announcement covers the procedures and obligations related to researchers who apply to this program and/or are supported.

2. Scope, Amount, and Duration of the Support

2.1. Scope of the Support

The following are provided as grants under this program:

- Research project support,
- Project Incentive Bonus (PIB) for project coordinator and researchers,
- Institution Cost for the institution/organization where the project is executed.

2.2. Amount and Duration of the Support

2.2.1 The amounts of support for the support items defined in the program are available on the program website.

2.2.2. Support period is maximum 24 months.

2.2.3. In case the Project becomes eligible to be supported by ERC within the duration of support, the TÜBİTAK support will be terminated as of that date.

2.2.4. It is the principle for the project coordinator to complete his/her research within the support duration. Project duration can be extended up to twenty-five percent of the total duration. This shall be settled upon a justified application of the project coordinator, if the relevant group expresses a positive opinion and the Presidency approves. Situations where this time is exceeded shall be settled by the Board of Directors.

2.2.5. Any additional allowance that can be granted under the project shall be finalized upon a justified application by the project coordinator, the positive opinion of the relevant group, and the approval of the Presidency, provided that it does not exceed the applicable upper limit at the time of the support decision.

2.2.6. The amount of the accepted support shall be transferred to a project-specific account to be opened by the institution/organization where the research to be executed.

2.2.7. Expenses related to the allowances transferred shall be realized under the following in accordance with the type of organization to which the transfer is made:

- Principles and procedures for the spending of amounts to be transferred for projects from TÜBİTAK funds to public administrations under the national budget and special-budget administrations and the expenditures of externally-supported projects conducted by TÜBİTAK,

- Principles for the transfer, spending, recognition and auditing of amounts to be transferred by TÜBİTAK for projects to private entities and foundation universities,
- Procedures and principles to be applied in financial transactions of amounts to be transferred for projects from TÜBİTAK funds to research infrastructures and to public administrations not included in the scope of Law no. 5018 on Public Financial Management and Control.

3. Application Requirements, Required Documents and Application Method

3.1. Application Requirements

- 3.1.1. Having a project application submitted to ERC Calls (Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant, Advanced Grant and Synergy Grant) and not funded within the last 3 years as of the application deadline, but received grade "A" or "B" from the last evaluation phase;
- 3.1.2. Commitment to reapply to ERC within 2 years;
- 3.1.3. Project Coordinator is employed by a research institution that resides in Turkey or will be employed as of the start date of the support to be received from TÜBİTAK;
- 3.1.4. Executing his/her project in Turkey if s/he becomes eligible to receive ERC support after the program support.

3.2. Application Documents

- 3.2.1. Project proposal form
- 3.2.2. Document proving that ERC project proposal to be evaluated has received grade A or B;
- 3.2.3. Resume from the Researcher Information System (ARBİS);

Only the documents uploaded to the system shall be taken into account for evaluation. Therefore, the document for each requirement must be uploaded to the system clearly with the content determined.

3.3. Documents Required to Start the Support

- 3.3.1. A project contract signed by and between TÜBİTAK, the executive and the representatives of the institution/organization where the project to be executed;
- 3.3.2. If the study requires, an approval from the Ethics Committee of the institution which employs the researcher or from any relevant Ethics Committee if the institution does not have one.

3.4. Application Method

- 3.4.1. Applications shall be submitted online through e-bideb.tubitak.gov.tr within the dates announced in the call announcement.
- 3.4.2. Documents to be uploaded to the application system must be either in Turkish or English. Certified Turkish or English translations of documents in other languages must be uploaded.
- 3.4.3. At the application stage, uploading the documents to the system is sufficient and it is not necessary to submit them physically to BİDEB.
- 3.4.4. After the announcement of the support decision, the persons who are entitled to receive support should submit the required documents to BİDEB.
- 3.4.5. Any application can be withdrawn at any stage. An original signed petition stating the year and period of application should be sent to BİDEB for

withdrawal. Following the receipt of the petition by BİDEB, an update shall be made.

4. Provisions Regarding Supports

4.1. Conditions and limits to be able to take part in the project

- 4.1.1. The conditions to be employed as project coordinator or researcher in research projects within the scope of this program are determined by the Presidency.
- 4.1.2. If the institution/organization where the project to be executed is a private-sector entity, the relevant institution/organization must either be a company having an R&D center or a design center under Law no. 5746 on Supporting Research, Development and Design Activities or a capital stock company based in Turkey within the scope of a technology park subjected to a Law No. 4691 on Technology Development Zones.
- 4.1.3. The constitution of the project team is flexible. Depending on the nature of a project, the project team may involve researchers from other research organizations.

4.2. Changes related to researchers in projects

- 4.2.1 Any change envisaged in relation to the Researcher including appointment and dismissal, shall be made with a justified application by the project coordinator and the approval of the relevant GEC.

