

EURYI Call for Proposals European Young Investigator Awards

The European Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCS), wishing to contribute to the building of the European Research Area, have joined in collaboration with the European Science Foundation (ESF) in creating the European Young Investigator (EURYI) Awards¹. The aim of EURYI Awards, launched for the first time in 2003², is to encourage and enable outstanding young researchers from all over the world and from all fields of science and the humanities to work in Europe to benefit the development of European science and to build up the next generation of leading European researchers. The scheme especially encourages foreign researchers to come to Europe and European researchers who have been working outside of Europe to return. EURYI Awards promote scientific excellence, with wide international recognition, by supporting these distinguished researchers to develop and pursue an independent research career, including the development of a research group where appropriate, aimed at opening up new lines of research including novel methodologies.

Applicants for EURYI Awards are expected to have an excellent research record and to show the potential to become world-class leaders in their areas of research. The principal criteria for EURYI Awards are

- the research quality and potential of the applicant,
- the originality and groundbreaking, forward oriented character of the research proposal and its feasibility,
- the potential of the proposed research programme to improve the position of European research at world level.

Applicant eligibility

Open to young researchers from anywhere in the world who hold a doctoral degree (at PhD or at a recognised equivalent doctoral level) the defence date³ of which will be between 24 and 96 months prior to the closing date of the call, taking into account career breaks.⁴ Full professors (or equivalent) are not eligible to apply as they are considered within the aims of EURYI to have already achieved an established position.

Award characteristics

- Award holders are expected to devote their full working time to research and the activities described in the proposal. To this purpose applicants must request their full salary (even if they are already employed by the host institution⁵) to ensure they can be released from any other commitments.
- The applicant is responsible for agreeing suitable arrangements with a host institution before submitting an application.
- The award will last for a 5 year period, subject to satisfactory progress. The award holders are expected to start their project within six months after the 1st October 2007.
- The total value of an award will normally be no less than 750 kEURO over 5 years and shall not exceed a maximum of 1250 kEURO. Reductions to the budget applied for may occur as a result of Stage One⁶ peer review and as a result of the availability of funds within the total budget of the scheme.
- Awards will be subject to the terms and conditions of the participating organisation through which the EURYI Award is submitted. This includes existing practices concerning eligible costs.

Application process

- Applications must be submitted through the appropriate participating organisation in the country of the host institution.
- An authorised person, or the highest governing body of the host institution, must sign the declaration on the application form to confirm that it will host the applicant for the period of the award and guarantees to allow him/her access to the research facilities and infrastructure necessary to carry out the proposed research.
- Applications also have to include a statement from the host institution that describes the nature and level of support that will be available to the applicant for the duration of the award (Appendix 2 of the application form).
- Applicants must submit a maximum of two letters of recommendation (in English) in support of their application.
- An applicant may only submit one application per call within the entire scheme and submission of more than one application will result in AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION AND EXCLUSION from the selection process.
- Applicants have to submit an electronic version, plus a signed paper version of the EURYI application form, when required by the appropriate participating organisation.
- Applications have to be completed in English.
- Application forms and other relevant information on the application process can be found at the web-site of each of the participating organisations (Annex 1).

Assessment of Applications

The assessment of applications will be undertaken in two stages, Stage One (S-1) at national level and Stage Two (S-2) at European level. S-1 will be carried out by the participating organisations based on peer review procedures and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the EURYI Management Committee. The European Science Foundation will manage the European phase (S-2) of the review process and coordinate the funding of the awards.

Time Schedule

- Application submission: From 1 September to 30 November 2006
- Assessment process: S-1 National level: 1 December 2006 - 30 March 2007
- 2 European level: 1 April - 31 July 2007
- Announcement of awards: Beginning of August 2007
- Starting date of award: within six months of October 2007

- Additional information: www.esf.org/euryi

How to apply for a EURYI Award (Please read the application instructions carefully!)

1. Download and complete the EURYI application form from the website of the participating organisation through which you are applying for an award.
2. Fill in all sections of the application form in English, print clearly.
3. Prepare Parts B, C, D, E and Appendices following the written guidelines. These parts of the application should be completed in free style but the applicant must address the issues in each part (in number order).
4. Please pay careful attention to following the application process of the participating organisation through which you are applying.
5. The application form and all the documentation must be received by the participating organisation through which you are applying on or before 30th November 2006. Applications will not be accepted after this date.