



## **FUNDING SCHEME**

«RESTART 2016-2020» Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation of the Research and Innovation Foundation

## **PROGRAMME**

«NURTURING AN RTDI CULTURE»

## **COMPETITION**

«Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher 2023»

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**CULTURE / AWARD-YR / 0523**



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ  
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ  
ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ



ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΑ  
ΒΡΑΒΕΙΑ  
ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ

## INTRODUCTION

The Research and Innovation Foundation launches the Call for Nominations for the “**Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher**” of the Programme “**Nurturing an RTDI Culture**” within the framework of the “**RESTART 2016-2020**” Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) and invites all interested parties to submit nominations for the award.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Pillar</b>	: III. Transformation of RTDI System
<b>Programme</b>	: Nurturing an RTDI Culture
<b>Competition</b>	: Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher 2023
<b>Call Identifier</b>	: CULTURE/AWARD-YR/0523
<b>Call Budget</b>	: <b>330,000 Euros</b> Prize of each thematic area: 60,000 Euros Maximum funding for each ERC Visiting Fellowship: €50,000 depending on the duration of the Fellowship (max. €8,333 per month)
<b>Publication Date</b>	: 12 May 2023
<b>Deadline</b>	: 30 June 2023 and time 13.00.

All general rules and procedures for the participation of organisations and individuals are included in the **RESTART 2016-2020 Work Programme**, which is available on the Research and Innovation Foundation’s [IRIS \(Innovation Research Information System\) Portal](#) .

*The English version of the Call, though an official translation endorsed by the Research and Innovation Foundation, is provided for information purposes only. Only the Greek version of the Call is legally binding and shall prevail in case of any divergence in interpretation.*

## OBJECTIVES

The Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF), in the frame of its activities for recognizing and rewarding research excellence, established an annual Research Award for Cyprus in 2007. In 2013, the Award was modified in order to separately reward young and more experienced researchers, in a parallel attempt to support early-career researchers and promote distinguished scientists active in Cyprus.

The “**Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher**” is awarded to young researchers that have demonstrated the ability to perform high quality research. The Award aims to **highlight the research activity, achievements and personality of young scientists undertaking research in Cyprus**, who have shown an ability to produce significant and internationally recognized results from the early stages of their career. In addition, the Award aims to actively support young researchers, facilitating the continuation of their work and research career.

The “Cyprus Research Award – Young Researcher” is awarded annually in each of the following thematic areas<sup>1</sup>:

- ***Life Sciences.***
- ***Physical Sciences & Engineering.***
- ***Social Sciences & Humanities.***

### **ERC Visiting Fellowship**

In addition, RIF bearing in mind that funding from the European Research Council (ERC) of the Horizon Europe Programme indicates high quality research and in order to increase the participation and success of Cypriot researchers in ERC Calls, offers the opportunity to the winners of the Cyprus Research Awards to apply for the ERC Visiting Fellowship. Through the ERC Visiting Fellowship, the winner will have the opportunity to travel abroad for a period of between 3-6 months (not necessarily consecutive) to an ERC Grantee, with the aim of enhancing his/her research profile and knowledge exchange in an international environment and prepare a proposal (with a Host Organisation in the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus) for one of the following ERC calls: Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant, Advanced Grant.

## **NOMINATION PROCEDURE**

### **Nominees**

The nominated researchers should:

- hold a PhD degree on the announcement date of the Call,
- have a maximum of seven (7) years of experience since the completion of their PhD and up to the announcement date of the Call (between the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 and the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 inclusive)
- have been working and living in Cyprus on a permanent basis during the last three (3) years up to the announcement date of the Call (between the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 inclusive)

Extensions are possible under certain circumstances for career breaks for maternity or paternity leave, military service or documented sick leave<sup>2</sup>.

The nominated researchers may be of any nationality and must have been working in any Research Organization, Enterprise or other Public or Private Entity legally established and active in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

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<sup>1</sup> The thematic areas and sub-areas are in line with those of the [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> For maternity leave, eighteen months for each child born after the Phd. For military service, the duration of service as certified by the respective authority, and for sick leave, the respective certified time.

## Nomination

The researchers should be **nominated by another person**. There is no restriction on the number of young researchers a person or organization may nominate for the Award.

Individuals who have already been awarded under the "Cyprus Research Award - New Researcher" can not apply again.<sup>3</sup>

Nominations should be submitted electronically via the following [link](#) by the **30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023**.

## Submission of Nominations

Following the submission of nominations, the RIF will contact each nominee to confirm their interest in participating in the procedure and request the submission of their Curriculum Vitae and a proposal on their future research activity that will be supported via the Award (**in English**). The submission of the necessary documents is done through the [IRIS](#) portal.

