

# Getting a grant:

# ERC & Royal Society URFs

Pau Figueras

School of Mathematical Sciences, QMUL



European Research Council

Panel discussion  
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# Key questions:

- At which stage of your career are you in?
- Which grant should I apply to?
- What do you want to do?



# Applying to an ERC grant

# ERC grants

- Which one?
  - Starting: up to 7 years after PhD
  - Consolidator: up to 12 years after PhD
  - Advanced: any
- Main aspects:
  - 5 years
  - High risk/high gain research
  - Covers your salary and that of postdocs and PhDs

- It makes huge difference:
  - The type of problems that one can attack
  - Changes perception that the community has of you

- How to apply:
  - Choose your relevant panel strategically: head of your area tends to repeat every two years
  - Part B1: 5 page selling of scientific case + personal glorification
  - Part B2: detailed scientific case, methodology and budget (15 pages)
  - Both parts submitted at the same time

- Review process

- Stage 1: head of area reviews Part B1 and decides on first cut
- Stage 2: application sent to external referees
- Stage 3: panel meets and decides on shortlisted candidates. Ranking is made
- Stage 4: 30 mins interview in Brussels. 50% chance.  
No access to referees' reports



**Applying to a Royal Society  
University Research Fellowship (URF)**

- Who can apply:

- Postdoctoral researchers with up to 8 years of experience after PhD
- You can't have a permanent job

- What does it provide

- 5 years of salary, equipment, travel money etc
- You can apply for extra funding to hire PhDs (maybe 1 postdoc?)

- How to apply:
  - Ambitious yet realistic project
  - 3 page long research proposal
  - Impact
  - Lay summary

- Review process
  - Quite random...
  - Stage 1: internal review
  - Stage 2: external referees
  - Stage 3: interview at the Royal Society

# Summary

- You have to have a clear idea of what kind of research you want to do
- The perception that the community has and your credibility are key
- Tune your proposal according to the requirements of the funding body
- STFC Ernst Rutherford: similar to URFs but only for physicists

**Thank you!**