

UiB ERC Starting Grant Development Programme – Concept Outline Template

Instructions for completing the concept outline:

This concept outline is a **mandatory prerequisite** for participation in the UiB ERC Starting Grant Development Programme 2026.

- Length: 1–2 pages (max. 1,000 words – not incl. references, if used)
- Please return your completed template as a PDF to katie.anders@uib.no or jutta.schloon@uib.no by **20 February 2026**. **NB: Failure to submit by the deadline will result in exclusion from the programme, regardless of faculty nomination.**

1. Personal Information

- Your name:
- Faculty / Institute:
- Position:
- PhD defense date (if awarded):
- Intended ERC panel (if known):

2. ERC Project Concept (approx. 400–500 words)

Provide a concise but clear description of the research concept you aim to develop into an ERC Starting Grant proposal.

This section should enable an informed reader **outside your immediate field** to understand:

- the *scientific* concepts or ideas that underpin the project.
- the principal research challenges involved.
- the objectives you aim to achieve during the project period.
- the strategies and methods you will employ to accomplish these objectives.

Focus on the **conceptual heart of the project**, rather than providing in-depth methodological details or descriptions of specific work packages.

3. Ambition and Groundbreakingness (Approx. 200-300 words)

Explain how your proposed project meets the ERC's core criteria of scientific ambition and groundbreaking potential. In particular:

- How does the project **go beyond the current state of the art** in your field?
- Which established assumptions, methods, or perspectives does it challenge or move beyond?
- In what ways might your project deliver **high-gain** outcomes?

Avoid generic claims and instead focus on what is genuinely new or transformative within your field.

4. Concept Maturity and Development Potential (approx. 200-300 words)

Please give a brief overview of the current maturity of your project concept. In particular:

- Which elements of the concept are already clear, well developed, or theoretically grounded?
- Which aspects still require further refinement, elaboration, or conceptual development?

5. References (optional)

You may include a small number of key references if they help clarify the intellectual positioning of your project.