Applying for Team Grants in 2025

Estonian Research Council
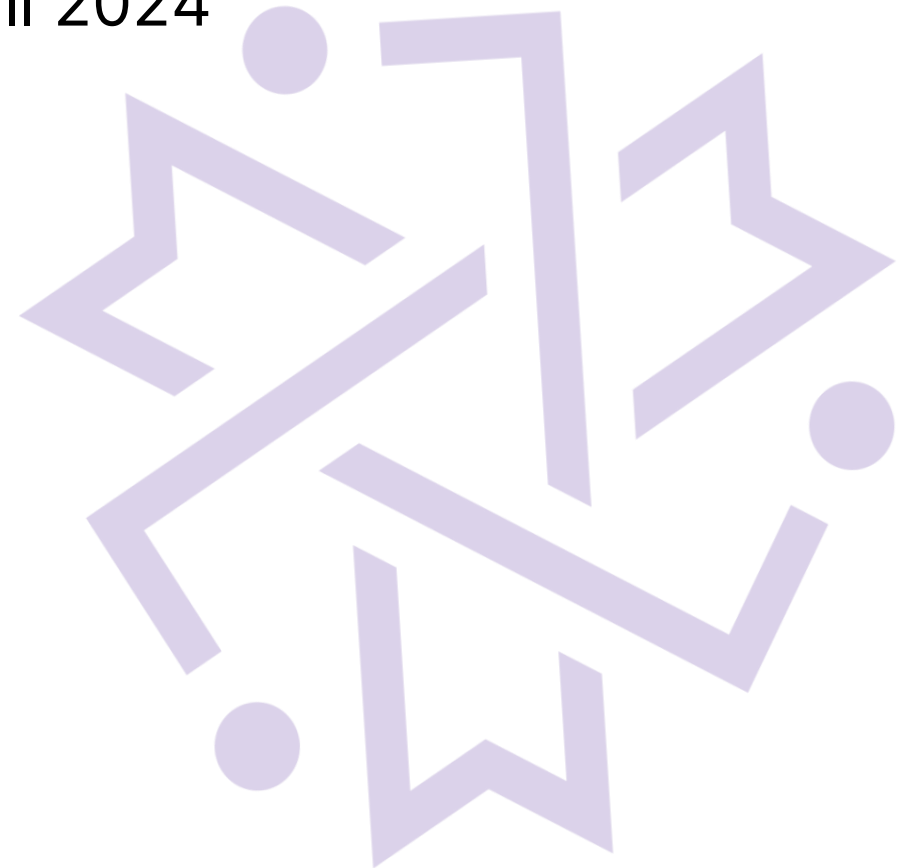
5th March 2025 | Unit of National Research Grants

Agenda

- The most important info and how to find it

- What is new? i.e. changes compared to Call 2024

- Requirements for the applicant

- Budget and grant amounts

- Requirements for the team

- About the application form

- After the submission of the application

- Some additional suggestions

- Q&A

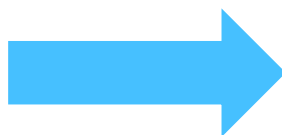# The most important info and how to find it

Call 2025

Team grants (PRG, up to 5 years)

Submission of applications via ETIS (www.etis.ee) from 28th February to 31st March at 5 pm (Estonian time).

NB! The application is submitted only after the applicant's institution has confirmed it via ETIS. Please follow the deadlines of your institution

(University of Tartu 23rd March, TalTech 24th March, University of Tallinn 25th March)!

All the materials are available on the website of the Council.

