



INFORMATION FOR ERC MENTORS AND MENTEES

PURPOSE OF THE ERC MENTORING PROGRAMME

The ERC mentoring program is designed to help strong UiB researchers develop their research ideas into competitive ERC grant proposals by engaging an academic and ERC expert to support them as they prepare their applications.

ERC mentors are usually expected to be subject experts in the mentee's field of research, who also possess extensive knowledge of the ERC instrument. They might, for instance, be an ERC grantee, acted as an ERC panel member in the past, or been engaged as an ERC expert evaluator.

HOW CAN ERC MENTORS SUPPORT MENTEES?

ERC mentoring relationships differ depending on the specific strengths of a mentor and the individual needs of a mentee. The following tasks are typical examples of what a mentor might provide. In advance of a first meeting, it is suggested that mentees consider what they hope to gain from mentoring, and mentors in turn consider what they are able to offer their mentees in terms of time, expertise and insight. These reflections can be used as a starting point to discuss the scope and purpose of your mentoring relationship during your first meeting.

Commonly, ERC mentors offer:

- Periodical meetings (usually digital) to check in and hear how the application is progressing. These might be more or less frequent during different phases of development, but could be expected to average roughly once per month during the time the mentor and mentee work together
- Insight into the current state of the art and support applicants to develop a sufficiently groundbreaking research concept. This can take the form of pre-arranged meetings or comments on draft proposals.
- Critical review of proposal drafts (2 x full drafts of B1 and B2 can reasonably be taken as an average standard)
- Support to develop a mentees academic network by introducing them to relevant colleagues from relevant disciplines for further discussion
- If mentees are invited to stage two of the ERC competition: mentors usually offer to participate in one mock ERC interview to help them prepare

SHARED OBLIGATIONS

Both mentor and mentee should agree that they will commit to implementing the purpose of the mentoring scheme. During your first meeting, you should discuss and agree how you will work together. At minimum, you should agree the length of time you intend to work together, the role of intellectual property in your mentoring conversations (see below), the average frequency of your meetings and the main tasks to be accomplished during the mentoring period. It is strongly recommended that you record and retain a single copy of this agreement – for example via a simple word document you might both use as a reference throughout your period of work together.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A common understanding on intellectual property (IP) pertaining to work developed on the basis of your mentoring collaboration should also be agreed from the outset of your mentoring relationship. In the first instance, mentors should bear in mind that the scientific contents of mentoring



conversations should be kept strictly confidential. Mentors should also consider how to support mentees effectively whilst preserving their own IP.

DURATION

The duration of the mentoring relationship should be discussed and agreed at your first meeting. It can last as long as both parties agree is needed. Mentoring relationships usually encompass the time from the first meeting to the ERC deadline and offer the potential for a limited extension if the mentee is invited to interview.

CONTRACT

Once a mentor has agreed to engage in ERC mentoring, they will receive a standard University of Bergen digital *assignment contract* and a tax form. Both contract and tax form will be forwarded to the mentor by the mentee's local administration. These documents should be completed and uploaded/returned (as specified) to the named administrative contact at the mentees department, in order that payment can be accurately processed. Mentors cannot receive payment until these forms are completed and returned.

NB: It is important to note that the specific conditions for mentoring, agreed between the mentor and mentee, are not delineated within the assignment contract. Agreeing and honouring the conditions of the mentoring relationship is thus the shared responsibility of the mentor and mentee.

PAYMENT

Mentors will receive an honorarium of NOK 30,000, made in a single payment due upon the pre-agreed conclusion of the mentoring relationship (or the relevant ERC call deadline, whichever comes first). Payment will be processed by the mentee's local administration.

Any questions regarding the contract or tax form can be directed to the administrative contact at the mentee's department.