

RESEARCH IRELAND

Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme 2025

Call for Submission of Proposals

KEY DATES

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| • Call Launch | 29 April 2025 |
| • Call Deadline | 15 July 2025 at 13:00 Dublin Local Time |
| • Notification to Applicants | November 2025 |

Updates to the Programme for 2025

As Research Ireland works to align the suite of enterprise-facing Fellowship programmes previously offered by Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Research Council, we are making some preliminary changes to the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme, these include:

- Applications from all disciplines will be accepted.
- Charities and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are eligible partners, subject to them meeting the State aid requirements set out in the Programme Call.
- A third research category (Fundamental Research) has been introduced to facilitate partnerships with Charities and NGOs.

Terms of Reference

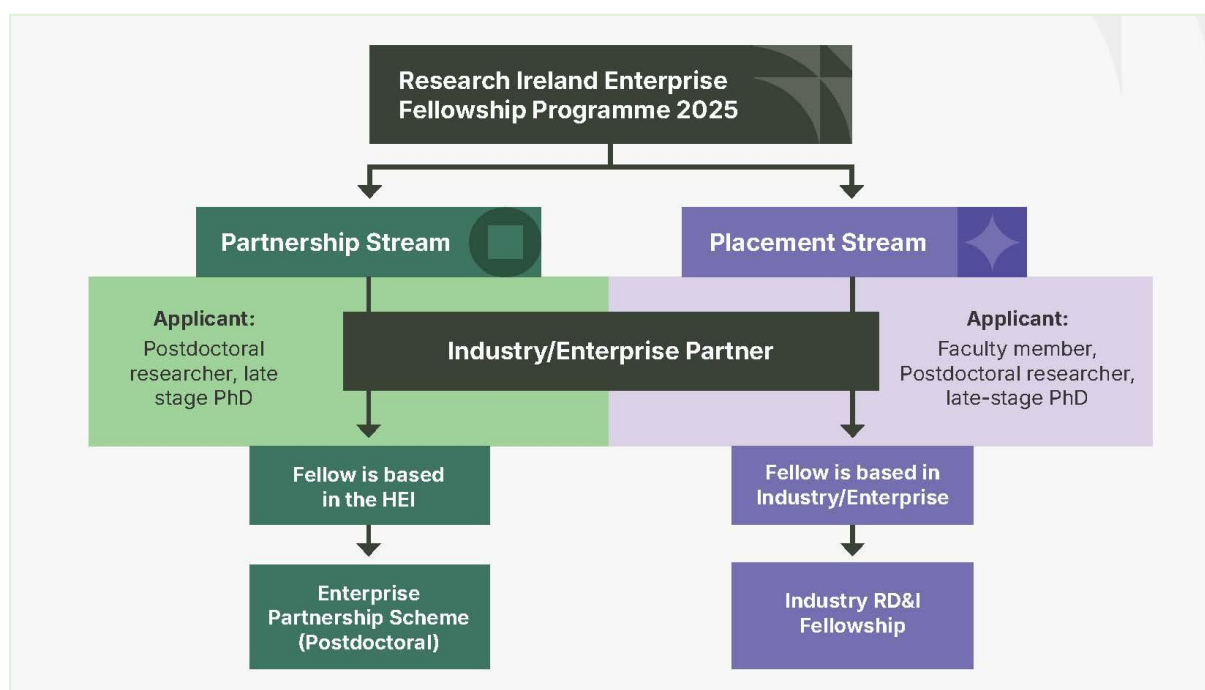
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1. About Research Ireland

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland (“Research Ireland”) is the national research and innovation funding agency which was established on 1 August 2024. Research Ireland amalgamates the activities of the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

Prior to their amalgamation to form Research Ireland, both SFI and the IRC offered a suite of enterprise facing Fellowship programmes to support collaboration with enterprise. As Research Ireland works towards developing a new consolidated Fellowship programme, the original SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme will run one last time under a *Placement Stream* and the IRC Enterprise Fellowship Scheme (Postdoctoral) will run one final time under a *Partnership Stream* of the 2025 Research Ireland Enterprise Fellowship Programme.



This call document sets out detailed eligibility requirements and instructions for preparing and submitting an application to the Placement Stream, Industry RD&I Fellowship (IRDIF).

RESEARCH IRELAND EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) STRATEGY

Research Ireland is committed to building equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the Irish research and innovation sector. The Agency recognises that excellent research stems from diverse and inclusive teams, which reflect our society and the communities we serve. As such, Research Ireland aspires to proactively lead in driving the EDI agenda forward through the research and research teams that it funds.

In Research Ireland's External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy 2023-2028¹, increasing the number of women and members of Historically Underserved Communities² in Applicant Teams are key objectives. As such, women and members of Historically Underserved Communities are strongly encouraged to apply to this programme. Further details on Research Ireland's data on application submission and success rates by gender (binary) can be found on the Research Ireland website.

Gender data fields on Research Ireland's Grants and Awards Management System, SESAME, have been expanded to encompass more inclusive gender identifiers. These expanded gender identifier fields support those objectives described in Research Ireland's External EDI Strategy, which aims to be a key driver of an inclusive research culture, lead in minimising barriers to participation in the research endeavour, and ensure that its investment reflects the input of researchers that are representative of society, and thus the outputs are relevant to society. Gender data gathered will inform the diversity of the applicant group. It will help to inform future iterations of this and similar programme calls. The data gathered will also inform how we can best improve the representation of other Historically Underserved Communities, including individuals from underrepresented genders, in our portfolio of grants awarded.

Furthermore, as part of its EDI Strategy, Research Ireland also aims to increase awareness of the sex and gender dimension in research, by requesting that researchers demonstrate that they have considered any potential biological sex and/or socio-cultural gender aspects in their proposed research programme.

2. Programme overview

The Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme seeks to support academia-enterprise interactions through the placement of an academic researcher in industry. In the context of this call, industry³ partners includes a wide range of enterprises including SMEs, multinational companies, registered charities, Non-Government Organisations and social or cultural organisations.

The programme is an important vehicle to support research, development and innovation in an enterprise setting. Grants awarded under the programme can be made to academic researchers (at faculty, postdoctoral and late-stage PhD level) wishing to spend time in industry worldwide. Fellowships can be between 1 and 24 months in duration and can be taken on a full or part-time basis. Research Ireland recognises that the type, mode, structure and duration of Fellowships must be flexible and scalable, and must facilitate different sorts of activities, ranging from knowledge exchange, skills development and collaborative research projects. The expectation is that the award will enhance the skills of the Fellow and will be of mutual benefit to both the industry and academic partners.

¹ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

² For the purposes of this Strategy, Historically Underserved Community encompasses a broad and diverse range of historically marginalised groups including but not limited to the nine protected grounds established in the Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 and socioeconomic status.

³ The terms industry and enterprise are used interchangeable throughout this call document.

Researchers placed into enterprise will have the opportunity to gain a working knowledge of relevant business drivers (e.g., intellectual property, regulatory, investors and markets) and will gain from the industry's established contacts. The upskilling and industry exposure provided to postdoctoral academic researchers through the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme will prepare them for a career in industry and maximise the impact of the training received by these researchers so far. For faculty researchers, it is expected that their Fellowship will help seed subsequent industry collaborations and shape the direction of their research going forward.

Industry/enterprise partners hosting researchers will benefit from the expertise of the Fellow embedded in their company bringing innovative solutions to industry challenges, providing support to enhance competitive advantage and future resilience, and developing links with academia to seed future longer-term collaborations.

The Grants awarded under the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme will operate under European Commission State aid rules and in particular, will be subject to the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)⁴. GBER sets out a number of conditions under which research, development and innovation funding is exempt from the obligation of prior notification to the European Commission.

The information provided in this call document in relation to the EU State aid rules is provided by way of guidance only and should not be construed as legal advice. Applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice in advance of applying to Research Ireland for funding where further clarification is sought.

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme 2025 are to:

- Connect research and researchers with beneficiaries and potential users through supporting the exchange of knowledge and expertise between academia and industry.
- Maximise the economic and societal impact of Irish State-funded research and resources, by enhancing and co-funding collaborations between researchers in academia and industry.
- Foster impactful innovation by supporting industry-informed research.
- Enhance the breadth of training of researchers and their employability.
- Facilitate increased participation in research, development and innovation by Small, Medium and Large enterprises in the regions across Ireland.
- Support companies to build/enhance competitive advantage and future resilience by engaging in research, development and innovation through partnership with academia.