5. Provisions for Students to be Granted Fellowships

5.1. Qualifications for Students to be Granted Fellowships under the Program

- 5.1.1. Turkish or foreign national students studying for PhD (excluding private students and foreign language preparatory students) in higher education institutions based in Turkey and taking part in the research project to be presented for implementation purposes can take part as fellowship holders.
- 5.1.2. Fellowship holders must meet the fellowship requirements of BİDEB programs.
- 5.1.3. Any fellowship holder receiving a fellowship within the scope of this program cannot be supported concurrently by another program of BİDEB.
- 5.1.4. The issues related to appointments, leaves and similar changes related to fellowship holders shall be regulated within the framework of the sub-regulatory procedures to be prepared correspondingly.
- 5.1.5. The duration of every fellowship is limited to the term of the project. Scientific preparation period of a fellowship holder shall not be included in the fellowship period.

6. Evaluation and Support Decision

6.1. Every application shall be evaluated in two stages:

6.1.1. Preliminary Examination

Any application which fails to meet any of the application requirements or has been received after the end of the work hours of the deadline day or submitted via fax or email shall be returned at the preliminary examination stage without being subjected to scientific evaluation. However, any missing application document shall be required to be completed within 15 days. Otherwise the application shall be returned.

6.1.2. Scientific Evaluation

Scientific evaluation shall be carried out by Turkish and/or foreign panelists/consultants who are experts in their fields according to the following criteria.

- Resumes of the project coordinator
- Nature of the research project

The nature of the research project shall be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- Improvements to the ERC Proposal
- Methodology

Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk management

Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks

Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)

- Resources (including project costs)

6.2. **Support Decision**

The results of the panel evaluation shall become final with the opinion of the Group and the approval of the Presidency. The support decision shall be announced through the project coordinator and the relevant web page of the institution/organization where the project is executed.

7. Monitoring and Finalization

7.1. **General Provisions on Support Transfers and Spending**

7.1.1. The allowance of the first period of the accepted budget of the research support shall be transferred to the project-specific account, along with the allowances of the other periods, following the signing of the contract by the parties, depending on the acceptance of the progress reports. If the organization where the project is executed is a private-sector entity, it shall provide a guarantee, based on the values specified in Law no. 4734, the amount of which is equal to the highest period allowance of the research support.

7.1.2. As part of the research support, a Project Incentive Bonus (PIB), the amount of which is determined by the Board of Directors, shall be paid to every researcher who takes part in services related to the project. 50% of the total PIB determined shall be paid upon the acceptance of the progress reports, whereas the remaining 50% upon the acceptance of the final report of the project. If the organization where the project is executed is a private-sector entity, the researchers employed by this entity (including the executive) shall be provided with a payment equivalent to the project incentive bonus.

7.1.3. The fellowship expenses for the fellowship holders to be included in the Executive's team for his/her researches to be executed in Turkey shall transferred as of the periods determined within the scope of the research support to the project-specific account opened by the organization where the project is executed. Fellowships for PhD students shall be paid by the organization where the project is executed within the first week following the month during which they made implementation.

7.1.4. Expenditures shall be made in accordance with the principles to which they are subjected to in the TÜBİTAK legislation based on the nature of the

institution/organization where the project is executed. Responsibility for the compliance of the expenditures with the provisions of the project contract and the legislation shall belong to the institution/organization where the project is executed.

- 7.1.5. The allowance for the institution cost shall be transferred by TÜBİTAK to the project-specific account of the institution, where the project is executed, based on the budget plan following the acceptance of the progress reports. It is the responsibility of the institution/organization where the project is executed to spend the allowance for the institution cost for R&D.

7.2. Progress and Final Reports

- 7.2.1. The project coordinator shall be obliged to submit to TÜBİTAK the progress reports on days specified in the project contract in accordance with the detailed work plan proposed at the time of application.
- 7.2.2. Progress reports must be submitted within one month at the latest following the dates specified in the project contract. A financial report containing the justification and breakdown of the expenditure for the relevant period should be attached to each progress report.
- 7.2.3. The final report must be submitted within one month at the latest following the end date specified in the project contract. A financial report containing the justification and breakdown of the expenditure for the relevant period should be attached to the final report.
- 7.2.4. If the organization where the project is executed is a private-sector entity or a foundation university, a Certified Financial Advisory Report regarding the expenditures shall be required along with the final report.
- 7.2.5. Progress and final reports shall be evaluated by consultants who are experts in their fields and assigned by TÜBİTAK.
- 7.2.6. TÜBİTAK may invite the project coordinator to get information about the developments when deemed necessary or appoint person(s) for the purpose of examining and auditing the research in terms of scientific, technical, administrative and financial aspects.
- 7.2.7. The project shall be concluded as of the end date specified in the contract. The project coordinator is obliged to submit to TÜBİTAK a final report, along with the approved application document showing that s/he has presented the ERC project, within 6 months from the closing date of the ERC call. This period can be extended to 1 year with the decision of the GEC due to an acceptable force majeure.
- 7.2.8. Progress/final reports are accepted or rejected with the decision of the GEC as a result of an evaluation by expert consultants appointed by TÜBİTAK.
- 7.2.9. The project whose final report is accepted is considered finalized. For a project whose final report is rejected, the repealing or annulling provisions shall be applied depending on the reason for rejection. The balance of the project-specific account shall be returned to the TÜBİTAK account after the project is completed.