Estonian Research Council

RESEARCH COUNCIL   NEWS   FUNDING   COOPERATION   ACTIVITIES

Home » Funding » Research Funding » Personal research funding » **Call 2025**

FUNDING

- Research Funding
  - Centres of Excellence
  - Personal research funding
    - Call 2025
    - Call 2024
    - Call 2023
    - Call 2022
    - Call 2021
    - Previous calls
  - Proof-of-Concept Grant
  - Institutional Research Funding
  - 2020 target grant
- Mobility Funding
- Partnership and Cooperation Funding
- Infrastructure Funding
- Programmes
- Support for Ukrainian Researchers

Call 2025

The call **opens on February 28 and closes on March 31 at 17:00** (Estonian time). When submitting your application, please take into account the deadline of your institution: University of Tartu 23.03; Tallinn University of Technology 24.03; Tallinn University 25.03; … . *More information will be added.*

NB! The application process takes place in ETIS. The application is submitted only after the institution has confirmed it via ETIS.

The postdoctoral grant information webinar (Estonian) takes place on March 3 between 10-12AM. Join the meeting (Estonian) HERE.

The starting grant webinars take place on March 4: Estonian between 10-11AM and English between 11.30-12.30. Join the meeting HERE.

The team grant webinars take place on March 5: Estonian between 10-11AM and English between 11.30-12.30. Join the meeting HERE.

Call documentation:

! Starting grant: A person can apply for the grant if he/she has obtained his/her first **doctoral degree** or equivalent qualification in the research field in which the application is to be processed **no less than two and no more than ten years** prior to 1 January of the year the project is scheduled to begin.

	Application guidelines	Evaluation guidelines	Budget guidelines	Application form template	Ethics and data in forms	Budget tool
Postdoctoral grant	PUTJD_AG	PUTJD EG		PJD_AF	Ethics_tab_AF	
Starting grant	PSG_AG	PSG_EG	Budget guidelines for PSG and	PSG_AF		PSG_BT
Team grant	PRG_AG	PRG_EG	PRG	PRG_AF		PRG_BT

https://etag.ee/en/funding/research-funding/personal-research-funding/call-2025-2/

	Application guidelines	Evaluation guidelines	Budget guidelines	Application form template	Ethics and data in forms	Budget tool
Postdoctoral grant	PUTJD_AG 📄	PUTJD EG 📄		PJD_AF 📄	Ethics_tab_AF 📄	
Starting grant	PSG_AG 📄	PSG_EG 📄	Budget guidelines for PSG and PRG 📄	PSG_AF 📄		PSG_BT 📄
Team grant	PRG_AG 📄	PRG_EG 📄		PRG_AF 📄		PRG_BT 📄

PSG and PRG applications are evaluated by **international Expert Panels** 📄. Postdoctoral grant applications are evaluated by a separate expert panel consisting of Estonian experts. Click here to find more information about the Expert Panels.

Frequently asked questions about grant applications of call 2025

+ **Applying for the starting and team grant**

+ **Applying for the postdoctoral grant**

Guidelines 📄 for Completing Your Ethics Self-Assessment for Grant Application

Guidelines 📄 regarding bibliometric background information

The recommended form for the data management plan 📄.

What is new?

What is new? (1)

- During the project period the PI of the team project is obliged to work at the institution with a workload of **at least 0.8**

- All members of the project must be employed or study at a **positively evaluated** **Estonian R&D institution** for the period they participate in the respective project

- A doctoral student **can simultaneously** be the member of the other research staff of a team project and the member of the senior research staff of a starting project if his/her supervisor is the PI or the member of the senior research staff of either of those projects

- The applications in the field of Humanities and the Arts are evaluated in 3 expert panels (formerly there were 4 expert panels).

Requirements for the applicant

The applicant...(1)

- can submit one application in the Call 2025 (PUTJD, PSG, PRG)
- **cannot be listed** as a member of the senior research staff **in another** PSG or PRG **application**
- **cannot apply if** his/her **participation period** as a PI or member of the (senior) research staff in an ongoing PSG or PRG project **will continue in 2026**
- if applying for the **large grant amount,** the applicant **cannot have participated** in years **2024-2025** in any **PSG nor PRG project** that is **ongoing in 2026**

- applicant's previous application (PSG, PRG) has not fallen below the qualification threshold „Good" in at least 1 criterion in 2 previous calls (2023, 2024) or in at least 2 criteria in the previous call (2024)

