



**Administrative rules applicable to the recruitment of grantholders under national law contracts within the framework of the research programmes managed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC)**

**Article 1**  
*Purpose of the scheme*

Grantholder contracts are aimed at supporting training, career development and mobility opportunities for researchers.

The Commission offers contracts under the national employment law of the site where the JRC Directorate is established to scientists embarking on doctoral studies or to established researchers who wish to participate in research work conducted by the JRC.

**Article 2**  
*Categories and eligibility criteria*

**a) Nationality**

Grantholders must be nationals of a Member State of the European Union or an Associated Country or must have resided in a Member State for at least five years prior to the start of the grantholder contract.

In exceptional cases, the Director-General of the JRC may allow candidates from other countries to participate in the scheme.

**b) Age**

The age limit for grantholders is 65 years.

Category 20 and 30 grantholder contracts are aimed at researchers starting their careers or at the early stages of their careers.

Category 40 grantholder contracts are aimed at senior researchers.

In exceptional circumstances and for category 40 grantholders only, a derogation to permit a grantholder to stay up to the age of 67 years of age may be granted by the Director-General of the JRC.

**c) Qualifications**

All qualifications required must be met at the time of the application for a grantholder contract unless otherwise specified in the provisions below.

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### *Category 20*

This category is intended for students who submit a proposal for doctoral studies related to a research project published in the JRC's call for interest for grantholders. Prior agreement to follow the research project must be obtained from the professor responsible for following the thesis at the student's university. Candidates who are already enrolled in a doctoral studies programme for fewer than 12 months may participate in the call. Nevertheless, their doctoral studies must be related to the research project published.

The selected candidates must provide proof of enrolment in a university's doctoral studies programme before the grantholder contract may start and will have not more than six months from the date of the JRC's offer of a grantholder contract to produce this proof of enrolment.

### *Category 30*

This category is intended for researchers holding a Ph.D. degree or having a minimum of 5 years of research experience after the first university degree giving access to doctoral studies (which may include periods of training such as a master's degree) in a field relevant to the JRC's scientific activities.

Candidates who have not yet completed all the formalities to obtain a Ph.D. or who have not yet obtained 5 years of research experience after the first university degree on the date of application may also be considered as eligible to apply. Nevertheless, the Ph.D. must be obtained or the five years of research experience after the first university degree must be reached prior to the signature of the grantholder contract.

### *Category 40*

This category is intended for any senior scientist with a proven reputation in a field of science relevant to the JRC's scientific activities and who has a minimum of 10 years of research experience at post-doctoral level or a minimum of 15 years of research experience after the first university degree giving access to doctoral studies (which may include periods of training such as a master's degree).

Candidates who have not reached the 10 years of research experience at post-doctoral level or the 15 years of research experience after the first university degree on the date of application may also be considered as eligible to apply. Nevertheless, the 10 years of research experience at post-doctoral level or the 15 years of research experience after the first university degree must be reached prior to the signature of the grantholder contract.

### **d) Duration**

#### *Category 20 & 30*

The minimum duration of the research project shall be 12 months and the maximum 36 months. In exceptional cases, where necessary to complete the work, the Director-General of the JRC may accept up to an additional year (if this is permitted by the national employment law of the site).

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### *Category 40*

The minimum duration of the research project shall be 3 months and the maximum 24 months.

### **Article 3** ***Selection procedure***

1. Category 20 and 30 grantholders are selected through calls for interest organised on a regular basis or when the need arises by the JRC. The calls are published on the JRC Internet. Candidates must introduce their applications via the web-based External Staff Recruitment Application (ESRA) tool.

Grantholders are chosen by a selection committee composed of at least the Head of Unit concerned (and/or his/her representative) and the scientific responsible of the published research project. The Recruitment and Training Unit or the relevant Resource Management Unit are responsible for checking the eligibility criteria of the candidates.

The selection committee evaluates the applications and establishes a shortlist of apt candidates, which is submitted to the respective Director for approval. Candidates who are not selected or who are not eligible shall be informed as soon as possible by the Recruitment and Training Unit or the relevant Resource Management Unit.

2. Due to their specialised nature and limited duration, publication of call for interest in ESRA for category 40 grantholders is not obligatory. Nevertheless, projects of potential interest for category 40 grantholders shall be published on the JRC Internet. Each candidate will be assessed according to the JRC's needs, his/her scientific excellence, the relevance of the research to the JRC's scientific activities and the added value that would be brought by such a stay.

The JRC may also decide to launch a call for interest via ESRA for category 40 grantholders.

3. As a Directorate-General of the Commission, the JRC embraces non-discriminatory practices and equality of opportunity. In case of equal merit, preference will be given to the gender in minority.

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## **Article 4**

### ***Grantholder contracts***

1. The grantholders shall be engaged under employment contracts, which conform to the national legislation of the JRC site in which the grantholder is to be based. An information guide on the provisions of the grantholder contracts and their particular terms and conditions will be provided to each potential grantholder.
  
2. The JRC will ensure that grantholders enjoy the best possible conditions to carry out the research for which they were selected. In particular, the JRC will provide appropriate training where necessary, such as language courses and any other relevant training necessary for the grantholders to carry out their work.
  
3. The research work carried out by a grantholder does not and cannot replace the work carried out by officials of the European Union or any other statutory staff covered by the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Union.
  
4. A person may benefit from only one type of grantholder contract. It is not possible to award a subsequent contract in another category. A grantholder contract may not be awarded following an auxiliary contract/contract staff or temporary agent contract.