

Investigators Programme

Stage 1 (Eol) Webinar

September 3rd 2025

Webinar Information

This webinar consists of a PowerPoint presentation with voiceover (1-way!)

The presentation will outline the programme, review process, and application process for **Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (Eoi)**

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A, with questions to be submitted by attendees

You may submit questions by typing them in the **Q&A** box on your Zoom screen – please try to be concise

The webinar will be made available on the Research Ireland Investigators Call website in the following days

The Investigators team



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Presentation Format

- Programme Overview
- Application Process
- Review Process
- Q&A

Research Ireland Investigators Programme 2025

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Programme Overview

- New flagship initiative
- Supports research and innovation in all disciplines
- Open to all career stages for independent investigators
- Developed from the SFI Frontiers for the Future and IRC Laureate Programmes
- Two stage review Process – Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Eoi Stage Timeline

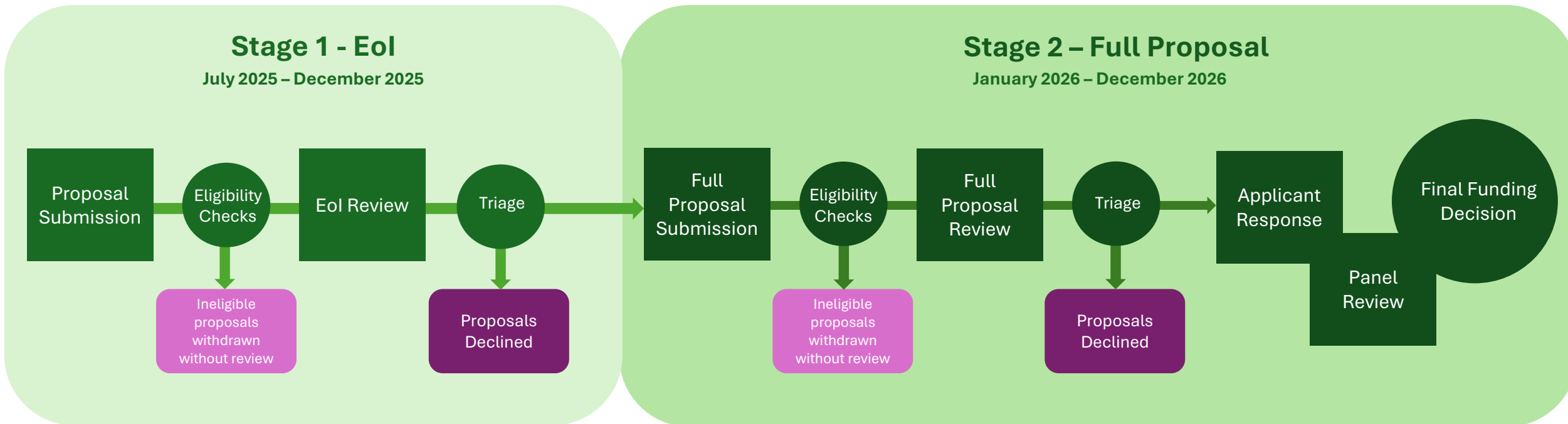
Programme Launch	July 30 th 2025
Submissions Deadline	September 17 th 2025 - 13:00 Dublin local time
Outcome Notification	December 2025 - January 2026*

*Projected Date

Indicative Timeline

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (Eol): **Application Deadline – September 17th 2025**

Stage 2: Full Proposal



Programme Objectives

- To enable excellent researchers to undertake **cutting-edge research** to push the boundaries of knowledge
- To facilitate training and development across all research disciplines, including for **PhD and postdoctoral researchers**
- To increase Ireland's capacity and reputation, and those of its research-performing institutions, for **excellent research across all disciplines**
- To support Ireland-based researchers, at all career stages, to leverage success in European and international funding programmes, including the European Research Council
- To retain and **attract excellent research talent to Ireland**
- To support partnerships that further enhance the opportunities for researchers to conduct **collaborative research**
- To support **innovation** in the Irish research system, and promote **impact** across the social, cultural, economic and environmental domains

Important Documents (Stage 1)

Call Document:

Investigators 2025

Call for Submission of Proposals

Key Dates

Call launch:	July 30 th 2025
Expression of Interest submission:	September 17 th 2025 - 13.00 Dublin local time
Full Proposal submission:	January 2026 - TBC

Terms of Reference

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Stage 1 EOI Handbook:

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Research Ireland Investigators Programme: Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (Eoi) Application Handbook

Eoi Stage Timeline

Programme Launch	July 30 th 2025
Submissions Deadline	September 17 th 2025 - 13:00 Dublin local time
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Eoi Proposal Checklist

This Eoi proposal checklist is provided as a summary guide for applicants. However, please read this entire handbook and call document carefully.

Proposal Checklist		
Section	Description	Requirements
Proposal Summary	Title	Up to 30 words
	Duration of Award	48 Months (only)
Research Alignment	Primary Research Area	Select from list
	Secondary Research Area	Select from list
Lead Applicant Details	Complete mandatory SESAME Profile information	Mandatory profile fields marked in red
	ORCID iD	Link SESAME profile to ORCID iD

Available on Programme Website

Research Ireland Investigators Programme 2025

APPLICATION PROCESS – STAGE 1

What will you need to apply?