- be ready to present the confirmation of **Estonian ENIC/NARIC** to prove that your PhD degree is in correspondence with educational qualifications of Estonian education system

The applicant (2)

- must be the PI of the project

- is ready to start the project on 1st January 2026*
  NB! In case of later starting date the end date of the project does not change

- will enter into an employment contract with a positively evaluated Estonian R&D institution with at least a workload of 0.8 for the duration of the project

- PI's place of work must be Estonia

*it is possible to apply for a later starting date for the project, but the project has to start **within 2026**

Budget and grant amounts

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Grant amounts 2025

- Small grant amount
  192 400€ per year

- Large grant amount
  270 000€ per year

It is possible to apply for **small** or **large** grant amount.
NB! Do not forget that the large team grant comes with additional conditions!

(see also paragraph 9.6 in Conditions and Procedure for Team Grants)

https://etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2026-Budget-Guidelines.pdf

Budget

- The budget consists of:
  - **direct costs**
    - **staff costs** incl. salaries with taxes, scholarships;

      NB! The salaries of all members of senior research staff must be at least partially covered   from the grant.

      - **research costs**, incl. subcontracting costs, costs related to the (open access) publication and popularisation of the R&D results, costs related to the protection of intellectual property, travel costs, and other costs that stem from the characteristics of the project;
  - **overhead**.

- To plan the budget we recommend using Budget Tool. It is mandatory to use Budget Tool if you apply for a large grant amount.

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Requirements for the research staff

Members of the research team

	Member of the senior research staff	Memeber of the other research staff
Qualification	PhD degree	Do not have a PhD degree
Employment/Studies	Employed at a positively evaluated Estonian R&D institution (during the participation in the project)	**Employed or studying** at a positively evaluated Estonian R&D institution (during the participation in the project)
Remuneration	Mandatory (at least partially)	Optional
Remuneration form	Monthly salary (emplyoment contract)	Monthly salary (emplyoment contract), scholarships

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Requirements for the team (1)

(see 9.6 in Conditions and Procedure for Team Grants)

PRG **small** grant amount
(192 400€)

PI
workload >= 0.8

Member of senior research staff

Member of (senior) research staff

•••

PRG **large** grant amount
(270 000€)

PI
workload >= 0.8

3 members of senior research staff
workload >= 0.5

•••

PI and any member of the senior research staff has not participated in 2024 or 2025 in PSG or PRG grants that are ongoing in 2026