Definitions

Fellow (applicant)	<p>A faculty, postdoctoral researcher or late-stage PhD researcher currently based in an eligible Irish <i>Research Body</i>, or a postdoctoral researcher having held a research contract in an eligible Irish <i>Research Body</i>, or the holder of a PhD awarded by an eligible Irish <i>Research Body</i> (see specific eligibility criteria in Section 4 below). The Fellow will be hosted by the <i>Industry Mentor</i> to work on the <i>Industry Partner's</i> premises.</p> <p>The Fellow (applicant) is responsible for submitting the proposal to Research Ireland and, if successful, for the technical direction of the work programme and the</p>
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⁴ [EU Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 651/2014](#) as amended by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1315](#) (referred to collectively as the "GBER")

Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme

	submission of reports to Research Ireland. If successful, the applicant becomes the independent grant holder of the Industry RD&I Fellowship award and employee of the Research Body, who has primary responsibility and accountability for carrying out the grant activities within the funding limits awarded and in accordance with the Research Ireland Grant Conditions. The applicant will serve as the primary point of contact for Research Ireland during the review process and, if successful, on the award. No co-applicants are permitted on Industry RD&I Fellowship applications.
Faculty Researcher	A researcher who is, at the time of application, employed as an academic staff member of an eligible Irish <i>Research Body</i> (e.g., lecturers, assistant, associate and full professors), who is either permanent or temporary (contract of more than 2 years). [Classified as a Category A applicant under the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme.]
Postdoctoral Researcher	A researcher who holds a PhD at the time of application and who additionally holds, or has held, a postdoctoral research contract in an eligible Irish <i>Research Body</i> or is the holder of a PhD degree awarded by an eligible Irish <i>Research Body</i> . [Classified as a Category B applicant under the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme.]
PhD Researcher	PhD students who are registered at an eligible Irish <i>Research Body</i> and are in the final 6 months of their studies at the time of application are now eligible to apply to the programme. [Classified as a Category C applicant under the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme.]
Industry Mentor	An industry researcher/leader employed by an <i>Industry Partner</i> who will host a Fellow. The Industry Mentor is the primary contact on the <i>Industry Partner's</i> premises where the Fellow is hosted, and who will accommodate the Fellow during their <i>Fellowship</i> . The Industry Mentor is committed to providing mentoring, an appropriate work environment and infrastructure for the duration of the award, as well as logistical support required to facilitate the Fellowship.
Industry Partner	The company or enterprise that will host the Fellow. Please see Section 5 for further details.
Academic Collaborator	<p>Category B applicants <u>may</u> include a maximum of one academic collaborator on their application. An academic collaborator is an individual <u>based in the applicant's Research Body</u> who is committed to providing a valuable intellectual and/or technical contribution to the proposed research. Academic collaborators may not receive funding through the grant.</p> <p>Category C applicants must include an academic collaborator on their application. The academic collaborator must be their current PhD supervisor and be <u>based in the applicant's Research Body</u>.</p>
Research Body	The Research Body signs off on the Industry RD&I Fellowship application and submits it to Research Ireland on behalf of the applicant. The Research Body may be the current employer of the applicant at the time of application or may become the employer of the applicant if the application is successful.
Placement	The time spent by the Fellow working on their project on the Industry Partner's premises.
Award Duration	The overall time between the beginning and the end of the award.
Time Commitment	The percentage of the total award duration spent on the placement (typically 50-100% time).
Aid Intensity	The aid intensity is the gross aid amount expressed as a percentage of the total eligible costs. Under State aid guidelines, the permitted Research Ireland funding

	rate (aid intensity) can vary from 25% to a maximum of 100% of total project costs depending on the size of the Industry Partner company and the type of research involved. See Section 7 below for further details.
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3. What we offer

The Industry RD&I Fellowship programme welcomes applications from all disciplines and allows for engagement with a range of enterprises including SMEs, multinational companies, registered charities, NGOs and social or cultural organisations.

- The Industry RD&I Fellowship offers Fellows the opportunity to base themselves in the enterprise partner's workplace for up to 12 months (full-time) or 24 months (part-time), while still employed by their host academic institution (Research Body).
- Applicants can be faculty, postdoctoral researchers or late-stage PhD students at an eligible Research Body.
- Research Ireland provides a maximum contribution of €100,000 direct costs to support the Fellow's salary/teaching buy-out, mobility/travel and open access publishing costs only (see Section 7.2 below for more information).
- The enterprise partner will host the awardee onsite for the duration of their placement and support all other project costs via an in-kind contribution.

3.1 Duration and Structure of the Fellowship

Awards can have an award duration of between 1 and 24 months.

Full-time awards. For full-time awards, the Fellow spends between 1 and 12 months on placement over a maximum award duration of 12 months (e.g., a full-time Fellow spends 100% of their time working on their project).

Part-time awards. For part-time awards, the Fellow spends only part of their working time on placement i.e., the Fellow spends between 2 and 12 months on placement over a maximum award duration of 24 months. The time commitment is expected to be 50% of the award duration but may vary depending on the needs of the project and training plan. Only the placement time is funded through the grant (see Funding section 7 below). Applicants are required to demonstrate that the duration, frequency and number of visits associated with a part-time placement is appropriate to deliver the proposed project and training plan. Part-time awards are also suitable for Category A applicants, and applicants wishing to work reduced hours due to family commitments and/or those wishing to return to employment following a career break.

Location Fellows are expected to be embedded in the industry partner's premises and located there for the duration of the placement.

Start date. Successful applicants will be expected to start the Fellowship within 6 months following notification of funding from Research Ireland. In the case of maternity leave⁵ or other justified

⁵ <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

circumstances, the start date of the Fellowship may be further delayed, subject to prior approval from Research Ireland

3.2 Programme Remit

The Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme is open to applications from all disciplines; however, proposals submitted to this programme must fall under one of the following categories of research* as defined by the EU⁶:

Fundamental Research:

- experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view⁷;

Industrial Research:

- planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services, including digital products, processes or services, in any area, technology, industry or sector (including, but not limited to, digital industries and technologies, such as supercomputing, quantum technologies, blockchain technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data and cloud technologies).
- comprises the creation of component parts of complex systems and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.

Experimental Development:

- means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services, including digital products, processes or services, in any area, technology, industry or sector (including, but not limited to, digital industries and technologies, such as supercomputing, quantum technologies, blockchain technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data and cloud or edge technologies).
- this may also encompass, for example, activities aimed at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services.
- may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions, where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set.

⁶ The definition of the categories of research/studies as are described in Articles 2(84), (85), (86) and (87) of the GBER.

⁷ Fundamental research is a type of research that is far from the market and its results are in principle widely available for use on a non-discriminatory basis and at market rates. Therefore, to qualify as fundamental research, the work should not be linked to any industrial or commercial objectives of a particular enterprise, and a wide dissemination of the results must be guaranteed.

- this may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product, and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes.
- experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.

Applicants will be required to justify in their application the category of research their project falls under.

**If your proposed project spans more than one research category, please contact Research Ireland by email to irdif@researchireland.ie to request a modified budget template.*

4. Information for Industry Partners

An industry partner can be a company, registered charity, Non-Government Organisation, social or cultural organisation.

Requirements for industry partner participation:

- Enterprises proposing to partner on an Industry RD&I Fellowship application must name a designated employee as the Fellow's Industry Mentor. The Industry Mentor is committed to providing mentoring, an appropriate work environment and infrastructure for the duration of the award, as well as logistical support required to facilitate the Fellowship. The mentor must provide a CV and letter of support for inclusion in the application.
- The industry partner must host the Fellow on site in their premises for the duration of the Fellowship placement.
- The industry partner must be able to support research costs of the project via an in-kind contribution.
- As part of the application the enterprise will be asked to provide information about the number of employees and will be required to provide a full breakdown of their costs in supporting the project.
- Under State aid rules, Research Ireland cannot provide funding for Fellows to be placed with industry partners that are 'undertakings in difficulty'. Industry partners are required to confidentially provide the latest set of financial records and financial declarations to Research Ireland which will be used by Research Ireland to determine eligibility of the industry partner to participate in the programme. (Please see section 17.3 for details on the required documentation)

Intellectual Property (IP)

An intellectual property rights agreement must be agreed between the Research Body and the relevant industry partner prior to commencement of the research programme. The management of IP arising out of the Industry RD&I Fellowship must comply with the practices and procedures described in Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019. This typically means that the Research Body will own any foreground IP developed during the Fellowship with the industry partner afforded options to licence.

