

Tool to determine your research career stage

At the time of application, do you hold an independent research appointment?



NO

YES



If you assumed your first independent research appointment:

In the last 5 years

5-15 years ago

More than 15 years ago

You are an early career researcher.

You may be an early career researcher or a mid-career researcher depending on eligible leaves.

You are a senior researcher.

You do **NOT** qualify as an independent researcher.
Refer to the specific funding opportunity as confirmation of a pending appointment may be acceptable.



Don't forget to account for eligible leaves!

- Early career researcher status is extended by twice the amount of leave taken. For example, for one year of parental leave, early career researcher status is extended by two years.
- To account for COVID-19 disruptions, early career researcher status is extended by two years for those who held the status or began their first appointment between **March 1, 2020, and September 15, 2022.**



Example scenarios

Scenario one: Independent research appointment secured in the last five years, no leaves taken.

First academic appointment: **October 1, 2022.**



Add five years: Early career researcher status until **October 1, 2027.**



Did you take any eligible leave during this period?

NO

Does the identified period include any time between
March 1st, 2020 to September 15, 2022?

NO

October 1, 2027
is the current end date of your early
career researcher status.

Example scenarios

Scenario two: Some eligible leave taken and early career researcher period overlapped with the COVID-19 pause.

First academic appointment: **September 1, 2019.**



Add five years: Early career researcher status until
September 1, 2024.



Did you take any eligible leave during this period?

YES

Add twice the amount of eligible leave taken.
For example, for one year of parental leave, add two years.
This extends your early career researcher status to **September 1, 2026.**

Does the period include any time between
March 1, 2020 to September 15, 2022?

YES

Add two years to this period (COVID-19 extension).
This extends your early career researcher status to **September 1, 2028.**



September 1, 2028 is the current end date of your early career researcher status.

Example scenarios

Scenario three: Some eligible leave taken and early career researcher period was not during the COVID-19 pause.

First academic appointment: **September 1, 2012.**



Add five years: Early career researcher status until
September 1, 2017.



Did you take any eligible leave during this period?

YES

Add twice the amount of eligible leave taken.
For example, for one year of parental leave, add two years.
This extends your early career researcher status until **September 1, 2019.**

Does the period include any time between
March 1, 2020 to September 15, 2022?

NO

September 1, 2019 is the end date of your early career researcher status.