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| Deadline | Fri 15 Mar 2024 |
| Call name | Experientia Start-up grant 2024 |
| www | https://www.experientia.cz/pro-zadatele/start-up-granty/ |
| Focused on | Starting an independent research group and & high-risk-high-gain basic research in organic, bioorganic and medicinal chemistry in the Czech Republic (cannot be used to fund a research group at the IOC ^B) |
| Applicant | An early career researcher (up to 7 years from finishing the PhD in the year of application) with international experience (at least one year of postdoctoral research outside the Czech Republic), excellent results in the field and the potential to develop their own innovative research programme |
| Host institution | A university or research institute in the Czech Republic (excluding the IOC^B): Masaryk University, Charles University, Palacky University (Olomouc), Univerzita Pardubice, University of Chemistry and Technology Prague (VŠCHT), Brno University of Technology and others |
| Research team | Group leader/PI = early career researcher, postdocs, PhD students, students, technicians |
| Expected outputs | (J) publications in internationally peer reviewed journals |
| Call opens | Oct 2023 |
| Final deadline | Fri 15 Mar 2024 |
| Evaluation of results | May 2024 invitation to the second interview round, which takes place (online and in person) at the end of May 2024 Final results 30 Jun 2024 |
| Signature of agreement | The contract between the foundation (Nadace Experientia), the recipient and the host institution must be signed by 15 Dec 2024, otherwise the entitlement to the stipend will be forfeited. |
| Earliest date of implementation | 01 Jan 2024 |
| Latest date of implementation | 31 Dec 2026 |
| Sustainability | None |
| Reporting | Annual report detailing the results of the project. Max 4 pages, due each year by 15 Jan (2025, 2026), a summary of the finances used, and outline of the budget for the following year Final report : max 6 pages, due by 31 Mar 2027, containing a description of research activities, a list of publications, overall evaluation of the results |
| Project duration (min-max) | 3 years |
| Allocation for the call | A maximum of 1 project funded each year |
| Project budget (min-max) | 2,7 mil. CZK annually (2 mil CZK from Experientia + 0,7 mil. CZK annually pledged by the host institution) → total of 8,1 mil. CZK for the 3-year duration |
| Success rate | - |
| Eligible costs | 1) Personnel costs and stipends, including statutory levies (max 2,2 mil. CZK / year), gross salary of the PI will be set at 60 000 CZK / month, except where the host institution has a higher salary set for the appropriate position 2) Other operating costs, low-value tangible and intangible assets (up to 80,000CZK), software (up to 60,000CZK), travel expenses, services |
| Podpora | 2 mil. CZK / year (6 mil. CZK / project) = 75% Nadace Experientia 0,7 mil. CZK / year (2,1 mil. CZK / project) = 25% host institution (personnel & material costs) |
| Mode of funding | Ex-ante : 01 Jan 2025 & 15 Feb 2026 & 15 Feb 2027. The amount will be transferred to a separate account held by the host institution assigned to the PI. This account will be used to cover all project costs. |
| Language of application | English |
| Provider | Nadace Experientia, Flemingovo nám. 2, 166 10 Praha 6, www.experientia.cz Contact: Anna Batistová, +420 725 302 848, experientia@experientia.cz |
| Call identifier | Experientia Start-Up Grant 2024 |

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| Call info | The aim of the Nadace Experientia Start-up grant scheme is to support excellent early career researchers in starting their own research group in the Czech Republic and in developing their own independent high-risk high-gain, conceptually novel research direction. |
| Conditions / Restrictions | <p>The application, in English, should be submitted electronically in PDF format to experientia@experientia.cz.</p> <p>The applicant can only submit 1 application in any 1 year.</p> <p>The subject of the project must be distinct from the applicant's PhD and postdoctoral research topics, and must not overlap with current research taking place at the host institution.</p> <p>The applicant must have at least one year of postdoctoral research experience outside the Czech Republic.</p> <p>The applicant does not need to be an employee of the host institution at the time of application, but must become one by 01 Jan 2025.</p> <p>The work-load of the applicant on the Start-up grant must be 1,0 FTE (100%). A part-time work load is not permissible. If the applicant is successful with further research grant applications, he/she may split their workload between the projects.</p> <p>The host institution pledges to provide the applicant with adequate laboratory space and laboratory equipment, as well as a financial support of 0,7 mil. CZK / year.</p> <p>It is permissible to make changes to the research team during the project duration.</p> <p>The grant recipient is responsible for legitimate and economic spending of the finances, as well as for adherence to all of the conditions.