Full details on eligibility requirements for industry partners are provided in Section 5.2 below.

5. Eligibility Criteria

5.1 Eligibility of the Research Body

The Research Body is the body responsible for the overall financial and administrative coordination of research programmes supported by research grants from Research Ireland. A list of eligible Research Bodies is available on the Research Ireland website. The Research Body will administer the funds of successful awardees⁸.

5.2 Eligibility of the Industry Partner

Only one industry partner per application is permitted. An industry partner can be a company, registered charity, social, cultural or not-for-profit civic organisation.

Eligible industry partners:

- Must have sufficient expertise to contribute to and support the proposed research project.
- May be located in Ireland or abroad.
- Must have the financial capacity to provide a contribution to the total project eligible costs in line with relevant State aid intensities as set out in Section 7 below.
- Must possess the appropriate independent infrastructure, revenue and staffing, to provide appropriate working conditions and training to prospective Fellows.

Commercial semi-state companies such as the group of companies under CIE, EirGrid, ESB etc. and their similar counterparts worldwide are eligible industry partners. Academic spinouts are eligible partners provided they meet all other eligibility criteria, including the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest.

Note also that industry employees seconded to Research Bodies, such as Researchers-in-Residence, are not eligible industry mentors.

Non-eligible industry partner include:

- Government-funded entities such as hospitals, technology transfer offices of public entities, Government departments or other agencies of the State.

5.2.1 Undertakings in Difficulty

Under State aid rules (**GBER**), Research Ireland cannot provide funding for Fellows to be placed with partners that are 'undertakings in difficulty'⁹. Industry partners will be required to

⁸<https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

⁹ article 2, no. 18 of COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014

confidentially provide additional financial information/declarations to Research Ireland (see Section 17.3). These documents will be used by Research Ireland to determine the eligibility of the company to receive State aid. Please refer to programme FAQs for the definition of ‘undertaking in difficulty’.

State aid rules apply where the direct or indirect beneficiary of a measure is an “undertaking”. An undertaking is broadly defined by the European Court as any entity engaged in economic activity, regardless of their legal status and the way in which they are financed. An economic activity consists of offering goods and services in the market. Grants under this Programme will be granted subject to compliance with State aid, and (as applicable) will be subject to Article 25 of GBER¹⁰.

5.3 Eligibility Criteria Of The Applicant (Fellow)

There are three categories of applicants:

- Category A: Faculty Researcher
- Category B: Postdoctoral Researcher
- Category C: PhD Researcher

Please note:

- The Fellow remains an employee of the Research Body at all times, *including* during the placement.
- Proposals are not accepted from applicants who wish to be hosted in an organisation in which they have a financial interest or hold a decision-making role (see Section 13 – Disclosure of Conflict of Interest).
- Applicants applying to the Industry RD&I Fellowship programme may not submit a concurrent application to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postdoctoral (EPSPD) programme.
- Applicants who have previously held an Industry RD&I Fellowship cannot apply again with the same industry partner.

Specific eligibility criteria for each category of applicant are outlined below:

(A) Faculty Researcher

All Category A Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a member of the academic staff (“Faculty Researcher”) of an eligible Irish Research Body (permanent or with an active contract at the time of application).
- Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent¹¹ for at least 3 years by the submission deadline. The official date is defined as the day, month and year that the degree was conferred i.e., the month and year printed on the official PhD certificate.

Additionally:

- Applicants holding a fixed-term contract academic/faculty appointment, including full-time, fixed-term lecturing contracts **of more than 2 years** should apply under Category A. Please note that for

¹⁰ [EU Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 651/2014](#) as amended by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1315](#) (referred to collectively as the “GBER”)

¹¹ https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/eligibility-related-information/PHD-equivalence-policy_September_2018.pdf

these applicants, Research Ireland will not support a Fellowship beyond the end date of their faculty appointment. As such, these applicants are only eligible to apply before the last year of their contract and must ensure that the award duration does not extend beyond the end of the applicant's faculty appointment.

- Applicants holding a fixed-term contract academic/faculty appointment, including full-time, fixed-term lecturing contracts **of less than 2 years** should apply under Category B.

(B) Postdoctoral Researcher

All Category B Applicants must hold a PhD, or equivalent¹¹, and be:

- A postdoctoral researcher (including Research Fellows and holders of personal Fellowships) *currently* working on either a Research Ireland-funded or a non-Research Ireland-funded research, innovation or commercialisation award in an eligible Irish Research Body,

OR

- A postdoctoral researcher (including Research Fellows and holders of personal Fellowships) who *previously* held a contract to work on either a Research Ireland-funded or a non-Research Ireland-funded research, innovation or commercialisation award in an eligible Irish Research Body,

OR

- The holder of a *PhD degree awarded by an eligible Irish Research Body*, who is:
 - i. Not eligible under Category A.
 - ii. Not a current or previous contract postdoctoral researcher, as per the two points above.
 - iii. Not currently employed in industry, either in Ireland or abroad. Additionally:
- Category B applicants currently residing or working abroad are eligible to apply to undertake Fellowships with industry partners based in Ireland only.
- Category B applicants may apply through an eligible Irish Research Body that is different from their current employer. In such cases, the application must be submitted through the prospective employing Research Body, and not the current one.
- Postdoctoral holders of individual Fellowships (e.g. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Fellowships) must apply under Category B and cannot apply earlier than one year before the end of their Fellowship/contract.

(C) PhD Researcher

All Category C Applicants must:

- Be a PhD student who at the time of application is within the final 6 months of their studies.
- Be registered as a PhD student in an eligible Irish Research Body.
- Have the support of their current PhD supervisor who will act as an academic collaborator on the application.

Please note:

- Successful Category C applicants must have completed their PhD before they commence their Fellowship.

5.4 Eligibility Criteria Of The Industry Mentor

The industry mentor must be an employee of an eligible industry partner, and have the following:

- Relevant experience working in an enterprise environment.
- Experience and knowledge of industry processes including operational and business procedures.
- A proven record of leadership and accomplishment appropriate to international standards in their field, industry sector and career stage.

Additionally:

- Academic employees currently seconded on industry partner's premises are not eligible industry mentors.
- Industry employees seconded to Research Bodies, such as Researchers-in-Residence, are not eligible industry mentors.

Research Ireland expects that the industry mentor and Fellow will be located at the same industry partner site during the course of the award; if this is not the case (e.g., for multinational companies with several sites), applicants must provide a full justification for any remote mentoring in the proposal. In addition, a nominated point of contact at the industry partner company who will take responsibility for day-to-day supervision of the Fellow must be named in the industry partner letter of support.

Where it is proposed to undertake remote working, (only in cases where it is the policy of the industry partner) a full justification must be provided. In such cases, the Fellow should not be based in their Research Body while working remotely on their Fellowship.

Research Body endorsement certifies that the applicant meets the relevant eligibility criteria. Where an applicant, industry partner or industry mentor fails to meet the eligibility criteria outlined above, the application will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted for review.

6. State Aid

Research Ireland's Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme is subject to EU State aid rules, and in particular Article 25 of GBER¹². GBER stipulates the levels of funding support (grant aid) that can be provided by Research Ireland. The maximum funding level for which a project is eligible depends on the category of research the project falls under and the size of the industry partner. As such, Research Ireland can only provide a fixed proportion of the total eligible project costs with the remaining funding to be met by the industry partner.

Fellowship projects

¹² [EU Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 651/2014](#) as amended by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1315](#) (referred to collectively as the "GBER")

Applicants are required to submit their application to the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme prior to project commencement and the application must be approved in writing by Research Ireland before work can commence on the project. Where the industry partner is a large enterprise, additional conditions will be applied to ensure that the aid has an incentive effect. The applicant, in conjunction with their industry mentor, must provide justification in their proposal which establishes that the aid will achieve one or more of the following: a material increase in the scope of the project/activity; a material increase in the total amount spent by the industry partner on the project/activity; or a material increase in the speed of completion.

Funding under this programme must not be used for any purpose or activity other than as approved in writing by Research Ireland. Further, funding under this programme must not be used to subsidise the costs of an activity that an industry partner would incur anyhow and must not compensate for the normal business risk of an economic activity.

7. Funding

7.1 State Aid Guidelines

Under GBER, the Research Ireland funding rate (aid intensity) can vary **from 25% to a maximum of 100%** of total eligible project costs depending on the type of research proposed (research category), the size of the industry partner, and on whether project outputs will be widely disseminated. The maximum Research Ireland contribution to the cost of the Fellowship is €100,000 direct costs to support the Fellow's salary/teaching buy-out, mobility/travel and open access costs only. The industry partner must support the remaining costs related to the project in line with the permitted aid intensities.

