



ERC Advanced Grant at the UZH: Information for applicants

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General information on submitting the application

Funding & Tender Portal – UZH PIC

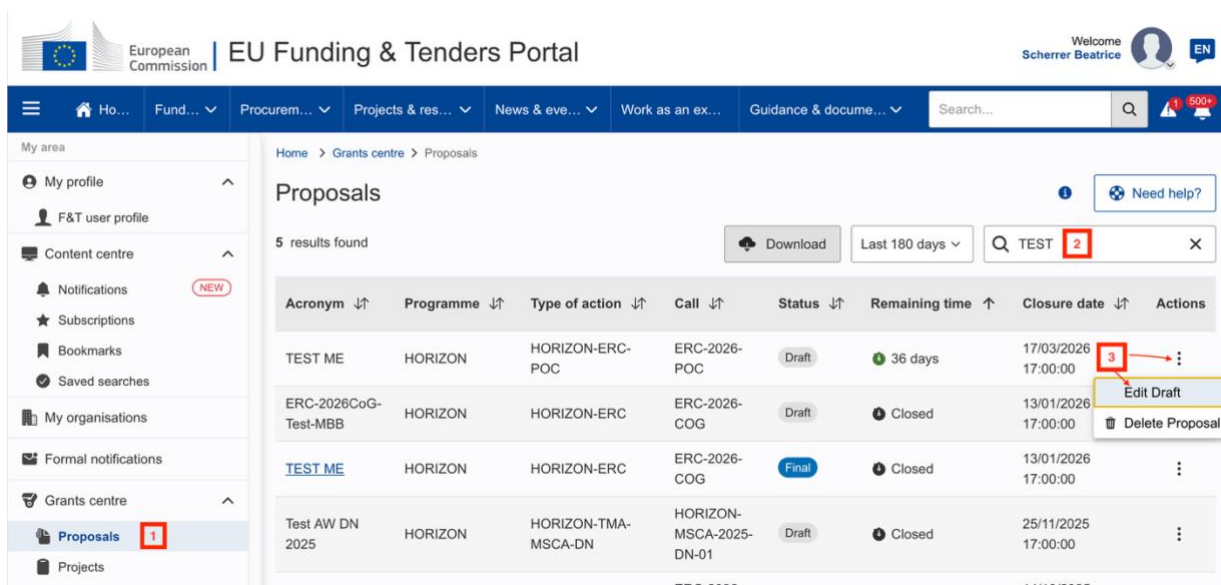
The application is created on and submitted via the EU [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). To access the portal, you need a so-called ECAS account. In case you do not have one yet, please register [here](#) to get an account.

Use the **UZH PIC: 999976396**. There is only one PIC for all UZH applicants, including USZ affiliations. Please do not use or create any other PIC.

Grant the UZH Research & Grants Office access to your proposal

The Research & Grants Office will formally review your application directly in the portal (main host institution contact, budget, compliance with formal criteria). To do this, we need access to your application. Please give us access according to the following information:

- Go to the Funding & Tenders Portal
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>
- Login and follow these steps:
 - (1) Click on «**Proposals**» on the left-hand side navigation menu
 - (2) Search for your ERC proposal by its acronym
 - (3) Under «**Actions**», select «**Edit Draft**»



The screenshot shows the EU Funding & Tenders Portal interface. The left-hand navigation menu has 'Proposals' highlighted with a red box labeled '1'. The main content area shows a search for 'TEST' with a red box labeled '2'. Below the search results, a table lists proposals. The first proposal, 'TEST ME', has a status of 'Draft' and a remaining time of 36 days. The 'Actions' column for this proposal has a red box labeled '3' over the 'Edit Draft' button.

Acronym	Programme	Type of action	Call	Status	Remaining time	Closure date	Actions
TEST ME	HORIZON	HORIZON-ERC-POC	ERC-2026-POC	Draft	36 days	17/03/2026 17:00:00	Edit Draft Delete Proposal
ERC-2026CoG-Test-MBB	HORIZON	HORIZON-ERC	ERC-2026-COG	Draft	Closed	13/01/2026 17:00:00	
TEST ME	HORIZON	HORIZON-ERC	ERC-2026-COG	Final	Closed	13/01/2026 17:00:00	
Test AW DN 2025	HORIZON	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN	HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01	Draft	Closed	25/11/2025 17:00:00	

- (4) In the new window that opens, click on «**BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST**»

Administrative forms (Part A)

Edit forms

View history

Print preview



Part B and Annexes

In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments.



