

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) about Centres of Excellence (CoEs) 2026-2033 call

Who can apply?

The funding can be applied for by consortia composed of research teams. The consortium parties may represent one or several research organisations.

A consortium application is an application built around a joint research plan, where each party to the consortium applies for funding. The Research Council treats the consortium application as a single application, although the funding is granted to each subproject separately.

What is average funding amount per CoE?

It varies a lot depending on the field of research. In the previous call the average grant is 1,1Meur **per year** but it ranges from 0,6Meur to 1,5Meur depending on the research conducted.

Are there any restrictions?

In the present call, funding will not be granted to directors, deputy directors or team leaders of the on-going Centres of Excellence 2022-2029 or if you are director of the Flagship.

An application by a Director of an SRC consortium can be considered as CoE Director if there is not over-lapping SRC consortium funding after 31 December 2025. Director of an SRC consortium can be in other roles in the CoE consortium (team leader).

If you are member or becoming member of Scientific Councils, Strategic Research Council (SRC) or Board of the Research Council.

The CoE director, deputy director and team leaders can have only **one** application in CoE Programme 2026-2033 call. Thus the CoE directors, deputy directors or team leaders named in the letter of intent may be changed between the first and second stage only for very compelling reasons.

Also the Research Council will not grant Academy grant during the first three years of the CoE period. This does not apply to Academy programmes, Academy Professors, Fellows etc. only normal project grants.

Can I apply in other funding calls by the Research Council in 2024-2025 if I am part of a CoE application?

Yes, you may apply in the other calls as well.

What are the due dates for the call?

The CoE call has two stages. The first stage consists of plan of intent and appendices. The first stage call opens on September 4th 2024 and the letters of intent must be submitted by September 25th 2024.

The second stage call is by invitation only. The selections to the second stage are based on the first-stage review. The second stage consists of full applications and appendices. Its opens on May 21st 2025 and the second stage will close on 11th June 2025.

The funding decisions will be made in late 2025 and the funding period will start in January 2026.

Can the Centre of Excellence have a partner organization abroad? / Can international partner salaries be funded by the CoE project?

As a rule, Research Council's research funding is granted to Finnish sites of research. But the Centre can conduct international cooperation through collaborators, or the funded researchers may spend time working abroad during their funding period.

How much funding is there available in the CoE call?

The Research Council of Finland is prepared to fund the selected CoEs up to 65M€ in the first five-year period. The funding to be distributed through this call depends on the Finnish Parliament's decision to allocate the necessary funds to the Research Council.

Can we use footnotes on the application?

The list of references is included in the length of the plan. The font size in the list is 10 pt. All references must be added directly into the text, for example as follows: (au-thor(s), year) or [number]. You must **not** use footnotes.

How are the applications reviewed?

The Research Council of Finland funding is granted based on peer review. We mainly use foreign experts as reviewers.

Letters of intent are peer-reviewed by individual international experts.

The full applications are reviewed by panels of experts. The panels will assess the application(s) assigned to them and prepare a written review report on each application. Additionally, the panels will interview the CoE applicants.

Can we test the online service before?

Yes, there will be a test call 14 August - 3 September 2024.