Research Category	Permitted aid intensity	Research Ireland contribution	Industry Partner's contribution
Fundamental Research	100%	max €100K: salary/teaching buy-out, mobility/travel, open access	no cost share requirement, in-kind contribution encouraged as Research Ireland cannot fund materials or equipment costs under this call.
Industrial Research	depending on company size: range 50%-80%	max €100K: salary teaching buy-out, mobility/travel, open access	range: 20%-50% in-kind contribution REQUIRED
Experimental Development	depending on company size: range 25%-60%	max €100K: salary teaching buy-out, mobility/travel, open access	range: 40%-60% in-kind contribution REQUIRED

The baseline funding rate for each Fellowship project is determined as follows:

- 100 % of the eligible costs for **Fundamental Research**
- 50% of the total eligible costs for **Industrial Research**
- 25% of the total eligible costs for **Experimental Development**

The funding rate for **Industrial Research** and **Experimental Development** projects may be increased up to a **maximum aid intensity of 80%** of the total eligible costs as follows:

- a. by 10% for medium-sized enterprises
- b. by 20% for small enterprises
- c. by a further 15% (available to all industry partners irrespective of enterprise size) if **one** of the following conditions is satisfied:
 - i. the results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open-source software. [Research Ireland will monitor awards to ensure outputs are widely disseminated.]
 - ii. the beneficiary commits to, on a timely basis, make available licences for research results of aided research and development projects, which are protected by intellectual property rights, at a market price and on non-exclusive and non-discriminatory basis for use by interested parties in the EEA.
 - iii. the R&D project is carried out in an assisted region fulfilling the conditions of Art 107(3)(a) TFEU.

Enterprise Size

For Industrial Research and Experimental Development projects, the size of the industry partner determines the funding rate available under the call. The European Commission defines what qualifies as a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME). In general, the staff headcount and financial thresholds determine the enterprise categorisation.

Enterprise Size	Number of employees AND	Annual Turnover OR	Annual Balance Sheet
Small	1-49	<€10 M	<€10 M
Medium	50-249	<€50 M	<€43 M
Large	>250	>€50m	>€43 m

These ceilings apply to the figures for individual entities only. An entity that is part of a larger group may also need to include staff headcount/turnover/balance sheet data from that group.¹³

For clarification with regard to the potential eligibility of an industry partner, please email irdif@researchireland.ie.

¹³ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-definition_en

Summary

The below table summarises the maximum aid intensity that can be granted by Research Ireland.

Category of Research: R&D Projects	Industry Partner Enterprise Size		
	Small	Medium	Large
Fundamental Research ¹⁴	100%	100%	100%
Industrial Research	70%	60%	50%
Experimental Development	45%	35%	25%
Category of Research: R&D Collaborative Projects plus at least one requirements of point c. above fulfilled			
Industrial Research	80%	75%	65%
Experimental Development	60%	50%	40%

The applicant, in conjunction with their industry mentor, and Technology Transfer Office as appropriate, is responsible for selecting a research category which appropriately reflects the proposed project activities; however, Research Ireland reserves the right to the final assessment of project research categorisation.

7.2 Research Ireland Supported Costs

Further to the aid intensities limits set out above, Research Ireland will fund up to a maximum of **€100,000** in direct costs to support the Fellow's salary (or teaching buy-out), open-access publishing and mobility/travel costs only, irrespective of the requested aid intensity.

Applicants are required to submit a fully costed budget that includes a full breakdown of both the industry partner's costs in supporting the project and the Research Ireland requested costs (i.e., the total eligible costs). The industry partner costs must be verifiable using standard accounting practices. The requested budget from Research Ireland must not exceed the permitted aid intensity (as described in section 7.1) as a percentage of the total eligible costs. The applicable aid intensity of a project is to be determined on the basis of the total "**eligible costs**" of the project (e.g., and may include costs of the Fellow, the industry partner, etc. – please see Section 7.3 below for further information)¹⁵.

The budget for the **requested Research Ireland contribution** to the Fellowship must be completed within the SESAME grants system. Additionally, applicants are also required to prepare a separate **detailed budget** of the total eligible costs (Research Ireland requested costs plus industry partner costs) using a Microsoft Excel budget template provided, which must be uploaded as an attachment to the proposal in SESAME.

¹⁴ Research Ireland will fund up to a maximum of **€100,000** in direct costs to support the Fellow's salary (or teaching buy-out), open-access publishing and mobility costs only, irrespective of the requested aid intensity.

¹⁵ Article 25(3) and (4) of GBER

Teaching Buy-out (Category A applicants only)

Teaching buy-out can be requested when the Fellow (Category A) is located on the industry partner's premises, but only for Fellowships of >3 months duration. Teaching buy-out costs should be fully justified, detailing the number of hours per week of teaching buy-out. Requests must be pro-rata and proportional to the time commitment.

Salary (Category B and C applicants only)

Category B applicants may apply for funding to support their own salary; salary requests should be in line with their number of years post-PhD experience. Category C applicants may apply for funding to support their own salary; the salary request must be at the first point of the New Post Doctoral Researcher scale (i.e. Level 2A point 1). Please refer to the **Research Ireland Team Member Salary Scale**¹⁶.

Please note that the submission of an application by the host Research Body must only take place once the salary requested has been approved and justified. Applicants who are employed at the time of application should specify their current salary in the Research Body letter of support. Unless appropriately justified in the budget justification section and by the letters of support, the salary will be allocated based on the number of years post-PhD of the applicant at the time of application, counting one salary point per year. For example, a Category B applicant with 3 years' experience post-PhD at the time of application will be allocated a salary corresponding to Level 2A Point 4 on the Team Member Budgeting Scale. When information on the current salary is not provided, a salary based on the number of years post-PhD of the researcher will be allocated. Salary requests must be pro-rata and proportional to the time commitment of the applicant.

If the salary requested is on the Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow salary scale, an additional formal letter from the Research Body should be supplied describing how Research Fellows are contractually differentiated by the Research Body from the standard cohort of postdoctoral researchers. Please refer to our **Grant Budget Policy**¹⁷ for further details. It is important to note that the inclusion of a support letter will strengthen but not guarantee funding contributions at Research Fellow level.

Mobility/Travel Allowance (all applicants)

A contribution (max. €10,000) towards travel and accommodation costs directly related to the progress of the Fellowship may be requested. Where relevant and justified, these costs can be requested to support:

- Attendance at one relevant international conference. This is limited to €1,500 unless specific costings for a named conference are provided.
- Attendance at one relevant national conference, only where a specific conference is named, and appropriate costs supplied.

¹⁶ <https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RESEARCH-IRELAND-TEAM-MEMBER-SALARY-SCALES.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

- It is now permitted to request up to €500 per annum for research-related resources and/or activities as alternatives to travel (e.g., videoconferencing, communication and file-sharing software), in the budget submitted at the application stage.
- Temporary accommodation costs (in the case of part-time awards). These costs must be relevant and fully justified.
- In the case of Fellows relocating overseas from Ireland:
 - Travel to and from the industry partner location at the beginning and end of the Fellowship. Travel costs should be calculated based on the cheapest available public transport option.
 - Visa and health insurance costs related to the relocation of the Fellow.
 - One return trip per year for personal reasons.
- Costs associated with one short visit (e.g., a few weeks) to a location relevant to the award, such as the company's headquarters.

Requests for day-to-day commuting costs of the Fellow will not be supported.

Should any taxation issue related to these costs arise, it is the responsibility of the Fellow and the Research Body to address it.

Open Access Costs

For Fellowship applications where *additional grant aid* (See Section 7.1) is requested for wide dissemination of results, applicants may request open access publishing costs; these costs should be included under the 'Materials' cost heading in the SESAME budget table and must be justified in the budget justification. No other materials or consumables costs will be supported by Research Ireland. All other materials costs should be supported by the industry partner.

Indirect Costs

In addition to the Research Ireland direct costs, Research Ireland will also make an indirect or overhead contribution to the applicant's Research Body, which is reflected as a percentage of the Research Ireland approved direct costs. Overheads are payable as a contribution to the Research Body for the indirect costs of hosting or facilitating Research Ireland-funded research programmes and are intended to enable the Research Body to develop internationally competitive research infrastructure and support services. All awards are made directly to the applicant's Research Body¹⁸.

