

PRESS RELEASE

German U15 e. V. | 12 April 2017

**One-third of the ERC Advanced Grants 2016 awarded to German research institutions goes to U15 universities**

In the current round of funding, the European Research Council has awarded 45 Advanced Grants to researchers at German institutions. This means that Germany leads the way as a location for research, ahead of Great Britain (41 Advanced Grants) and Switzerland (25). One-third of the 45 Advanced Grants awarded to Germany – and much more than one-half of those awarded to German universities – went to the U15 academic institutions. This makes them by far the most successful German research institutions and puts them on a par with the Max Planck Society which was awarded the same number of grants. “The U15 universities were successful in acquiring ERC Starting Grants in September 2016, and now they have repeated that success with the ERC Advanced Grants. This demonstrates the central role of the universities in the performance of the German research system,” notes Hans-Jochen Schiewer, Rector of the University of Freiburg and Chairman of U15.

The grantees at the U15 universities are working on projects like “The Arabic Anonymous in a World Classic”, “What Holds Cancer Cells Back”, “Four Experiments in Topological Superconductivity”, “Economic Engineering of Cooperation in Modern Markets”, and “Beyond the Silk Road: Economic Development, Frontier Zones and Inter-Imperiality in the Afro-Eurasian World Region, 300 BCE to 300 CE”. They cover the entire spectrum of subjects at the U15 universities.

The ERC Advanced Grant is one of the most prestigious research funds in Europe. The ERC awards the grant to projects that promise high international relevance, but also involve some level of risk. Of the some 2,400 applications submitted in the current round of grants, 231 were selected to receive funding in 20 European countries (nearly 10%).

**Link to the ERC press release:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/news/erc-advanced-grants-540-million-euros-eu-231-senior-researchers>

## About U15:

U15 is the strategic interest group for strong research universities with international acclaim. The U15 universities include almost one-third of all German and international students in Germany, and support half of all completed doctoral projects in the country. U15 universities attract two-fifths of public external funding, and in the medical field as much as 60 percent of these funds.

## Press Contact:

Ass. jur. Denise Feldner, M. B. L.

German U15 e.V.  
Chausseehof  
Chausseestraße 111  
10115 Berlin-Mitte

presse@german-u15.de  
0049 – 152 09340905  
www.german-u15.de