Part B of proposal *



Host Institution support letter *



Annex 2



Annex 3



Annex 4



Annex 5



Annex 6



4 BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST

VALIDATE

SUBMIT

(5) Click on «Add contact»



Host Institution
UZH



1

UZH

UNIVERSITAT ZURICH
ZURICH, CH
PIC: 999976396

Change organisation

Contact organisation

Contacts 1

5



Add contact +

Principal Investigator

Beatrice Scherrer



Add Partner +

(6) Fill in the **contact details** as follows:

UNIVERSITAT ZURICH

Please enter the contact name and details: ⓘ

6

Project Role *
Main Host Institution Contact

Access Rights *
Coordinator contact (full access)

First Name *
Beatrice

Last Name *
Scherrer

Email Address *
support@research.uzh.ch

Add contact

(7) Click on «**SAVE**»

Host Institution

UZH

1 UZH

UNIVERSITAT ZURICH
ZURICH, CH
PIC: 999976396

Change organisation Contact organisation

Contacts 1 ⓘ Add contact +

Principal Investigator
Beatrice Scherrer

Add Partner +

7

SAVE SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP NEXT

Preparing your application

Eligibility

Check your eligibility and contact the Research & Grants Office if you have questions (all details on eligibility criteria and resubmission restrictions are to be found in the Work Programme and the Information for applicants – direct links provided in the Email sent to you).

Applicants for the **ERC Advanced Grants** - called Principal Investigators (PI) - are expected to be active researchers who have a **track-record of significant research achievements** (10-year track record). The PIs should be exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.

The Principal Investigator (PI) **must be engaged by the host institution at least for the duration of the grant** (secured employment) and is expected to **dedicate a minimum of 30%** of their working time to the ERC Advanced Grant project and spend a minimum of **50% of their working time in a European Union Member State or an Associated Country** (time commitment).

Confirmation of your employment at UZH and your time commitment is part of the **approval process on AVA** (see The UZH as host institution for more details). If you are not yet employed at UZH or your employment is not secured for the whole duration of the project (e.g. retirement), please contact the institute/department/clinic and the respective faculty where your project will be affiliated in case of success. ¹

Proposal

Please make sure that you **adhere strictly to the document description, requirements and constraints** regarding content, length, number of characters, font, font size, line spacing, etc. (see in the templates).

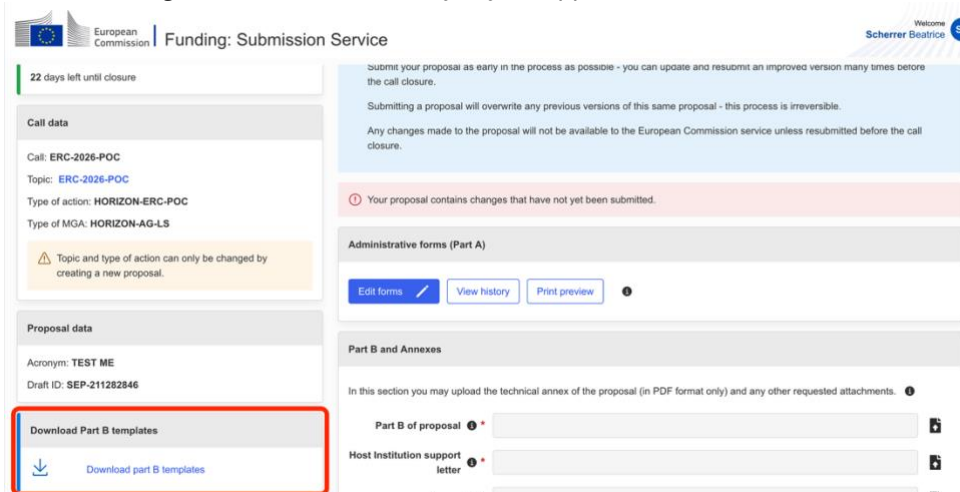
Part B1 (CV, track record + extended Synopsis) is limited to **5 pages**.

Part B2 (State-of-the-art, objectives + methodology) is limited to **7 pages**.

An **equipment table** must be uploaded with the proposal. In case you do not have any equipment, you can upload it empty.