7.3 Total Project Costs

Applicants are required to submit a fully costed budget for the project that includes both the Research Ireland requested costs (Fellow salary/teaching buy-out, open access and mobility costs) **and a full breakdown of all the industry partner's costs in supporting the project**. All costs must be verifiable using standard accounting practices. In line with State aid requirements, the following costs are eligible:

- **Personnel costs:** researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project. Research Ireland will contribute to the salary costs/teaching buy-out of the Fellow as outlined above. The industry partner costs of its staff working on/contributing to

¹⁸ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/>

the Fellowship project may be included and should be detailed in the industry partner costs. Eligible costs should include salaries plus social security contributions and other statutory costs and must be in line with the industry partner's standard remuneration policy.

- **Costs of instruments and equipment** provided by the industry partner to the extent and for the period used for the project. If such instruments and equipment are not used for the full life of the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practices, are considered eligible.
- **Costs of contractual research** and knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project.
- **Other operating expenses:** including costs of materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly by the industry partner as a result of the project.

A budget template is provided (available for download on the programme webpage) and must be completed and uploaded onto the SESAME grants system as part of the application. This spreadsheet checks to ensure that the requested Research Ireland budget does not exceed the permitted State aid intensity.

For awarded Fellowships, in line with the submission of the final scientific report, Research Ireland will require confirmation by the industry partner (broken down by cost category) of the remitted monies by the industry partner.

8. Research Impact

Research Ireland funds research on behalf of the Government of Ireland. As with all public spending, it is necessary to demonstrate and articulate the potential impact and benefits of research. Applicants are required to address the impact of the proposed programme as part of their application.

Defining Impact

Impact can be described as the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to the economy and society¹⁹. Impact embraces the diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations by:

- Powering an innovative and enterprising economy.
- Creating high-value jobs.
- Attracting, developing and nurturing businesses, scientists and talented people.
- Increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy.
- Enhancing the quality of life, health and creative output.
- Developing the country's international reputation.
- Educating and training the population.

¹⁹ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/award-management/research-impact/>

- Solving the major national and global problems and challenges, such as food security and world hunger, climate change, energy security, ageing population, rural sustainability, and other sustainability challenges.

Measuring and assessing impact

Research Ireland recognises that some research projects may have an immediate impact whereas other projects may take much longer to achieve impact. For example, an output such as a filed patent is unlikely to create an impact until the patent is licensed to develop a product, which can then generate revenue and jobs. The adoption of a project output such as a new standard or protocol could improve the performance of an existing business, which could also impact revenue and jobs. The discovery of a new treatment or medical device will have obvious health, as well as potential economic benefits. Enhancing the sustainability of an agricultural or energy system will have societal and environmental impacts as well as potential economic benefits e.g., through resource use efficiency.

9. Proposal Review Procedure and Criteria

Following the submission of proposals to the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme 2025 Call, all proposals will be checked for compliance with: **non-technical** mandatory criteria (e.g., all sections complete, page numbers not exceeded, all letters of support included); **technical** mandatory criteria (e.g., employment/qualification status, publication requirements, State aid requirements, and all other relevant eligibility criteria); and any other requirements outlined in the call document. Proposals identified as ineligible at this stage will be declined without review. Additionally, Research Ireland will assess the financial documents submitted by the industry partner to determine their eligibility to receive State aid through this programme.

SAN FRANCISCO DECLARATION ON RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (DORA)

Research Ireland is a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)²⁰ and, as such, is aligning its review and evaluation processes with DORA principles. Research Ireland has reinforced its commitment to the core principles by joining DORA as a member²¹. To this end, all types of research output are recognised, and Research Ireland is committed to assessing the quality and impact of research through means other than journal-based metrics and research performance-based metrics such as impact factors and H-index. In the spirit of supporting open research and as a signatory to Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030²² and a signatory of Plan S²³, Research Ireland will also consider a commitment to making data and other types of research open and accessible. Research Ireland is also a signatory to Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030²⁴. To complement these activities and further reinforce Research Ireland's commitment to the overarching objectives of the Narrative CV, Research Ireland is a signatory to the Agreement on

²⁰ <https://sf-dora.org/read/>

²¹ Contributor level membership.

²² <https://norf.ie>

²³ <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

²⁴ <https://norf.ie/national-action-plan/>

Reforming Research Assessment²⁵ and is a member of the coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)²⁶.

REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by a ‘virtual panel’ comprised of a large number of domain-specific international reviewers; where each member of the virtual panel receives a number of proposals, typically six, to review. Proposals are assigned to each reviewer based on expertise. All reviewers engaged by Research Ireland are required to adhere to our **Reviewer Code of Conduct**²⁷. During the review, three review criteria (Quality of the Research and Training Programme; Potential for Impact; Execution and Delivery) are applied by the international reviewers.

Review Criteria	Review Weighting
Quality of the Research and Training Programme	60%
Potential for Impact	20%
Execution and Delivery	20%
Total	100%

Following the submission of reviews from the virtual panel, all eligible proposals will progress to the second stage of full proposal review. This is undertaken by a sitting panel composed of Research Ireland staff and a minimum of one independent expert engaged by Research Ireland. This panel convenes to discuss each proposal and the postal reviews submitted as part of the first stage of review. Only proposals demonstrating a strong potential for deepening intersectoral engagement, academia-industry exchange of knowledge and upskilling of researchers are recommended for funding by the sitting panel. In the event of applications receiving the same final score when evaluated for their quality, such ties will be decided based on the quality of the proposed research plan criterion. Research Ireland reserves the right to modify the review process. Applicants will be notified of any relevant modification to the review procedure. The written evaluations provided by the virtual reviewers will be provided as feedback to applicants at the end of the overall review process.

²⁵ https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022_07_19_rra_agreement_final.pdf

²⁶ <https://coara.eu/>

²⁷ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/review/>

The following evaluation criteria and associated guidance is provided to reviewers:

Review Type	Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme
Review Questions	<p>1. Question pertaining to the Quality of the Research and Training Programme (60% weighting)</p> <p>Please comment on the following sub-criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and innovative aspects of the research programme. • Quality, significance, and strategic relevance of the sex /gender dimension aspects in the research area. • Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme, where appropriate, including mentoring. • Suitability and/or complementarity of the Fellow's expertise with the research and training programme. <p><i>Please note the following guidance:</i> <i>Sex and Gender Dimension in Research</i></p> <p>This section should not include information on gender equality, diversity, and inclusion in the research team/environment but should focus on the proposed research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the applicant adequately addressed the sex and/or gender dimension/s in their proposal? Yes/No • If the applicant has not included a sex and/or gender dimension/s in their research proposal, are you satisfied that they have justified this position sufficiently? If not, please explain. • If the applicant has included a sex and/or gender dimension/s in their research proposal, is the design/analysis described sufficiently rigorously to test for differences between the sexes and/or genders? If not, please explain. <p>If the applicant is only studying one biological sex and/or gender, has the applicant provided sufficient justification with reference to the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant consideration in their proposal?</p> <p><i>Suitability and/or complementarity of the Fellow's expertise with the research and training programme.</i></p> <p>Research Ireland is a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)²⁸ and, as such, is aligning its review and evaluation processes with DORA principles. Research Ireland has reinforced its commitment to the core principles by joining DORA as a member²⁹. To this end, all types of research output are recognised, and Research Ireland is committed to assessing the quality and impact of research through means other than journal-based metrics and research performance-based metrics such as impact factors and H-index. In the spirit of supporting open research and as a signatory to Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030³⁰ and a signatory of Plan S³¹, Research Ireland will also consider a commitment to making data and other types of research open and accessible. Research Ireland is also a signatory to Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030³². To complement these activities and further reinforce Research Ireland's commitment to the overarching objectives of the Narrative CV, Research Ireland</p>

²⁸ <https://sfedora.org/read/>

²⁹ Contributor level membership.

