

Panel Selection



The ERC Panels

The ERC panel alone evaluates Stage 1, conducts the interview and ultimately decides who gets funded

27 panels across three domains: 9 panels in Life Sciences (LS), 11 panels in Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE), and 7 panels in Social Sciences and Humanities (SH).

In each panel sit 10-16 experienced researchers (and a panel chair) whose expertise falls into the broad discipline defined by the panel name. For each panel there is a list of panel keywords which describe these expertise.

LIFE SCIENCES

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

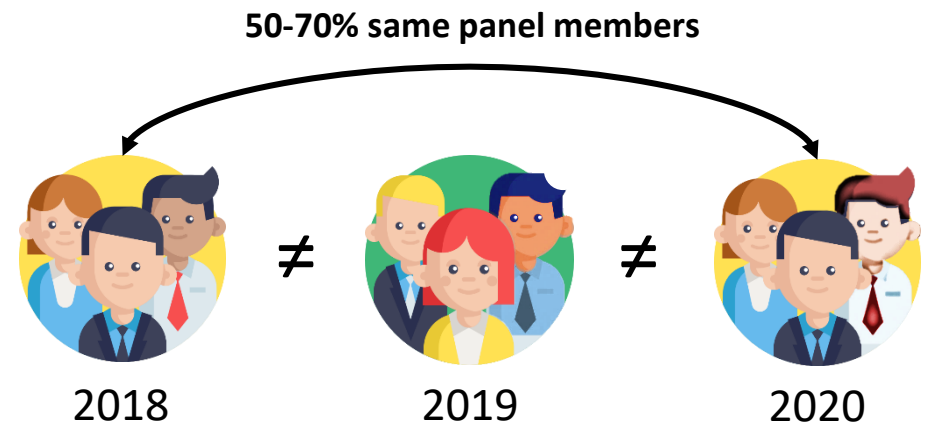
- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science and Informatics
- PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- PE11 Materials Engineering

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

Who sits in the panel and who evaluates my proposal?

- Two sets of panel members (one for even years and one for odd years).
- The names of panel members are not known prior to submission but more than 50% of the members present in the panel two years prior will remain. None of the panel members in the previous year's call will be present
- The names of the panel chairs are published prior to the deadline
- A panel member cannot sit more than 4 times



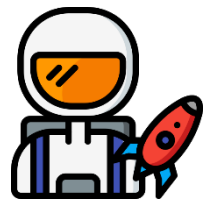
The 3-4 panel members with expertise closest to the topic will remotely read and evaluate the proposal (write B1 for a scientific audience with wide expertise!)

Each proposal is assigned a lead reviewer who directs discussions on that project during panel meetings

The proposals are ranked during panel meetings.

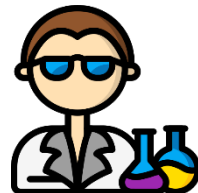
ERC panels have similar success rates

- The budget allocated to a particular panel is proportionate to the number of proposals received in that panel.
- The overall EU success rate is comparable across panels



PE panels

11% average success rate since 2007
13% average success rate since 2014



LS panels

11% average success rate since 2007
13% average success rate since 2014



SH panels

11% average success rate since 2007
12% average success rate since 2014

*Averaged from across all panels within the category

Panel specific nuances

- The objective of ERC is to fund excellent projects, proposed by excellent PIs with potential to open up new frontiers in science.
- Given that each panel is made up of a different scientific community there are nuances in how this objective is interpreted:
 - Some panels seem to place greater importance on the CV
 - Some panels seem to look for potential applications alongside opening frontiers in science
 - Some panels will not appreciate proposals from researchers outside their scientific community (e.g. maths)
- Talk to the Technion team, previous ERC panel members and winners to try and understand these nuances and their relevance to you

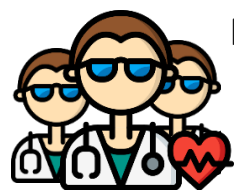
How to choose a panel

Rule of thumb: apply to a panel made up of researchers from your scientific community (consider if you publish and present in similar journals and conferences to the panel members)

Check: which ERC panels have keywords describing your project and your research area.

If more than one panel seems appropriate:

- Check the background of the panel members in each panel from the previous rotation (current call year -2) and identify which panel has members best suited to evaluate your proposal.
- Consider again carefully which panel is closer to your background and expertise (it is usually advisable to submit to a panel which belongs to the same scientific community as you)
- Where will **your CV** and achievements be best accepted and appreciated?
- Check the type of projects previously funded by each panel
- Consider which panel will be most excited by the basic **scientific impact** of the project



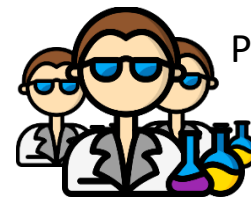
Panel A

? Application
✓✓ Scientific impact
✓✓ CV



Panel B

✓✓ Application
? Scientific impact
✓ CV



Panel C

✓ Application
? Scientific impact
✗ CV

More tips for choosing a panel

- Interdisciplinarity is welcomed but not required: Do not select a panel to try and send an artificial message of interdisciplinarity.
- Avoid selecting a secondary panel: When a secondary panel is chosen, your project will be reviewed by members of both panels, often resulting in more criticism. It is also difficult to write to two different audiences.
- If you are considering when to submit an ERC application it is useful to compare the two sets of rotating panel members and look at the types of projects they funded. Sometimes one of the rotations is better suited to evaluating your particular proposal (e.g. more theoreticians).
- If you are resubmitting a proposal consider (given the feedback on the unsuccessful submission) if you are in the right panel and if you can time the resubmission to either go back to the same group of panel members or a different rotation with different people.