Last checked: 10 October 2026 · Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PM ECRG)

The PM Early Career Research Grant helps early career researchers who have newly joined a research or academic institution to start their research with a flexible budget. It takes over the Start-up Research Grant of the erstwhile SERB.

What you may get

A one-time research grant of up to Rs 60 lakh plus overheads for three years, with room to move money between recurring heads, hire research staff, and meet travel, contingency, open-access publication and patent filing costs. Up to 700 grants can be given a year across subjects, and the project period cannot be extended.

Who it is for

Indian citizens with a PhD in science or engineering, or MD, MS, MDS or MVSc, who hold a regular position in a recognised institution that they joined within the last two years and are within the age limit.

Main conditions

- The applicant must be an Indian citizen. A PIO or OCI who is a regular employee of a public funded recognised R&D institution can apply as PI with an Indian Co-PI under ANRF's funding guidelines.
- The applicant must hold a PhD in science or engineering, or an MD, MS, MDS or MVSc degree, and a regular academic or research position in a recognised institution or national laboratory.
- Apply no later than two years after taking up the post at the institution.
- The upper age limit is 42 years, and three more years are allowed for SC, ST and OBC candidates, women and persons with a physical disability.
- Research associates, postdoctoral fellows, ad-hoc and guest faculty, visiting scientists, consultants, project fellows and faculty on yearly renewed contracts are not eligible, nor is anyone who has already held an ECR, SRG, CRG or EMEQ grant, or any project grant from ANRF or the old SERB.

Documents

- Biodata, filled in under the user profile
- Certificate from the Principal Investigator, in the ANRF template
- Endorsement letter from the Head of Institution, in the ANRF template
- Age proof: Class X marksheet or a birth certificate
- Category certificate, in case of age relaxation
- Plagiarism undertaking, in the ANRF template
- Technical document of the proposal as one PDF of up to 10 MB

How to apply

1. Wait for ANRF to announce a call for applications, which it notifies on its websites. Applications are accepted online only during the call.
2. Register on the ANRF online portal (anrfonline.in). Researchers already registered on the older SERB online portal can use the same login.
3. Fill in the user profile, then enter the proposal details such as title, summary, keywords, objectives, expected outcome and budget, and upload the technical document and the listed certificates as PDFs.
4. Only one proposal can be submitted in a call. An Expert Committee recommends the selection.

Status

Active

Official source: https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/ecrg_anrf?HomePage=New
Official application: https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/ecrg_anrf?HomePage=New
Labh Lo page: https://labhlo.in/en/schemes/central/anrf-pm-early-career-research-grant/

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