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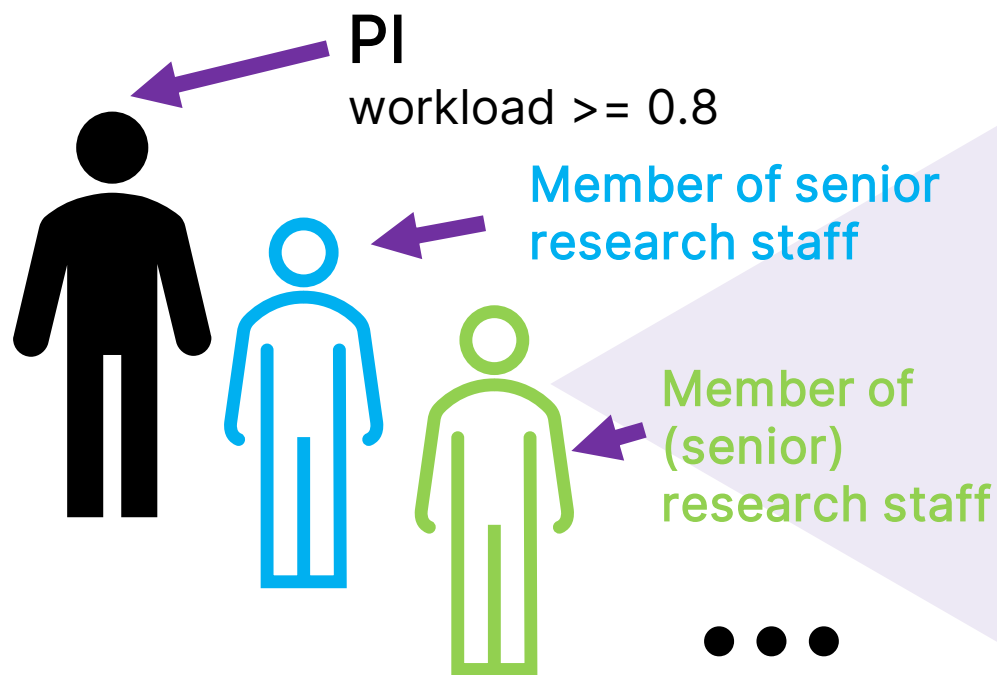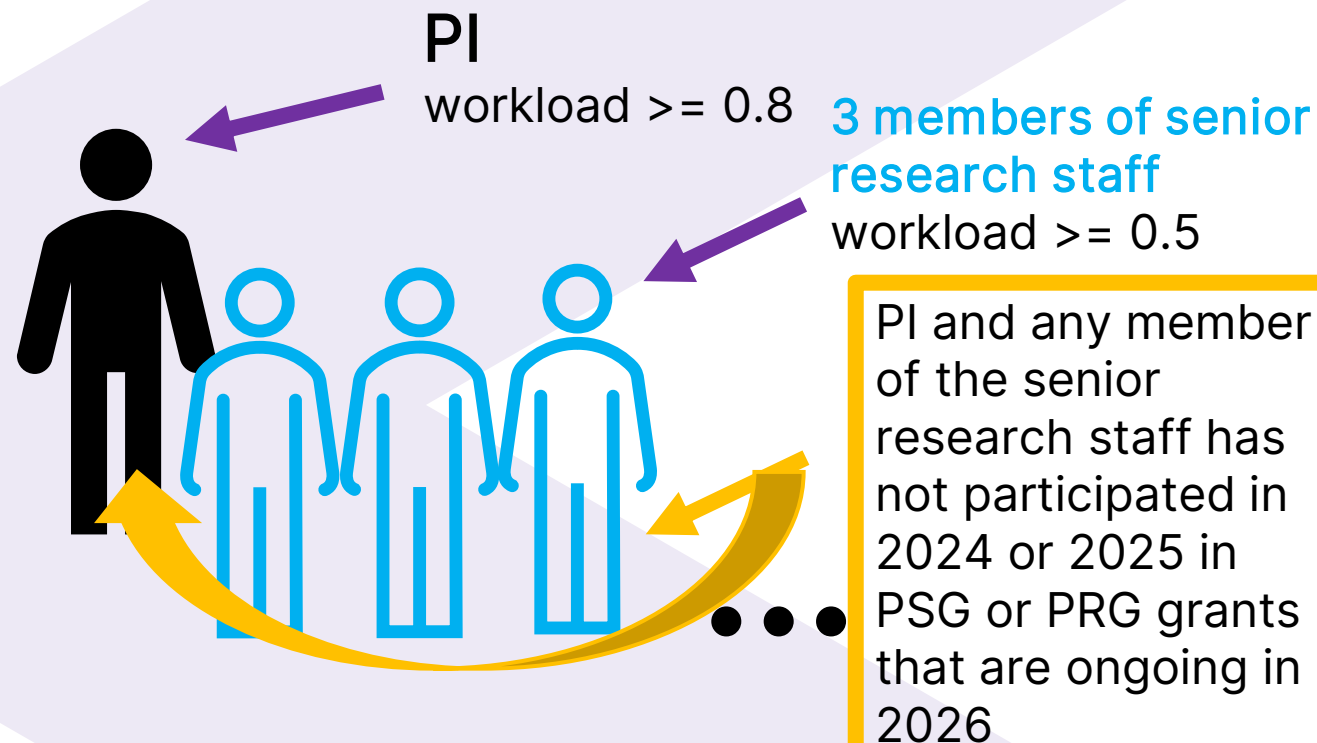
Requirements for the team (2)

