

COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY BE-FOR-ERC 2026 CALL

The **BE-FOR-ERC 2026** call is a public selection procedure established by Sapienza University of Rome as part of its "**SAPIExcellence**" initiative. This program aims to attract talented researchers and encourage them to apply for prestigious European research funding, such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and European Research Council (ERC) grants.

Below is a summary of the key aspects of the fellowship:

1. Scope and Funding

- **Number of Fellowships:** Sapienza is offering **12 fellowships** for high-quality research projects.
- **Scientific Fields:** Projects must fall under one of the three ERC scientific panels: **Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE)**, **Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)**, or **Life Sciences (LS)**.
- **Total Grant Amount:** Each fellowship is worth **€50,000**. This budget is divided into:
 - **€40,000** to cover a 12-month post-doctoral research contract for the Principal Investigator (PI).
 - **€10,000** for direct research costs (e.g., laboratory materials, conference travel, publications, and field activities).

2. Eligibility Requirements for Principal Investigators (PIs)

To be eligible for the 2026 call, the applicant must:

- Have obtained their **PhD degree between September 19, 2021, and September 18, 2026** (i.e., within the last 5 years).
- **Not** have previously won a BE-FOR-ERC fellowship.
- **Not** have failed to pass "Step 1" of the evaluation in the previous BE-FOR-ERC call.

3. Application Process

- **Deadline:** Applications must be submitted online by **September 18, 2026, at 12:00 PM (noon)**.
- **Language:** The entire application must be written in **English**.
- **Required Documents:** Applicants must provide an administrative module, a scientific abstract, a synopsis of the project, a CV and track record (Part B.1), a detailed scientific proposal (Part B.2), and a formal resolution from their chosen **Host Department** at Sapienza.

4. Evaluation and Selection

The selection process is managed by a dedicated Commission and follows a **three-step evaluation**:

- **Step 1:** Evaluation of the project synopsis, CV, and track record (Minimum score: 30/40).
- **Step 2:** Detailed review of the full scientific proposal by expert reviewers (Minimum score: 30/40).
- **Step 3:** An **online interview in English** to present the research proposal (Minimum score: 15/20).

The primary criteria for evaluation are the **scientific excellence of the proposal** (ground-breaking nature, methodology, and potential for future ERC Starting Grants) and the **scientific excellence of the PI** (creativity, research capacity, and professional independence).

5. Duration and Implementation

The fellowship lasts for **12 continuous months**. Selected PIs must start their research activities no later than six months after the final ranking is approved. The Host Department is responsible for managing the funds and the administrative aspects of the fellowship.