Templates

All templates for your proposal (B1, B2, Budget Excel, Equipment Excel) can be found and downloaded from the EU Funding & Tenders Portal directly in your application draft:



¹ In case of retirement, clarification is required for employment under private law.

Proposal review (NCPs)

The Swiss ERC National Contact Points (NCP) at Euresearch offer a proposal review on a first-come, first-served basis. You might want to contact them at erc@euresearch.ch and put the Research & Grants Office in copy.

Panel/Evaluation

ERC Advanced Grant proposals undergo a **2-step evaluation**: In **step 1** of the evaluation, panel members will evaluate your Part B1 without access to B2. Only once you advance to **step 2**, external reviewers will be consulted and will have access to B1 and B2. Applicants whose proposal advances to step 2 are invited for an **interview** – the NCP at Euresearch will offer an **individual training session** on a first-come, first-served basis for UZH applicants who are invited to the interview.

Please check the **panel structure** carefully (as this has changed since 2021) and the **list of panel members** that is likely to review your proposal (the lineup of the panel is similar every second year):

[ERC 2024 AdG panel members](#)

Ethics Assessment in Horizon Europe

All Horizon Europe projects must comply with local, national and international ethical standards and regulations.

The **scientific evaluation** and the **ethics assessment** are **two separate processes** in Horizon Europe. The ethics assessment follows the scientific evaluation and is performed *only in case your project has been accepted for funding*.

At proposal stage, you must complete a project specific **Ethics Self-Assessment**, which consists of two steps:

Step 1: Answer the questions of the **Ethics Issue Table** in the administrative forms (section 4) in the EU Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal (online).

Step 2: In case one of the questions in step 1 has been answered with “Yes”, explain how you are going to deal with the respective ethics issues under **Ethics Self-Assessment** in the administrative forms (section 4).

For preparing the ethics self-assessment, use the official guide “[How to complete your ethics Self-Assessment](#)”. Our recommendation is to keep the ethics self-assessment short while including the following points:

- a) list the relevant local, national and international standards and regulations;
- b) describe the processes/procedures which are already established in your department/institute and attach the respective approvals/guideline (if available in English, otherwise in German);
- c) confirm to deliver additional approvals from the relevant authorities, if needed for ethical clearance, once the project will have been accepted for funding.

Integration of ethics in the project: If your project raises substantial ethical issues, consider including an ethics work package or to involve an independent ethics advisor.

The use of Personal Data in research activities is, as a matter of principle, of ethical concern. If you plan to use, collect and/or process Personal Data² in your research project, you must submit an ethics self-assessment (see above) and follow all the procedures required according to institutional, local, national and international regulations for performing a research project with Personal Data.

² Personal Data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (‘data subject’); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person; Processing means any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction. ([GDPR](#))

The UZH as host institution

It is recommended that applicants contact the responsible persons at the institute or department at an early stage to discuss aspects concerning the scientific connection and the available resources (premises, infrastructure, etc.). Some institutes have an internal selection procedure.

Your employment at UZH

As host institution the UZH must guarantee your engagement and time commitment (see above under Eligibility). As a rule, all ERC grant recipients will be employed **at least** at the level of an **assistant professorship** at UZH (ERC-funded professorship)³. Exceptions to this rule must be explicitly negotiated in advance with the relevant institute/department/clinic and faculty.

An ERC funded professorship comes with the same **teaching obligation** as an assistant professorship which is 2-4 semester hours per week (for a 100% workload). The teaching obligation (20% for a 100% workload) must be financed by the institute and/or faculty, and cannot be covered by the ERC grant since the ERC exclusively funds research. If the **applicant's own salary** is applied for via the grant, only a maximum of **80%** can be applied for, and applicants must clarify in advance what proportion of the remaining salary will be covered by the institute and/or faculty⁴.

Host support letter from UZH

To submit an application, you need a **written confirmation from the host institution**. At UZH, you will receive the Host Support Letter via the approval process in [AVA, the UZH third-party funding platform](#). Please register your application in [AVA](#) and start the confirmation process by **August 15** at the very latest and follow the instructions of the tool. Through the approval process, the head of your host department/institute/clinic as well as the dean of the relevant faculty give their consent to the application and confirm the agreements regarding employment (employment level, time commitment, salary) and access to space, infrastructure, equipment, etc.

