



CALL FOR APPLICATION

European Research Council (ERC) – Thailand PMU-B

Administrative Arrangement

Opportunities for Thai Researchers to Join European Research Council Teams in Europe

1. Background

The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields on the basis of scientific excellence. ERC was established in 2007 and is funded through the European Commission (Horizon Europe) with a budget of THB 580 billion. Since 2007, ERC has funded more than 10,000 researchers. ERC grantees have been awarded 9 Nobel Prizes, 4 Field Medals, and 11 Wolf Prizes. 200,000 articles published in scientific journals by ERC projects.

To further cooperation between Thailand and the European Union (EU) in frontier research, the European Research Council and Thailand's Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B) signed an Administrative Arrangement on 9 September 2022.

2. Specific Aim of the Program

- To provide opportunities for High Caliber Thai Researchers to pursue frontier research collaborations with European research team supported by ERC grants.
- To contribute to advancement of frontier research for both Thailand and the EU through research visits and collaborations in thematic area of mutual interest.
- To support high level research capacity development and strengthen international research network for Thai researchers and research institutions.

3. Procedure & Opportunity of Cooperation

The ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) has provided to PMU-B a list of ERC-funded principal investigators (PIs) and research teams that expressed interests in hosting Thai researchers for three to a maximum of 12 months, or multiple short-term visits (one to three months each). For this call, over 600 PIs of ERC-funded projects have expressed interests in hosting Thai researchers.

PMU-B will select the High Caliber Thai researchers through a 2-step process:

- 1) Preselection of concept proposals submitted by Thai researchers who have expressed interest in pursuing frontier research collaborations with EU-funded research teams through research visits. Preselected applicants will be provided with a list of ERC-funded PIs in thematic areas of mutual interests.
- 2) The applicants will be invited to communicate directly with the ERC-funded PIs to negotiate the terms and conditions of the visits and collaboration which should be in line with the ERC grant agreement. The applicants will then submit the full proposal with the details of the agreed upon intended collaborative activities and other supplemental documents to PMU-B for the final selection process.

PMU-B will fund up to 10 researchers annually to join ERC funded projects in Europe. Travel and living expenses related to the research visits by visiting researchers will be paid by PMU-B based on PMU-B reimbursement guidelines. Researchers would be required to obtain approval from the institution they belong to before commencing a collaborative project arrangement with the PI of the ERC funded project.

For those ERC-supported European teams which host a Thai researcher, PMU-B will also offer funding for the PI of the ERC funded project to visit the Thai researcher's university or institute in Thailand for up to one week. PMU-B would cover return economy airfare, accommodation and living costs.

4. Applicant Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to the High Caliber Thai researchers who is affiliated with the universities and/or research institutions in Thailand for the thematic area of mutual interests.
- Frontier Science Researchers and Frontier Social Science Researchers with excellent research track records are encouraged to apply.

5. Thematic Area of Mutual Interests

The following topics have been identified as being a priority for collaboration with ERC funded projects:

Frontier Science	Frontier BCG (Health & Medicine: Environment & Climate Change)	Frontier SHA (Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental Constituents of Matter • Condensed Matter Physics • Computer Science and Informatics • System and Communication Engineering • Universe Science • Earth System Science • Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems • Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing • Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous Systems • Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy • Prevention, Diagnostic and Treatment of Human Diseases • The Human Mind and its Complexity • Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution • Human Mobility, Environment, and Space • Synergy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultures and Cultural Production • The Study of the Human Past • The Social World and Its Diversity • Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems

6. Activities Funded Under the Program

- Thai researchers may carry out research visits with ERC-supported European teams through single and long-term visits (three to a maximum 12 months), or multiple short-term visits (one to three months).
- The research visits should begin prior to the conclusion termination date of the ERC grant.

7. Funding

- Travel grant: A round trip economy ticket from Bangkok to the location of the ERC project
- Monthly living allowance according to the PMU-B guidelines
- Visa fees
- Health insurance coverage for the duration of the research visits

8. Tentative Timeline - 2023

11 April	- Call Opens for ERC - PMU-B Administrative Arrangement (AA)
Mid April	- Info Session I: Application process, concept proposal development, topic selection for Thai Researchers
19 May	- Deadline for submission of Concept proposal, CV
End May	- Announcement of the Preselected Concept Proposals
	- Info Session II: List of Express Interests from ERC PIs, Full Proposal Development Process, Tutorial on contacting ERC PIs
June – August	- Thai researchers contact ERC PIs and develop Full Proposal
End August	- Deadline for submission of Full Proposal and other supplemental documents
September	- Full Proposal Evaluation Process
October	- Announcement of ERC - PMU-B Administrative Arrangement Grant
November	- Funding Contract Process
December	- Departures can be scheduled from December 2023

9. How to Apply

Thai researchers interested in visiting ERC funded projects should submit the following documents to PMU-B at pmub.gp@nxpo.or.th by **19 May 2023**

- **Concept Proposal Form**
- **CV**

Note: Following a preselection eligibility check by PMU-B, a select number of applicants will then be invited by PMU-B to begin discussions with the PIs of ERC funded projects.

Contact:

For further information, please contact: pmub.gp@nxpo.or.th

PMU-B Website: <https://www.pmu-hr.or.th>