



**EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC)
SUPPORT PROGRAM
THE CALL TEXT**

2247 -B



**Department of
Science Fellowships and Grant Programs**

European Research Council (ERC) Support Program



TÜBİTAK-BİDEB 2247-B
European Research Council (ERC) Support Program
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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

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, TÜBİTAK support is terminated by allowing 3 months to complete all the budgetary transactions carried out in the project. The work carried out is deemed to have been concluded successfully and the reports for the remaining period are not requested.
- 2.2.4. It is main 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 it is exceeded shall be settled by the Board of Directors.
- 2.2.5. Any additional allowance that can be granted within the scope of 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 performed.
- 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, Application Method and Required Documents

3.1 Application Requirements

- 3.1.1. Having a project application submitted to ERC and not funded within the last 3 years as of the application deadline, but received grade "A" or "B" from the second phase;
- 3.1.2. Commitment to reapply to ERC;
- 3.1.3. The researcher 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; and
- 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

Before the application, Researcher Information System (ARBİS) record must be updated.

3.3. Application Method

- 3.3.1. Applications shall be submitted online through e-bideb.tubitak.gov.tr within the dates announced in the call announcement.
- 3.3.2. Application and evaluation processes are in English.
- 3.3.3. Applicants should declare that all information which they provide is correct and complete. Applicants should also commit that they will comply with all regulations and obligations of this program.
- 3.3.4. Any application can be withdrawn at any stage. An original signed petition should be sent to BİDEB for withdrawal. Following the receipt of the petition by BİDEB, an update shall be made.

3.4. Documents Required to Start the Support

- 3.4.1. If the study requires, an approval from the Ethics Committee of the institution which employs the researcher or from any relevant Ethics Committee suitable for research plan (Ethical Committee for Animal Researches, Clinical Researches, etc.) if the institution does not have one.

Following related documents have been received, a project agreement has been signed between TÜBİTAK and the project coordinator and the authorities of the institution / organization where the project will be carried out and support is initiated on the specified date.

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. Project coordinators cannot apply to this program with more than one project proposal at the same time. However, only 6 months before the ending of an operating project within the scope of this program, a researcher may re-apply to the same program with a new project proposal.
- 4.1.3. If the institution/organization where the project to be performed 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.
- 4.1.4. Applications made to this program is excluded from limit of duties in projects among other programs of TÜBİTAK.
- 4.1.5. Researchers who benefit from other fellowship and grant programs of BİDEB can apply to this program.

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.

4.3 Provisions for Students to be Granted Fellowships

- 4.3.1 Turkish or international students studying for PhD (excluding private students and foreign language preparatory students) in higher education institutions based in Turkey and Post-doc researchers can take part as fellowship holders.
- 4.3.2 Any fellowship holder receiving a fellowship within the scope of this program cannot be supported concurrently by another program of BİDEB.
- 4.3.3 Any scholarship payment is made if the education period exceeds 12 semesters for post-graduate (after master education) doctoral education and 14 semesters for integrated doctorate education.

- 4.3.4 Scholars whose registration is frozen by the Institute will not be paid within this period. In this situation the scholarship period can be extended as much as the interrupted time. When necessary, TÜBİTAK may request related documents from scholarship holder.
- 4.3.5 The duration of the fellowships is limited to the duration of the project.
- 4.3.6 The issues related to appointment, leaving and similar changes related to fellowship holders shall be regulated within the framework of the sub-regulatory procedures to be prepared correspondingly.

5. Evaluation and Support Decision

5.1. Every Application Shall be Evaluated in Two Stages:

5.1.1. Preliminary Examination

Any application which fails to meet any of the application requirements or has not been confirmed through the application system until deadline 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.

5.1.2. Scientific Evaluation

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

- Resumes of the project coordinator
- Improving ERC project
- Methodology (Project management including risk management, compliance of monitoring processes, consistency and effectiveness of work plan and suitability of work packages)
- Infrastructure of host organization
- Project budget
- Project duration

5.2. 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 to the project coordinator.