External applicants who do **not (yet) have a UZH login** can request a temporary external user account for [AVA](#). The login requires a two-factor authentication (e.g. with the Microsoft or Google authenticator app) and the account must be confirmed by the Research & Grants Office before it can be used.

Some institutes or departments prefer to enter the information in AVA on behalf of the applicant. Please consult with your point of contact in the respective department or institute (see the [Annex](#) for required information).

Once the approval process has been completed, you will be notified and can download the Host Support Letter as a PDF.

UZH Information for the administrative forms (Part A) of your application

Gender Equality Plan: The University of Zurich has a [Gender Equality Plan](#) complying with the ERC.

Earliest possible project start at UZH: For administrative reasons, the earliest possible project start date at UZH is on the 1st of the second month following approval (for example: approval in September, earliest project start on November 1).

³ Existing positions at a higher level will not be downgraded.

⁴ At the medical faculty, the standard allocation is 20% faculty. At all other faculties the standard allocation is 10% institute and 10% faculty.

Budget

Advanced Grants may be awarded up to **€ 2.5 million** for a period of **5 years** (pro rata for projects of shorter duration). However, an **additional € 1 million** can be made available to cover eligible “start-up” costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or an associated country and/or the purchase of major equipment and/or access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and field work costs and/or to cover personnel costs in countries with high salary costs such as Switzerland.⁵

Lump sum

The ERC Advanced Grant is a **lump sum** grant (as of the 2024 call), meaning applicants shall prepare their proposed budget including only costs that would be considered eligible under an actual cost grant, i.e., the project eligible direct costs, plus a flat-rate of **25% of the direct cost** categories that qualify for the calculation of indirect costs (overhead) under the Horizon Europe rules. No audit must be calculated for lump sum grants. The payment of the lump sum contribution will be based on the work carried out and reported, irrespective of the actual costs incurred for the project and/or the successful outcome of the project activities.

Budgeting tool on AVA

AVA provides you with a budgeting tool to help calculate your project. The use of the tool, however, is not mandatory, you can choose to either enter **a total amount** or to **calculate your budget**. In any case, there is no budget control performed on AVA.

If you use the budgeting tool, please make sure to click “overhead granted” and choose the 25% indirect cost (EU) model. Note that you must change the default calculation (Swiss Francs) to Euros.

Basic principles

- All is permitted that is common practice at the respective institution
- Full project costs are to be budgeted
- Only project-related costs are eligible for funding

The budget includes *direct* and *indirect* costs (overheads):

Direct costs: shall be budgeted according to the project needs and must be project related. They include costs for e.g. salaries, travel, consumables, publications, depreciation of equipment, and other services (e.g. audits).

Indirect costs (overheads): shall be budgeted as a flat rate of 25% of the direct costs. Indirect costs relate to general infrastructure provided. The overhead contribution is distributed at the UZH as follows: The faculty and the institute where the grantee is located will each receive 20%, and 10% will go to the grantee her-/himself. The other 50% remains centrally at UZH and is part of the basic financing of the university.

UZH Salaries (as of 2026)

The following salary figures are gross salaries (i. e. salary including employee contributions). In addition, the employer's social security contributions (employer contributions) must be budgeted. It is recommended to calculate with a 15% flat rate percentage. In order to anticipate future inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, it is further recommended that salary amounts be rounded up or calculated with a 5% supplement.

Applicants own salary as “UZH Förderungsprofessor:in” (level assistant professor)

⁵ If applied for, additional funding must be justified explicitly/separately.

	Gross salary UZH [CHF] 100%	Salary bracket
1 st year	152'819	24/03
2 nd year	157'989	24/05
3 rd and 4 th year	163'155	24/07
5 th year	168'324	24/09

PhD student

	Gross salary UZH [CHF] 80%*	Salary bracket
1 st year	50'404	Doctoral student
2 nd year	52'115	Doctoral student
3 rd and 4 th year	53'725	Doctoral student

* Fixed employment level for third-party funded PhD candidates, equivalent to full-time employment

Postdoc (basic assessment independent of number of years of professional experience after obtaining the PhD)

	Gross salary [CHF] 100%	Salary bracket
	103'170	18/03

Student Assistants

	Gross salary [CHF] 100%	Salary bracket
BA students	66'144	10/03
MA students	76'603	13/03

Salary of **other employees** (e. g. technician, auxiliary personnel, etc.): Please contact the human resources manager of the host institute or the HR Department of the UZH (tel. +41 44 634 17 53).