- the team must meet the requirements for **the entire period of the project**

- **the names** of the people of the required team must be shown in the application

- members of the senior research staff **cannot simultaneously be listed as members of the (senior) research staff** in another PSG or PRG **application**, and cannot participate in an ongoing PSG or PRG **project** in such a way that the **participation periods coincide**

- if applying for the **large grant amount,** the **member of the senior research** staff **cannot have participated** in years **2024-2025** in any **PSG nor PRG project** that is **ongoing in 2026**

- **People with PhD degree** must be included as members of the **senior research staff**

External partners

- External partners are not members of the research team
- The competences of external partners are considered during the evaluation
- External partners do not need to fulfil the requirements of team members (e.g. do not have to work in positively evaluated Estonian R&D institution)
- If the collaboration is **new and/or crucial** to the project, it is advised to present some proof of the future collaboration (e.g. confirmation letter)
- It is recommended to add these proofs, since **the experts** might take their presence and content into account

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About the application form

The application (1)

- Log in www.etis.ee

- The application is in English – **use ENG view**

- The summary has to be written **in both English and Estonian**

- Only members of staff who have **accounts in ETIS** can be added
(see https://www.etis.ee/create_account to apply for an account)

- **ETIS CV-s** must be informative and members of the senior research staff **must confirm their CV-s** before the submission!

- While writing the application in ETIS, press SAVE often!

The application (2)

- Make sure your e-mail is correct in ETIS
- Make sure to choose the notifications from ETIS to your e-mail

- You can add up to 7 most relevant publications in the application form.

- Make sure the data regarding your publications is up-to date
  - Web of Science (and ETIS) for **Exact Sciences, Biological and Environmental Sciences, Medical and Health Sciences**, and **Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences**
  - Google Scholar (and ETIS) for **Engineering and Technology** and **Social Sciences**
  - only ETIS for **Humanities and the Arts**

(see the Guidelines regarding bibliometric background information)

The application (3)

- Justification can be up to 24,000 characters (incl. spaces)
- The files that can be attached to the Justification part of the application as PDFs:
  - the list of references;
  - timetable (e.g., Gantt chart, incl. deliverables and milestones);
  - risk assessment incl. risk mitigation and back-up plan;
  - figures relevant to the Justification (max 1 file, max 5 pages)
- Files cannot contain long descriptive text that should be in the Justification
- Links cannot be added to the application
- The application contains **automatic checks of technical details**. If the application contains an error, the application cannot be confirmed. List of errors can be found under the "Submit" tab

Application \ Justification \ Ethics and data \ Staff \ R&D results \ Impact \ Budget \ Bibliometrics \ Additional information \ **Submit** \ Expertise

Please print out the .pdf file of your application and check if all the relevant information has been provided.

If you would like to receive automatic messages regarding your application to your e-mail, please update your message settings in ETIS under "My Account".

Printing

Select tabs to include in print view

- ☑ All
- ☑ Application
- ☑ Justification
- ☑ Ethics and data
- ☑ R&D activity
- ☑ R&D cooperation
- ☑ Staff
- ☑ R&D results
- ☑ Impact
- ☑ Budget
- ☑ Bibliometrics
- ☑ Additional information

[Print]   [PDF]

List of errors

Submission ❓

⊖ Please make following amendments:

- Tab "Application" > Field "Keywords" is mandatory!
- Tab "Application" > Field "Summary in Estonian" is mandatory!
- Tab "Application" > Field "Summary in English" is mandatory!
- Tab "Application" > Field "Please explain and justify your choice" is mandatory!
- Tab "Application" > Field "Research type" is mandatory!
- Tab "Application" > Field "Research experience abroad (e.g., postdoctoral studies, working as a researcher at an R&D institution or at a research-intensive enterprise, etc. in a foreign country) or outside the same country" is mandatory!
- Sum of percentages of fields of research must be 100%!
- Tab "Application" > Field "Field and speciality" is mandatory!
- Tab "Application" > Field "Have you used the help of generative artificial intelligence (MS Copilot, ChatGPT, Midjourney, DALL E or similar) for writing or preparing the application or its parts?" is mandat
- Tab "Ethics and data" > Field "Confirmation of adherence to the principles of research integrity and research ethics" is mandatory!
- Tab "Ethics and data" > Field "Do any of the project's research activities need to be approved by an ethics committee?" is mandatory!
- Tab "Ethics and data" > Field "Research data management" is mandatory!