- A Profile on SESAME:
 - Both Lead and Co-Applicants
- Keywords, Research and Lay abstracts
- Research Idea document (Max. 1 page)
- Research Plan document (Max. 3 pages)
- References document (Max. 1 page)
- Endorsement by an Eligible Research Body

Eligibility

- Applicants must be **Independent investigators**.
 - Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible to apply to this call
- Applicants must be hosted by a Research Ireland **Eligible Research Body**.
 - Website available
- Applicants must have held a PhD or equivalent qualification for at least **three years** at proposal submission.
- Must have a permanent contract **or** contract of sufficient duration **or** guarantee of sufficient contract if successful.
- Details on contract expectations on **Who Can Apply** website

Eligibility contd.

Co-Applicants

- Maximum of ONE Co-Applicant per application
- Hold all eligibility criteria and responsibilities of Lead Applicants
 - Independence
 - Contract eligibility
 - Placed at an Eligible Research Body
- On SESAME only Lead or Co-Applicant can edit a proposal at one time.

Eligibility contd.

- If you have an existing IRC, SFI or Research Ireland grant see section 3.6.3 of the call document.
- If you are on a Research Ireland **Frontiers for the Future Programme**, or **COALESCE scheme** Reserve List, you are eligible to apply.
- You may not apply if you are under review for the **Research Professorship** or **Global Talent Ireland Programme**.
- If you have another application under review which has significant research overlap with your Investigators application, you may be made ineligible.
- You may only apply for **ONE** Investigators Programme application.
- **Please review the Call Document and Handbook carefully for further details.**

Eligibility contd.

- **Emerging Investigators (Stage 2 ONLY)**
 - Have not held an SFI/IRC/Research Ireland award >€500K **OR**
 - Have taken a period of eligible leave from research (see section 3.5 of the Call Document)
- Will have weighting increased on Research Programme (see section 3.2 of the Call Document)
- Els cannot have a Co-Applicant – **Consider at Stage 1**
- **Teaching Buyout (Stage 2 ONLY)**

Applying on **SESAME**

- You must have a SESAME Profile – assigned by Research Office
 - Complete Mandatory Fields
- You must select a stream to be reviewed in:
 - Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) **or**
 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- You will select the Primary and Secondary Research areas which best align to your application
 - Keywords
 - Research/Lay abstracts
 - Research Plan

Programme Documents

- Research Idea (Max. 1 Page)
 - Question(s)
 - Importance/significance of question(s)
 - Originality/novelty of question(s)
 - Where question(s) fit in the research area
- Research Plan (Max. 3 Pages)
 - Brief plan to address questions; key aims and objectives/work packages
 - Key methods/approaches
 - Background information, SoTA, preliminary data etc.
 - Images, figures, charts, tables etc.
- References (Max. 1 Page)
- Formatting – see P2/3 Handbook

Programme Document Considerations

- **Please consider this will be reviewed by generalist reviewers**
- Personal or Institutional information will **not** be sent to reviewers
 - Will not see these on PDF of your application
- No unsolicited documentation (CVs, Budgets, Letters of Support etc.)

Research Ireland Investigators Programme 2025

REVIEW PROCESS – EoI APPLICATION

Eol Review

- Eol Applications reviewed by 2 international peer reviewers
 - Generalist Reviewers
- Assigned by Research Areas, Keywords, Abstracts, Research Plans etc.
- Will review Research Idea and Research Plan

Review Criteria	Description	Weighting
Research Idea	Reviewers will assess clarity, importance/significance, and originality/novelty of the question(s). If gaps in knowledge are being addressed and if the research area is well understood.	50%
Research Plan	Reviewers will assess the clarity, importance, originality/novelty of the research aims; clarity, novelty, effectiveness of the research design; quality, novelty and appropriateness of methods/approach. Reviewers will also consider whether aims are feasible based on the proposed objectives and approach.	50%
Total		100%

Eol Review

- Reviewers will **score** both Research Idea and Research Plan out of 5 – see Appendix A (Stage 1 Handbook)
- Reviewers will also provide a **progression recommendation** based on strength of Research Idea and Research Plan
- Applications **will be ranked** if *both reviewers* recommend progression
- Applications **will not be considered** for Stage 2 if one or more reviewers does not recommend progression

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Taighde Éireann Research Ireland	
Review Type	Eol Review (virtual panel review)
Review Questions	<p>Questions pertaining to the Research Idea Please use your judgement to assess the Research Idea of the proposal. Please consider and comment on the following: Clarity of the question(s), importance/significance of the question(s), originality/novelty of the question(s), gaps in knowledge that are being addressed, understanding of the research area.</p> <p>Please use this assessment to provide one overall score based on the quality of the applicant(s) Research Idea. Please ensure that this score shows clear alignment to your comments. Half scores are permitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 = The question is not clear, the topic addressed is unlikely to be of importance/significance, the applicant has poor understanding of the research area.• 2 = The question lacks some clarity, the topic addressed lack some importance/significance, the applicant has very little understanding of the research area.• 3 = The question is mostly clear, the proposal addresses moderately important/significant topic, the applicant has reasonable understanding of the research area.• 4 = The question is clear, the proposal addresses an important/significant topic, the applicant understands the research area very well.• 5 = The question is very clear, the proposal addresses a highly important/significant topic, the applicant strongly understands the research area.

Ranking of Proposals

- Applications recommended by both reviewers to progress will be **Ranked**
- The Ranking list will weight scores and round to the nearest 0.25 point.
- Potential Tiebreakers:
 - Applications from members of historically underserved communities
 - Provisional Ranking recommendations
 - Lottery/randomised number
- Additional Review/Oversight where needed
- **Progression number to be determined based on results of Stage 1**

Thank You!