Note that **time sheets are mandatory** for employees receiving salaries from an EU project.

Equipment

Only depreciation, no acquisition costs. Complete reimbursement of equipment costs only possible in exceptional cases. Follow the [depreciation rules at UZH](#) (in German). Depreciation costs must be project-related and verifiable.

Special cases

Internal invoicing: Such costs may not be eligible and cannot always be budgeted for.

Subcontracting: Subcontracting is only possible if specific conditions are met.

Please contact the financial department for clarification in a timely manner: drittmittel@fi.uzh.ch

Budget check

On request, a **one-time** budget check can be carried out by the Research & Grants Office. If you would like to benefit from the budget check, please **inform the Research & Grants Office well in time** before the deadline and only once you have already **filled in the details on the EU portal** (the check will be carried out directly in the portal). The Research & Grants Office will then get back to you with comments.

Changes to previous ERC calls

While scientific excellence remains the sole criterion of evaluation for frontier research grants, changes to the structure of the Curriculum Vitae and Track Record, as well as to the evaluation procedure, have been introduced. The changes are described in detail in the following report: [Changes to the 2026 and 2027 Work Programmes](#). Below you will find a summary:

- **GRANT APPLICATION:** The overall structure of the application form for the ERC calls will remain the same; however, applicants will be asked to structure their project proposal as follows:
 - **Part I of the Scientific Proposal (B1)** (formerly, the Extended Synopsis) should describe the overall idea of the proposed research project, including the current state of knowledge and how the research will contribute to the field, the scientific questions the project will attempt to answer, the objectives of the project, and the overall approach or research strategy to achieve those objectives. As in the past, the length of this section will be limited to **five pages**.
 - **Part II of the Scientific Proposal (B2)** should describe the implementation in detail: the research methodology, work plan, risk assessment and mitigating measures, justification for the requested budget and resources, and any further necessary background not included in Part I. The length of this section will now be limited to **seven pages**. This page limit does not apply to the justification of the requested budget and resources.

- **EVALUATION:** Part I of the Scientific Proposal along with the applicant's CV and Track Record (i.e. Part B1 of the application form) will be assessed at Step 1, whereas both parts of the Scientific Proposal, the CV and Track Record, as well as the Resources and Time Commitment will be assessed at Step 2 of the evaluation. First and foremost, applicants will be assessed on the ambition of their idea in advancing present-day knowledge in the field based on Part I of the Scientific Proposal. Only those who have presented a convincing proposal at Step 1 will advance to the next stage of the evaluation, during which the methodology and implementation (including feasibility) of the proposed research and the resource allocation will be assessed jointly with the information already reviewed at Step 1.

Feasibility will no longer be assessed at Step 1; thus, Part I of the Scientific Proposal should no longer include details on the feasibility of the scientific approach but present a convincing overall research strategy. All aspects relating to feasibility should be covered in Part II of the Scientific Proposal.

The evaluation procedure and criteria are described in the [ERC 2026 Work Programme](#) on page 27 ff.

- **ADDITIONAL FUNDING:** Applicants already based in an EU Member State or associated country (like Switzerland) will remain eligible for up to €1 million additional funding. As of 2026, the additional funding may also be used for personnel costs, and, as before, applicants are requested to define and justify the need for additional funding in their proposal. The decision to award the requested funding lies with the evaluation panel.

Researchers currently based outside Europe (please see [here](#) for an updated list of Horizon Europe associated countries) will be able to request up to €2 million in additional funding.

Annex: Information to be entered in AVA

Information to be entered in AVA



Log in to AVA (<https://ava.uzh.ch/en-US/>)

Klick on „New project“ and enter a short title

Choose „Ready“ > Prepare a project application > ERC Advanced Grant 2026

Applicant

You may also register someone other than yourself as applicant. Please note, however, that the respective person will not automatically receive access to the project. In addition, you need to add him/her in the general project overview under “Access”.

Salutation*	
First name*	Name*
E-mail*	
Date of PhD defense (may differ from the issue date of the diploma) 	
mm/dd/yyyy	
Current institution (if not UZH)	
Country of current institution (if not UZH)	
-	
End of employment / retirement date* 	
mm/dd/yyyy	

Affiliation at UZH (during the project)

Faculty / Central Services*
[Redacted] ▼
Please select the faculty (or central services) where the project will be carried out.

