

*The following is a translation from Estonian. In case of disputes, the Estonian text shall prevail.*

## **Guidelines for Budgeting Grant Applications**

The budget proposed in grant applications shall be prepared pursuant to these guidelines.

### **1. The Basis for Forming Fixed Grant Amounts**

- 1.1. This directive establishes the fixed grant amounts for starting and team projects which will begin in 2026.
- 1.2. The basis for fixing the grant amounts is the calculated size of direct costs corresponding to the grant type (starting or team grant). Overhead costs will be added to direct costs.
- 1.3. Direct costs consist of staff costs and research costs. Staff costs consist of the estimated remuneration costs and students' research scholarships. Research costs depend on the specifics of the research field and/or on the methods used in the project.
- 1.4. Based on the estimated direct costs and on the specifics of the research, starting and team grants are divided into two different fixed grant amounts.
- 1.5. The bases for the grant amount one is applying for in the application are justified staff costs (why is it necessary to involve this particular number of senior or other members of the research staff, i.e., what are their roles and tasks, what is the role of the students involved in the project), and the estimated research costs, which justify the grant amount applied for in various aspects of the proposed research (materials, equipment, rental or travel costs, experimental nature of (some parts of) the research, open access publication fees, etc.).
- 1.6. The applicant of the starting or team grant has the right to request a smaller amount than the fixed grant amount. When applying for the large grant amount, the requested amount must exceed the small grant amount.
- 1.7. In the grant contracts, the Principal Investigator (hereinafter *PI*) will only have to show the amounts of staff costs and research costs, which may vary over the budget years during the period of the project. In case of staff costs it is necessary to separately explain the remuneration costs and scholarships, in case of research costs the main expense categories should be described.
- 1.8. The fixed grant amount will remain the same each year, except when the PI of the starting or team project requests a smaller amount and justifies its necessity, or if the Council has made such a proposal. There is also an exception for the grants that, upon the request of the applicant, are smaller than the fixed grant amount during the first year and that can, if so requested, later increase up to the largest fixed grant amount of this grant type.

### **2. Fixed Grant Amounts for Starting and Team Grants**

- 2.1. The budget for starting and team grants shall be drawn up for the entire period of the project. In order to calculate the grant amount, the budget will be equally divided over the budget years of the period of the project. The budget year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December.
- 2.2. The grant amount requested in the application is the amount for the first year of the project. The applicant can apply to start the project later than 1 January by adding a

respective request to their grant application. In this case, the maximum amount that the applicant can apply for is smaller by the amount of the corresponding number of months. If the application is approved, the Council will allocate the grant amount specified in the application for the first year of the project. Starting from the second year, the applicant can, in accordance with point 1.8, request the maximum fixed amount. The end date of the project will not be extended because of a later start date.

2.3. The following direct costs serve as the basis for the fixed amount of starting and team grants:

2.3.1. staff costs: salary along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law as well as research scholarships. Salary can only be paid for the people who have been listed as the members of the (senior) research staff and only for the period during which they participate in the project. Scholarships may be paid to students only for the period during which they participate in the project. The participation period is the period that is indicated in the project data in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS).

2.3.2. research costs: travel costs, acquisition costs of fixed assets directly related to the implementation of the project (in accordance with the definition established by the institution), subcontracting costs (incl. the costs related to authorisation agreements and contracts for services), costs related to short-term administrative work carried out for the project, costs related to the (open access) publication and popularisation of the R&D results of the project, costs related to the protection of intellectual property, materials, equipment to be rented, (laboratory) experiments, fieldwork, and other direct costs that are necessary for conducting research and stem from the characteristics of the project).

2.4. The overhead costs of starting grant and team projects are incurred by the institution and are related to the management of the grant by the institution in order to provide a high-quality research environment for the participants of the project. The overhead costs account for 25% of the amount of direct costs.

#### 2.5. The fixed amounts for starting grants (PSG) in 2026:

	Direct costs (per year)	Overhead costs (per year)	Total fixed amount (per year)
PSG small	60,800	15,200	<b>76,000</b>
PSG large	93,600	23,400	<b>117,000</b>

#### 2.6. The fixed amounts for team grants (PRG) in 2026:

	Direct costs (per year)	Overhead costs (per year)	Total fixed amount (per year)
PRG small	153,920	38,480	<b>192,400</b>
PRG large	216,000	54,000	<b>270,000</b>

#### 2.7. Grant contract

2.7.1. The starting or team grant is allocated based on a tripartite contract entered into by the Council, the institution, and the PI for one calendar year. In case of multi-annual projects, a new grant contract is concluded each year. The grant contract entails the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of the parties. In the grant contract, the parties agree on the amount of the grant and on the division of direct

costs. The ratio of staff costs and research costs may be changed up to 20% of the respective grant amount without making a contractual amendment.

2.7.2. The grant is allocated to the institution that is required to allow the PI to use the portion of the direct costs of the grant for the implementation of the project in compliance with the grant contract.

2.7.3. If the project is temporarily suspended, the end date of the project will be extended by the suspension period. The grant contract will be suspended for the temporary suspension period of the project.