6. Monitoring and Finalization

6.1. General Provisions on Support Transfers and Spending

- 6.1.1. The payment of the first period of the accepted budget of the research support shall be transferred to the project-specific account following the signing of the contract by

the parties, along with the allowances of the other periods depending on the acceptance of the progress reports. If the host organization 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 allowance among payment periods.

- 6.1.2. The fellowship expenses for the fellowship holders to be included in the project team shall be transferred as of the payment periods to the project-specific account opened by the host organization. Fellowships for PhD students and/or post-doc researchers shall be paid by the host organization within the first week following the month during which they made implementation.
- 6.1.3. Expenditures shall be made in accordance with the principles to which they are subjected in TÜBİTAK legislation based on the nature of the host institution/organization. Responsibility for the compliance of the expenditures with the provisions of the project contract and the legislation shall belong to the host institution/organization.

6.2. Progress and Final Reports

- 6.2.1. 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.
- 6.2.2. Progress reports must be submitted on 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.
- 6.2.3. The final report must be submitted within two months 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.
- 6.2.4. **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. If ERC application was done before project final date, the ERC application document is sent together with the next report. If ERC application could not being done till project final date, it is obliged to submit application to the first ERC call (excluding the PoC), which is suitable for researcher's profile, after project final date.** This period can be extended at most to the next ERC call with the decision of the GEC due to an acceptable force majeure.
- 6.2.5. The project coordinator shall submit the approved application document showing that s/he has presented the ERC project within 6 months from the closing date of the ERC call.
- 6.2.6. If the host organization 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.
- 6.2.7. Progress and final reports shall be evaluated by consultants who are experts in their fields and assigned by TÜBİTAK.
- 6.2.8. 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.

- 6.2.9. 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.
- 6.2.10. 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.
- 6.2.11. If the approved document indicating that the project coordinator has applied to ERC project is not submitted within the specified time period, the status of the project will be discussed in the GEC and prosecuted in accordance with the relevant legislation defined at item 6.3. in this call text.

6.3. Suspension, Repeal and Annulment

- 6.3.1. 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.

6.4. Other Provisions

- 6.4.1. It is the project coordinator's responsibility to notify BİDEB of any address, email or telephone changes within two weeks at the latest.
- 6.4.2. The project coordinator may request to postpone the project start date for a maximum period of 6 months due to force majeure.

7. Code of Ethics

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.

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

- 8.1. [Regulations Related to Programs Executed by Department of Supports Programs for Scientists of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey](#)
- 8.2. [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](#)

- 8.3. [Directive on Evaluation and Monitoring of Applications and Reports by the Panel/Consultant/Consultative Committee method in Fellowship and Support Programs of BİDEB](#)
- 8.4. [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](#)
- 8.5. [Principles for the transfer, spending, recognition and auditing of amounts to be transferred by TÜBİTAK for projects to public entities and foundation universities](#)
- 8.6. [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.

9. Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights

On the Intellectual Product that emerged during or as a result of the execution of the supported projects; rights, authorities and responsibilities, use of rights, licensing, registration conditions and all other matters related to these of both TÜBİTAK and the Rights Holders involved in the project are handled in accordance with the Regulations Related to Programs Executed by Department of Supports Programs for Scientists of TÜBİTAK. Provided that it is not contrary to this regulation, a protocol can be drawn up between the project team and the institution/organization where the project will be carried out in order to regulate the intellectual property rights on the intellectual products that will emerge during the monitoring phase of the project or after its conclusion.

10.Call Calender

This program is open yearlong.

11.Definitions & Abbreviations

- **President:** The President of TÜBİTAK;
- **Presidency:** The Presidency of TÜBİTAK;
- **BİDEB:** Department of Science Fellowships and Grant Programs;

- **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 or evaluation process according to views of 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 process 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 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.

12.Contact Information

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