</p> <p>In case of serious circumstances, the financing of the project can be temporarily suspended for the necessary time period.</p> <p>The grant can be transferred to another institution on the condition that this institution agrees to take on all of the obligations linked to the grant. The Foundation (Nadace Experientia) must be informed in writing in advance about the extent and details of such transfer.</p> <p>Unused finances can be transferred into the following calendar year.</p> <p>All received finances must be used by 31 Dec 2027.</p> <p>The recipient will submit an application for an ERC Starting Grant during the Start-up grant period, unless they have already submitted one before beginning the Start-up grant.</p> <p>The recipient may apply for other national and international grants to run in parallel with the Start-up grant.</p> <p>The recipient agrees to present a lecture about the project at the "Pokroky v organické, bioorganické a farmaceutické chemii – Liblice" meeting in November of the last year of the duration of the grant.</p> |
| Proposal consists of | <p>1) Project application: (A) title of the project; (B) brief summary of the project (max 1000 characters); (C) scientific description of the project (max 4–5 pages including references and figures): aims of the project, current state of the knowledge, analysis of suggested route to attain the aims of the project, description of how the project significantly shifts boundaries of knowledge and a risk analysis, description of the host institution where the project will be carried out; (D) details of the main PI/applicant: (i) identification data: name, surname, date of birth, address of workplace including phone number and e-mail; (ii) structured CV including details of MSc and PhD theses (title, name of the advisor, affiliation, brief summary - 3 sentences - of content); (iii) full reference list; (iv) information about fellowships/postdoctoral experience abroad (outside Czech Republic); (v) information about work experience to date; (E) details of team members (name, surname, date of birth, position), description of positions to be added at a later date if specific persons are not known at the time of the application; (F) outline budget for the entire 3-year period calculated using an interactive form available on the Foundation website: www.experientia.cz. (applicant)</p> <p>2) Letter from a legal representative of the host institution confirming: (i) independent group leader status of the applicant/PI within the organizational framework of the institution, (ii) pledge to co-finance the Start-up grant with 0,7 mil. CZK / year, (iii) agreement to provide adequate laboratory space including the necessary equipment and enable access to instruments and equipment within the wider host institution. (host institution & applicant)</p> <p>3) Two letters of recommendation supporting the academic achievements of the applicant, preferably from two different institutions and, where possible, from two different countries. The letters should be sent by the referees directly to experientia@experientia.cz no later than 15 Mar 2024. (referees)</p> <p>If you reach the second round of selection, be prepared to present your project at the joint meeting of the Foundation Board and the Selection Committee at the end of May. Selected candidates will be asked to send their presentation (ppt/pdf format) to</p> |

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| | experientia@experientia.cz by two days before the meeting and asked to confirm attendance online or in person. The expected presentation length is max. 10 minutes, followed by a short discussion with the Foundation Board and Selection Committee. |
| Evaluation criteria | Overall quality & scientific excellence (criteria analogous to those of ERC Starting Grants) as well as: 1) clearly defined research aims of the proposed project; 2) planned research methods; 3) ambitiousness of the project and its high-risk-high-gain character; 4) independence of the applicant judged based on the publications where they are the main author; 5) originality of the research project, i.e. if the proposed project is sufficiently innovative and different from previous projects (PhD studies and postdoctoral work); 6) the scientific career and achievements of the applicant to date; 7) adequacy of the expected financial costs in relation to the nature and aims of the project and the level of financial support available. |
| Research areas | Organic, bioorganic and medicinal chemistry |
| Call workshop | To be confirmed, likely in February 2024 taking the form of a meeting with past grant-holders |
| IOCB contact | Please inform the IOCB Project Office about your intention to apply. Do not hesitate to contact us anytime for consulting, discussion or help (projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz). Blanka Collis +420 220 183 527 Jitka Šilerová +420 220 183 229 |
| Download documents | Experientia Start-up grant 2024 summary CZ Experientia Start-up grant 2024 summary EN Experientia Start-up grant 2024 rules (in CZ) Experientia Start-up grant Budget Table (EN) |