After the submission of the application

Evaluation of the applications

- PRG applications will be evaluated in 16 Expert Panels that are based on 7 research fields (see the list and keywords on the website of the Council).

- The preliminary final evaluation will be sent to the applicants in the beginning of July (at the latest).

- The applicant and the institution are entitled to make objections regarding the preliminary final evaluation (the so-called hearing – deadline 18th August, objections to be sent via ETIS).

- The Evaluation Committee will confirm the final ranking lists of each Expert Panel.

- Considering the position in the ranking list and funding amount, the Evaluation Committee will decide which applications will be forwarded to the Panel on Research Ethics and Data Management.

- After the evaluation in the Panel on Research Ethics and Data Management, the Evaluation Committee will make the proposals to approve the applications.

Evaluation of the application

Criterion	Rating scale	Example
1. Scientific justification for the research project	From 1 to 5	4.5
2. Feasibility of the research project	From 1 to 5	4.5
3. Competence of the applicant	From 1 to 5	5
4. Strength and potential of the research team	From 1 to 5 (with coefficient 0.6)	4
5. Importance and potential impact of the research project	From 1 to 5	4.5
	Total score:	=4.5+4.5+5+4*0.6+4.5=21.9
6. Research ethics, incl. the potential ethical risks accompanying the implementation of the project	Appropriate, conditionally appropriate	
7. Research data management	Appropriate, conditionally appropriate	

Ethics tab

- Research ethics and data management form in Word

https://etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Ethics-and-data-section-in-the-application-forms-2026.docx

- To fill out the table please use the „Guidelines for Completing Your Ethics Self-Assessment for Grant Application"

https://etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Eetika_Tabel_ENG_v1_2025.pdf

- Questions concerning ethical issues: **Marten Juurik**

(Head of the Unit of Research Integrity, +372 731 7381, marten.juurik@etag.ee).

Some additional
suggestions

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What else to pay attention to?

- **Please read the Conditions and Procedure for Team Grants very carefully**

- Compile the application correctly! Do not add files that are not allowed! The character limit is the same for all applicants.

NB! Neither these slides nor FAQ has all the information!

- All members of the project must update their CV-s in ETIS

- Please make sure the people you want to include in your application are available

- Please give yourself **enough time** to fill in the application!

- Be aware that the **confirmation of the application** may also take more time than you think! **Do not leave submission on the last minute!**

- **During April, be ready to make corrections demanded by ETAG.**

Questions regarding the application

<u>Research Funding Officers:</u>

Medical and Health Sciences; Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences: Ade Kallas-Kivi (+372 731 7366, <u>ade.kallas-kivi@etag.ee</u>)

Biological and Environmental Sciences: Merle Mandel (+372 731 7387, <u>merle.mandel@etag.ee</u>)

Exact Sciences: Raili Torga (+372 731 7358, <u>raili.torga@etag.ee</u>)

Engineering and Technology: Katriin Pirk (+372 5395 7767, <u>katriin.pirk@etag.ee</u>)

Humanities and the Arts: Elli Marie Tragel (+372 5349 1291, <u>ellimarie.tragel@etag.ee</u>)

Social Sciences: Marin Järvpõld (+372 5370 0754, <u>marin.jarvpold@etag.ee</u>)

Head of the Field of National Research Grants: Eveli Laats (+372 5191 1737, <u>eveli.laats@etag.ee</u>)

Head of the Unit of Research Integrity: Marten Juurik (+372 731 7381, marten.juurik@etag.ee).

Q&A