³⁰ <https://norf.ie>

³¹ <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

³² <https://norf.ie/national-action-plan/>

	<p>is a signatory to the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment³³ and is a member of the coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)³⁴.</p> <p>Please take these positions into account during your assessment of the Narrative CV(s) submitted by the applicant(s).</p> <p>Please rate the quality of the research and training programme, including the Sex and Gender Statement aspects (half scores are permitted)</p> <p>Score Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Quality of research and training is not in line with programme objectives • 2 Quality of research and training has serious deficiencies • 3 Quality of research and training is lacking in one or two critical aspects; key issues need to be addressed • 4 High quality of research and training in most respects • 5 Outstanding quality of research and training <p>2. Question pertaining to Potential for Impact (20% weighting)</p> <p>Please comment on the potential impact of the Fellowship. In your assessment, please consider points such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for long-term collaboration and knowledge exchange between the participants, and their commitment to the programme. • Enhancement of the career perspectives and employability of the Fellow and contribution to their skills development (in the case of Category B and C applicants). • Potential to shape and inform the future direction of the Fellow's research (in the case of faculty applicants, Category A). • Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the results, including IP management plans. <p>Please rate the applicant's ability to demonstrate the potential for impact of the Fellowship (half scores are permitted)</p> <p>Score Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Very low impact potential • 2 Low impact potential • 3 Good impact potential • 4 High impact potential • 5 Outstanding impact potential <p>3. Question pertaining to Execution and Delivery (20% weighting)</p> <p>Please comment on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherence and feasibility of the work and training plan. <p>Please note: Research Ireland is entirely supportive of researchers applying to undertake a part-time Fellowship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness of the infrastructure and mentoring arrangements provided by the industry mentor. <p>Please note where relevant, Research Ireland recommends that reviewers do not differentiate between Fellows being hosted in a charity, microSME or spin-out setting, and those hosted by an SME or MNC once the appropriate facilities/supports are available. Research Ireland values the experience a researcher gains from being embedded in all types of enterprises.</p> <p>Please rate the execution and delivery plans</p> <p>Score Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Execution and delivery plans not credible
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³³ https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022_07_19_rra_agreement_final.pdf

³⁴ <https://coara.eu/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Poor execution and delivery plans • 3 Good execution and delivery plans • 4 High execution and delivery plans • 5 Outstanding execution and delivery plans <p>4. Question pertaining to Budget and Award Duration Please comment briefly on the appropriateness of the budget and duration requested.</p> <p>5. Question pertaining to Ethical Issues Please comment on any ethical issues, particularly related to any aspects of the proposed research that involves animals, human participants, human biological material, or identifiable/potentially identifiable data.</p>
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Reviewer Code of Conduct

Experts engaged by Research Ireland are required to abide by our **Reviewer Code of Conduct**³⁵. Amongst other requirements, this includes operation in a confidential, fair, independent and equitable manner. Experts are required to confirm, in advance of carrying out their review(s), that they will do so in a confidential manner. The identity of experts who conduct the postal reviews shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to the applicant. Research Ireland shall not be liable for the release of information concerning proposals to third parties by those international experts involved in the peer-review process.

Adherence to the Reviewer Code of Conduct also requires experts to immediately identify and declare where a conflict of interest exists or arises; in such cases, alternative reviewers will be appointed.

Reviewers must adhere to high standards of integrity during the peer-review process. They must not compromise the intellectual property integrity of the application and may not appropriate and use as their own, or disclose to any third party, ideas, concepts or data contained in the applications they review.

10. Deadlines

- Call deadline **15 July 2025 at 13:00 Dublin Local Time**

Please note that in addition to the proposal documents, the industry partner is required to confidentially provide additional financial information/declarations (see Section 17.3 below), which must be emailed to irdif@researchireland.ie by a delegated officer of the company by 29 July 2025. These documents will be used to determine eligibility of the industry partner to receive State aid.

Please refer to Appendix A for detailed instructions on how to submit your application through the SESAME grant management system.

³⁵ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/review/>

11. Intellectual Property Management

Intellectual Property (IP) management practices will be in accordance with national guidelines. In particular, the management of IP arising out of the Industry RD&I Fellowship must comply with the practices and procedures described in the national IP protocol document ***Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019***³⁶. The arrangements related to the management of IP arising from the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme are the responsibility of the Research Body and shall reflect the collaborative nature of the project, the level of commitment of the industry partner and compliance with State aid regulations.

An intellectual property rights agreement must be concluded by the Research Body with the relevant industry partner prior to commencement of the research programme.

12. Fellowship Agreement

Fellowship agreements shall be agreed by the Research Body with the industry partner company prior to the commencement of the Fellowship and such agreements shall be provided to the Foundation upon request. The agreement should name a designated point of contact in the Research Body and outline the terms and conditions of the Fellowship including, but not limited to, the working conditions and arrangements of the Fellow, performance management processes, confidentiality, data protection and other specific requirements of the industry partner company. Please note the Fellowship agreement can be incorporated in the intellectual property agreement with the industry partner.

13. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Conflict of Interest

Research Ireland recognises that applicants or their supervisors may have a prior relationship with the prospective industry partner (e.g., holding a decision-making role in the company, such as being the CEO or a major shareholder in the company). In the context of applications submitted to Research Ireland that involve industry either directly (e.g., as partners or collaborators) or indirectly (e.g., through engagement for concept/market validation), applicants and Research Bodies should manage any potential conflicts of interest. Where a potential conflict of interest exists, Research Ireland requires that you disclose it to Research Ireland and the Research Body and that it is managed by the Research Body in accordance with the principles and mandates laid out in the document: ***Ireland's National IP Protocol***³⁶. Potential conflicts of interest with respect to any industry partners named in the application should be directly declared within a Conflict-of-Interest Statement. Furthermore, the host Research Body letter of support (see Appendix A) should contain a description of the institutional policy regarding management of such conflicts.

³⁶ <https://www.knowledgetransferireland.com/ManagingIP/National-IP-Protocol/>

All applicants are required to submit a Conflict-of-Interest Statement as part of their application. When a potential or perceived conflict of interest arises e.g., when a postdoctoral researcher proposes to carry out a Fellowship in a company where the researcher's current supervisor has a financial interest or decision-making role, these must be disclosed, and a management plan provided in their Conflict-of-Interest Statement. Where there is no conflict of interest, the applicant must confirm that is the case in their Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

By endorsing the application, the Research Body represents and warrants on its own behalf and on behalf of the applicant, having made reasonable and diligent enquiries, that no conflict of interest (Col) arises from their participation in the programme and full and frank disclosure has been made in the proposal concerning all pre-existing interests.

Failure to provide a Conflict-of-Interest statement may result in the application being deemed ineligible.

14. Policies and Positions

In addition to complying with the [Grant terms and Conditions](#), applicants are expected to be familiar and consult with Research Ireland policies/positions and with all relevant national policies when preparing their application to any programme. All members involved in the funded research should be apprised of the following non-exhaustive list of relevant policies. Please note that some policies are being updated to reflect the expanded remit of Research Ireland and in the interim, the existing policies of the legacy agencies should be followed.

- Animal Usage
- Research Integrity
- Maternity Supplement
- Appeals Process
- Child Protection
- Data Protection Policy
- Open Research
- Data Management

As noted, Research Ireland's policies are under development and will be added to the Research Ireland [website](#) once finalised. For information on other policies:

- Visit <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/> if grant was formerly with Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)
- Visit <https://research.ie/about-us/policies/> if grant was formerly with the Irish Research Council (IRC)

For any questions concerning Research Ireland, SFI or IRC policies, please email researchpolicy@researchireland.ie.

15. Award Management

15.1 State aid

Research Ireland will monitor and verify, on an on-going basis and as required, the Research Body and industry partner's compliance with State aid law. Upon request, the Research Body/industry partner

will provide the Foundation with all documentation reasonably required to satisfy Research Ireland that the Research Body complies with State aid law. The Research Body/industry partner is responsible for retaining such documentary records as are required to demonstrate compliance with State aid law, and ensure, where relevant, that all necessary third-party consents are procured to allow for such documentation to be disclosed to Research Ireland.

15.2 Progress Reporting Requirements

Research Ireland has stringent requirements for the reporting on awards that it makes. Individuals who hold the primary responsibility for reporting and who fail to comply with reporting requirements, run the risk of having their grant payments suspended. Failure to report can also prevent future applications being considered for funding.

Industry RD&I Fellowship grant holders will be required to complete the annual stocktake of Research Ireland Research Outputs, an annual report and a final report (which includes a statement from the industry partner confirming remitted monies in support of their contribution to the total eligible costs of the Fellowship), guidance for which is provided.³⁷ The purpose of the annual and final reports will be to assess how the award has delivered on the programmatic objectives.

Awardees are obliged to keep their SESAME research profile updated since the annual stocktake of Research Outputs is drawn directly from the data entered into the research profile; this must be updated and completed in January every year³⁸.

Each of the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme call objectives, with expected outputs, is discussed in turn below:

Connecting research with potential users through supporting the transfer of knowledge and expertise between academia and industry.