## Expression of Interest for the ERC Visiting Fellowship

At the same time, the candidate has the opportunity to express interest in participating in the ERC Visiting Fellowship. Interested candidates are invited to contact the Cyprus National Contact Point for the ERC Programme in advance in order to be informed about the specifics of the ERC Calls (purpose, candidate profile, project characteristics, etc.). In case the applicant will apply for the Visiting Research Fellowship, he/she should already have secured the agreement of the ERC Grantee for his/her hosting and submit a brief description of the research project for which he/she will submit a proposal to the ERC.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

### Preliminary Check

A preliminary check for each nomination is carried out by RIF to ensure that all relevant criteria and special conditions as outlined in the relevant Call are respected. Following completion of the preliminary check, results are communicated to the nominees that have the right to submit a redress within within seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of RIF's letter notifying the HO of the results, and in any case no later than ten (10) calendar days from the sending date of the original email notification.

### Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation of the nominations will be carried out by three (3) Evaluation Committee (EC). The Committees will consist of the Chief Scientist and evaluators / experts from abroad selected on the basis of the thematic areas.

The evaluation procedure is implemented in two phases.

#### First Phase – Remote Evaluation:

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.research.org.cy/koultoura/vraveia-erevvas/#toggle-id-3>

In the **first phase**, each member of the Committee studies the CVs of the candidates remotely, indicating the most prominent candidates.

#### *Second Phase – Meeting of the Expert Evaluation Committee:*

During the **second phase**, the Committee convenes to discuss the candidates. During the meeting, the Committee selects the winner of the Award and documents its rationale for the decision in an Evaluation Report. The decision of the EEC is final and the submission of a request for redress is not possible.

It is noted that no feedback is sent to the candidates after the evaluation is completed. The winner for each thematic area and the rationale for the decision for each area is announced during a special Ceremony.

In case the level of nominated researchers is considered by the EEC as unsatisfactory, the RIF maintains the right not to grant the Award. The winner for each thematic area and the rationale for the decision is announced during a special ceremony.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

For the evaluation, the following three criteria are applicable:

#### **1. Research Activity**

- Quality of the most important results of the Young Researcher's research activity and their importance at an international level.
  - Evidence of the use and exploitation of the results of the research activity for the improvement of the quality of life in Cyprus and the wider European area or globally or/and the possibility of commercial exploitation, introduction in the international market and patent registration.
  - Publications in distinguished scientific journals, publication of book, book chapters or monographs and presentations in high impact international conferences.

#### **2. Curriculum Vitae**

- Qualifications and achievements of the Young Researcher.

#### **3. Future Research**

- Suggested framework of activity for the continuation of the Young Researcher's work in the coming years.

### **Evaluation Criteria for the ERC Visiting Fellowship**

The Evaluation Committee, after selecting the Winner, will evaluate the expression of interest for the ERC Visiting Fellowship (if submitted by the Award winner).

The criterion will be the Scientific Excellence of (a) the proposed research project idea (its innovative character, ambition and feasibility) and (b) the CV of the Award Winner.

## Award - Funding

The winner for each thematic area is announced during the Cyprus Research and Innovation Awards Ceremony, where the rationale for the decision for each area is also announced. Winners will receive a work of art, specially made for the Awards.

Moreover, the Young Researcher's Host Organisation (HO) will be granted an amount of **60,000 Euros** for the continuation of his/her research work as Project Coordinator, which should be used in the framework of a project of duration between twelve (12) and twenty four (24) months.

The signing of the Contracts must be completed up to 3 months from the date of the invitation to the Contract Preparation procedure. Otherwise, RIF reserves the right to terminate the Contract Preparation process.

In addition, in case of approval for the ERC Visiting Fellowship, a grant of up to 50,000 Euros will be awarded to the Host Organization (HO), depending on the duration of the Fellowship (maximum 8,333 Euros for each month of duration). The ERC Visiting Fellowship grant will be used for the travel expenses of the researcher receiving the award abroad (salary and travel and accommodation expenses) and will be reimbursed for actual costs. In any case, the proof of submission of the proposal to the ERC will be a deliverable of the relevant ERC Visiting Fellowship project.

The researcher may in certain cases, following approval by the RIF, transfer the funding to a different organization than the initial Host Organization. In any case, the HO should be a Research Organization, Enterprise or Other Organization legally established and active in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

It is expected that the winners of the Award will participate in events for the promotion of the "Cyprus Research Awards".

## INFORMATION – CONTACT DETAILS

Email : [support@research.org.cy](mailto:support@research.org.cy)

Telephone : +35722205000

*The Research and Innovation Foundation may at its discretion, proceed to the extension or revocation of the present Call by applying the same publication procedure.*