Organizational unit*
[Redacted] ▼
Please select your institute/clinic

Employee number (if known)
[Redacted]

Profit center (if known) [Redacted] Search

Contacts

Administrative contact person (if known)

Select an administrative contact person who supports you later in the (financial) management of the project (optional). Please note that this person will be notified and receives access to your project application.

Select

Head of organizational unit (institute/department/clinic)

Please select the head of the organizational unit where the project will be carried out.

Select

Dean of Faculty ×

Please select the dean of the faculty where the project will be carried out.

First name	Last name	E-mail
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Select

Project information

Short title (max. 40 characters)*

The short title or acronym must relate to the specific project and may not e.g. simply name the sponsor or the beneficiary. In the case of clinical trials, the register number may be used.

Full project title*

Please use the exact same project title as in your submission to the funding agency. This will facilitate the creation of a project account later on.

Planned start of project*



Duration in months*

End of project

mm/dd/yyyy

Call Deadline*



mm/dd/yyyy

Application/project number (if known)

In the case of EU projects = SEP or submission reference

Keywords



Please add one keyword per field.

Time commitment

I confirm that I will devote at least 30% of my working time to the ERC Advanced Grant project and that I am employed at least 50% (0.5 FTE) at the UZH or will be employed for the duration of the project. *

Yes

Back

Save

Next

Calculate budget

Responsible Duration

-

Budget



Please enter the total amount you are applying for. If you do not know the total yet, you are welcome to calculate your project budget here (incl. salary rates at UZH).

How do you want to proceed?

Enter total amount (Budget) Calculate project budget

Budget*

Currency

CHF



back

save

next

Salary coverage and position

Please indicate how your salary will be financed for the duration of the ERC Grant project.

- The salary of my employment is already guaranteed for the duration of the project, regardless of the project application.
- The salary of my employment is not or only partially secured for the requested project duration and is to be financed in part by the ERC Grant. I have discussed the details with the institute and the faculty and plan the following breakdown (please only enter figures without % signs and "0" for categories that do not apply):

Please note that the ERC Grant cannot be used to fund teaching activities. The teaching obligation of professors must be financed by the institute or faculty.

% Grant	
% Faculty	
% Organizational unit (Institute/Department/Clinic)	
Other (please specify)	%
Sum 0	

If agreements have been made that cannot be shown in the table above (e.g. different ways of financing the salary within the project term), you can explain these below.

What kind of job position will you keep or receive if the proposal is successful?*

Calculate budget

Responsible Duration
Beatrice Scherrer -

Budget

Please enter the total amount you are applying for. If you do not know the total yet, you are welcome to calculate your project budget here (incl. salary rates at UZH).

How do you want to proceed? *

Enter total amount (Budget) Calculate project budget

Budget*

Currency*

CHF

Equipment and infrastructure

Equipment

I confirm that all costs for equipment can be covered by the project funds and/or my own funds. *

- Yes
- No, but additional equipment costs are covered by other sources.
- I have no costs for equipment

Infrastructure

- I do not need any specific infrastructure for my project.
- I need access to specific infrastructure for my project.


Lab/office space

I confirm that I have enough lab/office space for the project. *

- Yes
- No

Compliance checklist

Compliance with ethical and legal requirements

 Information about UZH services and about SNSF/EU requirements for Open Science (incl. DMPs) are available under "Download & Info" at the top right.

Do you conduct animal experiments as part of your research project? *

Yes No



Does the project use or study any of the following biological materials?*

None

Genetic resources



Human embryonic stem cells



Genetically modified organisms, pathogenic organisms or alien organisms that are released



Organisms in closed systems



Do any of the following safety-related issues arise in your research project?*

None

Project needs dangerous substances or preparations.



Project may lead to products or knowledge with high potential for misuse.



Project might lead to knowledge or products with military applications («dual use»).



Project uses goods which may be subject to import/export regulation.



Project uses data from third parties who require you to fill a data security declaration.



The project is funded by a U.S. institution and uses telecommunications equipment or services as an essential component of a system or as critical technology of a system.



Project involves partners from third countries, that may raise issues of academic freedom and foreign interference.



Data protection & ethics

Does your research involve persons and/or personal data (e.g. surveys, experiments, observations, etc.)? *

Yes No

Reputation

Can you conceive of any reputational risk to yourself or UZH if the media covered your project? *

Yes No