

**FRIPRO**

FRIPRO is a funding mechanism by the Research Council of Norway (RCN). It is an open competitive arena for all disciplines, i.e. open to all kinds of excellent project ideas from basic to applied research. There are three different calls under FRIPRO, which follow a logic of career progression:

- Mobility grants for researchers at postdoc-level to spend 2 years abroad and 1 year back in Norway
- Early career projects for those between 0-6 years after their PhD
- Researcher projects for PIs who have more than 6 years of experience after their PhD

**Changes to the call**

In 2023 the Fripro-call will replace its yearly application deadline with open-ended calls for proposals. This means that proposals will be accepted throughout the year without deadlines. The preliminary calls will be published in June 2023. The complete call text will be available from August/September and the open call will accept proposals from approx. mid-October 2023. Background for the change is that the Research Council was tasked to increase the success rate of the FRIPRO-call to 25% by lowering the amount of submitted proposals and by drawing up measures to increase proposal quality. The changes and measures described here apply to FRIPRO alone and do not apply to other funding schemes by the RCN.

**Waiting period (*karenstid*)**

Once a proposal to the open call is submitted, the PI enters a waiting period and cannot submit a new proposal to a FRIPRO-call for the following year. This means that if a proposal is submitted on the 1.1.2024 a new proposal by the same PI cannot be submitted until the 2.1.2025. The waiting period applies just to the PI and just to the FRIPRO-calls. Within the waiting period, the PI can still participate in other FRIPRO-proposals as collaborator and can submit proposals to other funding instruments by the Research Council, e.g. thematic calls like SAMKUL or VAM and collaboration projects with public sector or industry. Collaborators in FRIPRO proposals are not affected by the waiting period and are free to submit their own proposals at any time.

**Quarantine**

Submitted proposals will receive a score between 1-7, with 7 being the highest mark. PIs that do not receive high scores with their proposal will enter a quarantine-period that restricts when their can submit a new proposal to a FRIPRO-call. Quarantine periods are in addition to the 1-year waiting period after each submission. Low scores can therefore result in that the PI has to wait an additional year or two before a new or improved proposal can be submitted.

Example: A PI applying for an Early career grant receives an overall score of 4 for a proposal submitted on the 1.1.2023. The PI enters a 1-year waiting period and a 1-year quarantine after evaluation and cannot submit a new proposal to any FRIPRO call until the 2.1.2025 at the earliest. For the Early career a re-submission would require that not more than 6 years have passed since the completion of their PhD).

For scores over 5,5 (for Researcher projects) and over 4,5, (for Early career) no quarantine period applies, and PIs can submit or re-submit a proposal after the 1 year waiting period.

See also the table below for an overview of quarantine periods per call type:

Call	Two years submission restriction	One year submission restriction	No submission restriction
Researcher project	3 or lower	Higher than 3, up to and including 5,5	Higher than 5,5
Early career	None	4,5 or lower	Higher than 4,5
Mobility	None	None	All

### Waiting list

Funding will be allocated approx. every second month i.e. 6 times per year. 1/6<sup>th</sup> of a year's FRIPRO budget will be allocated at each funding date, which equals approx. 16 projects. The RCN will introduce waiting lists to ensure equal chances for high quality proposals regardless of when a proposal is submitted during the year. Proposals that receive high marks (i.e. 6,5-7), but could not be funded at one allocation date will be automatically transferred to the next 1-2 allocation dates to be considered for funding by the portfolio boards. This measure is meant to equalize chances if an excellent proposal was sent during a time of a many overall submissions.

### New projects for current FRIPRO PIs

A PI can only have one active FRIPRO-project at a time. A new proposal can be submitted between 8-18 months before the end date of the current project as it was stated in the first contract with the RCN. The date of the first contract is used to ensure that delays beyond the PIs control, i.e. due to leaves of absence of a PhD-candidate or due to the pandemic, do not impact the possibility to apply with a new proposal.

Example: If the first contract stated a project period until the 31.12.2025 a new project cannot start until the 1.1.2026 at the earliest. An application can be submitted 8-18 month before that date, i.e. between approx. 1.7.2024-1.5.2025.

### Other changes and information

The RCN estimates that it will take approx. 8 months from submission to funding decision but works to reduce this time frame. The start date of a project must be between 8-18 months after submission.

It will be possible to apply for 4-year postdoc positions (before just up to 3 years).

A Researcher project can have a duration for up to 8 years (earlier only up to 6).

Age restrictions for Early career grants will be removed (before 40 years for Young talents).

Quarantine periods do not apply for proposals submitted back in time (with exception of the Young talents call in March 2023, which introduced quarantines).

If you fulfill the criteria you can have an Early career grant (before called Young talents) more than once.

The RCN will hold webinars in Norwegian and English in August/September 2023 to inform about the open FRIPRO-call.