Both partners will be requested to illustrate the key areas of expertise acquired as a result of the Fellowship and how this expertise will benefit the relevant groups beyond the funding period. Both partners will be expected to explain how the Fellowship has enhanced the exploitation and commercialisation of Irish State-funded research and/or how the Fellowship has helped solve issues faced by the industry partner. It would be anticipated that as a consequence of this, the award will result in the industry partner gaining new knowledge and identifying growth areas and new market opportunities.

Maximise the economic and societal impact of Irish State-funded research and resources, by enhancing academia-industry collaborations through the funding of collaborative industry-academia projects.

The Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme sets out to provide support for the research community to foster new partnerships with industry, or to enhance existing ones. In this regard, it is anticipated that the Fellowships will result in academic researchers being equipped to participate in more rewarding and ongoing collaborations with innovative businesses and that they will act as a platform to enable industry to garner new networks with academia and academic institutions. Academic awardees will

³⁷ [https://www.sfi.ie/funding/award-management/reporting-procedures/IRDIF-Reporting-Guidelines_2025-\(1\).pdf](https://www.sfi.ie/funding/award-management/reporting-procedures/IRDIF-Reporting-Guidelines_2025-(1).pdf)

³⁸ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/award-management/reporting-procedures/>

be asked to outline how they benefited from this expertise and knowledge, and how they intend to use this within their group and institution beyond the term of the award/funding period.

Foster impactful innovation by supporting industry-informed research and the exchange of knowledge and expertise between academia and industry.

In the scientific information section of the report, awardees are asked to outline the progress with reference to the associated outputs and outcomes from the collaborative research project carried out over the term of the award. Reference should be made to the deliverables outlined in the research programme and Gantt charts, where relevant. Furthermore, the report will gather information pertaining to dissemination of research outputs (where additional aid intensity is granted for wide dissemination of results) and key areas of expertise acquired by both partners as a result of the programme, and how this expertise will benefit the relevant groups beyond the term of the award.

Enhance the breadth of training of researchers, and their employability.

It is anticipated that this close alliance between academia and industry will contribute to upskilling the next generation of academic researchers with a broader skill set encompassing business and industry relevant competencies. The Fellowship will enable academic researchers to gain a better understanding of the business requirements and operations central to carrying out research and development activities in industry.

Facilitate increased participation in research, development and innovation by Small, Medium and Large enterprises in the regions across Ireland.

The Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme aims to support companies in enhancing their existing research efforts through collaboration with academic research institutions/bodies. This includes enterprises of all sizes ranging from micro SMEs and SMEs through to MNCs. The programme provides the opportunity for enterprises across Ireland, including those that have not previously engaged in collaborative research with the Irish Higher Education system, to participate in the hosting of academic researchers in order to support industry-informed research and the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Support companies to build/enhance competitive advantage and future resilience by engaging in research, development and innovation through partnership with academia.

It is anticipated that the collaboration between academia and industry will provide research and innovation opportunities enabling companies to be more resilient and respond to new market opportunities or to consolidate and strengthen existing business practice within their enterprise.

16. Questions

Please read this call document thoroughly. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are available on the programme webpage³⁹. For general queries, including eligibility queries, please contact the Research Office of the Research Body you intend to submit your application through. For additional information or clarification, please contact: irdif@researchireland.ie.

³⁹ <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/enterprise-fellowships/>

17. Appendix A – Application Procedure

Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage early with their Research Office and Technology Transfer Office while preparing their application.

17.1 General Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals to the Industry RD&I Fellowship programme will only be accepted through the SESAME online grants and awards management system. Access to SESAME is controlled by staff at the Research Office of your host Research Body. Please follow your internal organisational process to request this access.

SESAME is accessed using the internet; no additional software needs to be installed. You can access SESAME online from any location. SESAME supports Internet Explorer, Chrome and Firefox. With Mac we recommend that you use either Firefox or Chrome. The configuration of some browsers and internet infrastructure (popup blockers, firewalls etc.) can restrict an individual's access to the internet and as a result to the SESAME system. If you are having any such difficulties, please contact your organisation's internal IT support team.

The SESAME system is accessed using the following Internet address:

<https://grants.sfi.ie>

Please see the **SESAME Researcher User Guide**⁴⁰ for more detailed information.

Proposals must be submitted online through SESAME to Research Ireland by the Research Office of the applicant's Research Body before the call deadline.

- **Call deadline** **15 July 2025 at 13:00 Dublin Local Time**

Please note that in addition to the proposal documents, the industry partner is required to confidentially provide additional financial information/declarations (see Section 17.3 below), which must be emailed to irdif@researchireland.ie by a delegated officer of the company by 29 July 2025. These documents will be used to determine eligibility of the industry partner to receive State aid.

Once logged into the SESAME system, the full proposal application form will be available to applicants under the "Applications Pending Action" heading on your workbench.

- **All text in uploaded PDFs** should be provided in Times New Roman font or similar, with minimum font size of 11, and at least single-line spacing, as well as a minimum margin size of 2.5cm. Text in diagrams may be in any clearly legible font.
- Uploads to SESAME must be submitted in **Adobe or Microsoft PDF format only**. Please use unencrypted, non-password protected PDFs with the copying function disabled, developed using either Adobe or Microsoft word PDF convertor software only.

⁴⁰ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/award-management-system/>

- The number of pages in uploads must not exceed the specifications for any given section. **Applications that do not comply with these requirements will be deemed ineligible and will be returned without review.**
- Appendices or other unsolicited documentation are not permitted. **Applications that include such unsolicited documentation will be returned without review.**
- File sizes of attachments should be less than 5MB.
- Hyperlinks and URLs are only allowed when specifically noted in call documents or SESAME guidance/instructions. The use of hyperlinks is typically limited to citing information already in the public domain which is non-critical to the evaluation of the proposal. Hyperlinks and URLs may not be used to provide additional information, which would be necessary for application review, and as a means of circumventing page limits. Reviewers are not obligated to view linked sites and are cautioned that they should not directly access a website (unless the link to the site was specifically requested in application instructions). When allowed, you must reference the actual URL text so it appears on the page, for example in brackets or in a footnote, rather than hiding the URL behind a specific word or phrase. You must complete all mandatory SESAME profile fields (marked in red) before submitting your application. It is not possible to submit an application without completing all mandatory sections.

Early submission in SESAME is strongly recommended. Applicants who wait until shortly before the close of the call to upload their proposal for Research Body review and approval prior to the deadline, are at serious risk of encountering submission issues. The submit button will cease to be active at the indicated deadline.

Once an application is submitted by the Research Body to Research Ireland, it cannot be withdrawn and subsequently modified for resubmission in the same call, regardless of the date of submission.

Please note that the deadlines referred to in this call document refer to submission of the finalised Industry RD&I Fellowship application to Research Ireland by the applicant's Research Office. Research Offices may mandate internal submission deadlines in order to ensure that they have sufficient time to review applications and submit them to Research Ireland

Applications that are incomplete in content, or exceed the page limit specifications, will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted for review.

Proposal eligibility checks will be completed by Research Ireland staff.

17.1.1 ORCID ID

ORCID⁴¹ provides a unique digital identifier for researchers which can then be linked to their different research works across different platforms.

There are a number of benefits to creating an ORCID iD that include:

1. ORCID allows you to pull information from different platforms creating a centralised reference to your different works (e.g., publications, patents, awards) in one location using a single sign in.
2. Your ORCID iD is a unique identifier which distinguishes you from other researchers with a similar name.

⁴¹ <http://orcid.org/>

3. Using the ORCID iD assists in making your research works more visible to funders and publishers. It allows you to build a complete picture of your research in one location.

As part of the integration of SESAME with ORCID, it is possible for researchers to import publication data from ORCID directly into their SESAME Researcher Profile.

For the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme 2025Call, you are required to have your SESAME Researcher Profile linked to an ORCID iD before an application can be submitted.

17.2 Application Documents

The following documents must be created outside SESAME and uploaded onto the system as PDF documents:

1. Proposal (Upload, max. 6 pages). See Proposal Template in Appendix B.

2. Applicant Narrative CV (Upload, max. 5 pages). A CV of the Lead Applicant, using the template provided in the downloads section of the Industry RD&I Fellowship section of the programme website⁴², must be completed and uploaded. **Please click on “Save Draft” after upload.** The current template allows for the provision of additional information such as that relating to periods of leave from research, where relevant. Reference to metrics such as journal impact factor, h-index and total number of publications are not permitted. If these metrics are included, they will be redacted prior to expert review.