7.3. Suspension, Repeal and Annulment

- 7.3.1. Any suspension, repeal and annulment of the project shall be carried out in accordance with the Procedures and Principles related to execution of Fellowship and Support Programs of the Department of Supports Programs for Scientists of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey.

7.4. Other Provisions

7.4.1. It is the project coordinator's responsibility to notify BİDEB of any address, email or telephone changes within two weeks at the latest.

7.4.2. The project coordinator may request to postpone the project start date for a maximum period of 6 months due to force majeure.

8. Code of Ethics

8.1. Code of Ethics

8.1.1. The individuals who signed the project contract are obliged to comply with the rules of universal scientific research and scientific publication during the execution of the project. If the study requires, the Ethical Committee Approval Certificate and the necessary legal and special permits must be obtained. In case of violation of the above mentioned rules, the relevant persons shall be treated in accordance with the TÜBİTAK Research and Publication Ethics Committee Regulation or the Industrial Ethics Committee provisions.

9. Relevant Legislation (Regulation, Program Directive, Evaluation Directive)

9.1. Procedures and Principles related to execution of Fellowship and Support Programs of the Department of Supports Programs for Scientists of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

9.2. Directive on Evaluation and Monitoring of Applications and Reports by the Panel/Consultant/Consultative Committee method in Fellowship and Support Programs of BİDEB

9.3. Principles and procedures for the spending of amounts to be transferred for projects from TÜBİTAK funds to public administrations under the national budget and special-budget administrations and the expenditures of externally-supported projects conducted by TÜBİTAK

9.4. Principles for the transfer, spending, recognition and auditing of amounts to be transferred by TÜBİTAK for projects to public entities and foundation universities

9.5. Procedures and principles to be applied in financial transactions of amounts to be transferred for projects from TÜBİTAK funds to research infrastructures and to public administrations not included in the scope of Law no. 5018 on Public Financial Management and Control

GEC decisions shall apply in cases that are not mentioned in the relevant legislation and in the call announcement of the program and for eliminating any doubt that may arise in the implementation of the program.

10. Definitions & Abbreviations

- **President:** The President of TÜBİTAK;
- **Presidency:** The Presidency of TÜBİTAK;
- **BİDEB:** Science Fellowships and Grant Programmes Department;
- **Progress Report:** A report issued in accordance with the forms and procedures determined by TÜBİTAK by the project manager on the dates specified in the project contract in order to follow up the periodic developments;
- **Group:** Units which are under the responsibility of BİDEB and have been established to develop and implement the systems promoting and supporting research, development and innovation in scientific and technological areas;

- **Group Executive Committee (GEC):** The Executive Committee of Scientists Support Groups providing opinions, recommendations and decisions related to group activities;
- **Project-specific Account:** The bank account to be opened by the institution/organization executing the project in any bank for the transfer of any support provided under the program and usable only for the expenditures within the scope of the project,
- **Private-sector Entity:** A capital stock company based in Turkey having R&D units provided with R&D or design center certificates within the scope of Law no. 5746 on Supporting Research, Development and Design Activities, or a stock company based in a technology park;
- **Panel:** A meeting held by scientists, who are experts in their fields, involved in the evaluation of fellowship and support applications;
- **Panelist:** A person, who is an expert in his/her field, assigned to provide opinions at the evaluation meeting of the fellowship and support applications conducted by BİDEB;
- **Project Contract:** The written agreement and its annexes signed by and between TÜBİTAK, project coordinator and the institution/organization executing the project after TÜBİTAK decides to provide support, determining the scope and duration of the support, legal, administrative and financial provisions, intellectual and industrial property rights, and special conditions as well as the responsibilities of the parties;
- **Project Duration:** The period from the project start date until the end date specified in the project contract;
- **Project Incentive Bonus:** Limited to the duration of the supported project, an amount determined in the project contract and paid in accordance with the principles set by the Board of Directors to an individual holding a position in a public institution or organization involved in the project or any service related to the project, provided that such amount does not exceed 75% of the amount paid to that individual on a monthly basis depending on his/her position;
- **Project coordinator:** A researcher bearing all kinds of scientific, technical, administrative, financial and legal responsibilities of the project and conveying the scientific, technical, administrative and financial reports of the project to TÜBİTAK in the time intervals defined in the project contract;
- **Project:** A set of activities undertaken to achieve results, the success criteria and targets of which have been defined, and carried out at a specific time interval and with a certain amount of resources;
- **Final Report:** A document, the format of which is set by TÜBİTAK, indicating the added value and achievements obtained from the results and outcomes of the project as of the end of support period;
- **TÜBİTAK:** The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
- **Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors of TÜBİTAK.

11. Contact Information

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