3. Industry Mentor CV (Upload; max. 5 pages). While a template is not provided for the industry mentor, Research Ireland aligns its review and evaluation processes with the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)⁴³, which focuses on the quality, impact and variety of outputs arising from research. Research Ireland requests that this and the following areas are considered by the industry mentor in preparing their CV:

- Contribution to the generation and implementation (including the commercialisation) of new knowledge.
- Mentorship, supporting colleagues or teams, demonstration of successful collaborations.
- Evidence of cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary experience.
- If including a publication list, reference to metrics such as journal impact factor, h-index and total number of publications are not permitted. **If these metrics are included, they will be redacted prior to expert review.**

4. References List (max. 1 page). A list of references should be provided, which includes author(s), title of article, name of publication, date of publication, and details (such as volume, pages).

5. Budget Justification (max. 3 pages). The applicant should provide a justification for all eligible project costs including both the Research Ireland supported costs and the industry partner's costs in supporting the project. Please note that costs that are not considered to be fully justified in this section will not be approved for funding by Research Ireland. The industry partner costs must be verifiable using standard accounting practices.

⁴² <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/enterprise-fellowships/>

⁴³ <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

6. Conflict of Interest Statement (max. 2 pages). See Section 13 of the main call document for details.

7. Letters of Support (max. 2 pages each). See Section 17.3.7 for details.

8. If relevant, Academic Collaborator CV (max. 2 pages). A CV template is provided in downloads section of the Industry RD&I Fellowship section of the programme website.

17.3 Industry Partner Documents

The following documents must be confidentially provided by the industry partner to Research Ireland directly by email to irdif@researchireland.ie from the industry partner mentor or designated representative before **29 July 2025**. Please ensure that the Applicant's Name and Proposal ID are quoted in the email subject line.

1. Declaration of financial capacity.
2. Declaration of SME status (only required for SMEs).
3. Declaration of solvency.
4. Latest set of financial records (P&L and balance sheet). If the industry partner is not required to produce audited accounts, management accounts signed off by an accountant will be accepted.

Templates for the industry partner documentation are provided in Appendix D and can also be downloaded from the Industry RD&I Fellowship section of the Programme website.

17.4 Sesame Instructions for Proposal Submission

17.4.1 Applicant Details

- **PhD awarding institution:** Please provide the name of the institution that awarded/will award your PhD.
- **PhD awarding country:** Please provide the country of the institution that awarded/will award your PhD.
- **Applicant category:** You will be asked to select either: *Faculty Researcher* (Category A) or *Postdoctoral Researcher* (Category B) or *PhD Researcher* (Category C). Applicants who are a postdoctoral researcher (Category B applicants) will be asked to select an applicant sub-category based on their current circumstances. Category (B) applicants who are current or previous postdoctoral researchers on a research or commercialisation grant held by an eligible Irish Research Body are requested to name the grant code that is or has been, funding their work.
- **Location of applicant:** Please provide your location at the time of application; select from the drop-down menu.
- **Applicant associated with a Research Ireland Research Centre:** Please indicate whether you are currently associated with a Research Ireland Research Centre and provide the name of the Centre.
- **Supervisory experience:** Please provide details of supervisory experience to date.
- **Current, pending and expired support of applicant:** You must report on any current, pending and expired funding. You must complete the textbox detailing any potential overlap between current and pending funding and the proposed research in this application. For each current and pending grant listed above, you must clearly indicate any scientific overlap with this application, referring only to overlap in content.

- **Applicant Narrative CV:** An applicant CV, using the template provided in the Industry RD&I Fellowship section of the Programme website⁴⁴, must be completed and uploaded (max. 5 pages). The template allows for the provision of additional information such as periods of leave from research if relevant. **Also, reference to metrics such as journal impact factor, h-index and total number of publications are not permitted. If these metrics are included, they will be redacted prior to expert review.**

17.4.2 Proposal Summary

- **Proposal title (max. 30 words):** The research proposal title should clearly convey the nature of the research to be undertaken, in up to 30 words. Please note that the title should be non-confidential.
- **Duration of award requested:** The duration of the award (in months) should be provided. For full-time Fellowships, the award duration may vary between 1 month and 12 months. For part-time Fellowships, the award duration may vary between 2 months and 24 months.
- **Research Body:** If you are applying through another Research Body you will be asked to select the Research Body that will endorse the proposal.
- **Time commitment to Fellowship:** Indicate the percentage time spent on placement against the total award duration.
- **Duration of placement requested:** The duration of the placement (in months) should be provided. This is the time spent by the Fellow working on their project which should be on the industry partner's premises. Fellows are expected to be embedded in the industry partner's premises and located there for the duration of the placement. The duration of the placement may vary between 1 month and 12 months. The duration of the placement must be 100% of the total award duration for full-time Fellowships (100%time commitment). For part-time Fellowships, the duration of the placement (and related time commitment) is expected to be 50% of the award duration but can vary depending on the needs of the project.
- **Total industry partner costs:** Enter the total value (€) of contributions which the industry partner will commit to the project (this should be the same value as that provided in the budget spreadsheet, see Budget section below). **Resubmission statement:** Applications to any call that are based primarily on unsuccessful submissions (following peer review) to any SFI or IRC programme must demonstrate that the review comments resulting from the initial application have been taken into account in the preparation of the new submission. Resubmissions that have not clearly taken into account the major comments or concerns resulting from the prior assessment will be withdrawn without review. You must declare whether this proposal relates to a previously submitted application to any SFI or IRC scheme. Where the application is a resubmission, a statement referencing the previous application and explaining the differences must be provided and references to reviewers' comments must be made where relevant. This statement will assist Research Ireland staff in the assessment of eligibility of a revised application and will not be shared with reviewers. Resubmissions that have not clearly taken into account the major comments or concerns resulting from the prior assessment will be withdrawn without review.
- **Research alignment:** You should select relevant descriptors which best describe the proposed research.
- **Research area (Primary):** Select a primary research area to which the proposed research best aligns.

⁴⁴ <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/enterprise-fellowships/>

- **Research category:** Please select the appropriate research category: *Fundamental Research*, *Industrial Research* or *Experimental Development* and provide a justifying narrative for the selected research category (max. 250 words). Please refer to Section 3 of the main call document for definitions of each research category. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the selection of research category with their Technology Transfer Office.
- **Alignment with the objectives of the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme:** You must complete a statement (max. 250 words) outlining how the proposed project is aligned with the objectives of the Research Ireland Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme.

17.4.3 Collaborator(s) Details

ADD INDUSTRY MENTOR

Information on the industry mentor must be added in this section. Clicking on the “Add” button will open a form into which details about the industry partner should be completed. Ensure that “Industry” is selected in the ‘Collaborator Type’ drop-down menu. Once details regarding the name and affiliation of the industry partner have been added, you must click on ‘Assign Collaborator’ and then save, which is achieved by clicking on the ‘Save Draft’ button at the bottom of the application form.

It will be possible to upload the industry mentor’s CV (max. 5 pages) by clicking on the appropriate button. The use of a template is not mandatory for Collaborator CVs; however, we suggest that the Collaborator Narrative CV template available on the programme webpage is used⁴⁵.

Additional industry mentors are not permitted on Research Ireland Industry RD&I Fellowship applications.

ADD ACADEMIC COLLABORATOR

Category C applicants must include an academic collaborator who is their current PhD supervisor. Category B applicants may choose to include one academic collaborator from their Research Body. This individual may provide intellectual and/or technical contributions to the proposed research or may act in the capacity of a mentor to the Fellow. The role of the academic collaborator must be clearly outlined in the proposal. The academic collaborator may not receive funding through the grant.

Clicking on the “Add” button will open a form into which details about the academic collaborator should be completed. Ensure that “Academic” is selected in the ‘Collaborator Type’ drop-down menu. Once details regarding the name and institution of the academic collaborator have been saved it will be possible to upload the academic collaborator’s CV (max. 2 pages) by clicking on the appropriate button. A template CV can be downloaded from the programme webpage and must be used.

INDUSTRY PARTNER INFORMATION

You will be asked to indicate if your industry partner is located in the Republic of Ireland and if so, state the county in which they are based. Information on the industry partner must be added in this

⁴⁵ <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/enterprise-fellowships/>

section including annual turnover, type of organisation (Small, Medium, Large enterprise) a description of the organisation and business sector (max. 1000 words) and details on the number of employees in the organisation.

17.4.4 MAIN BODY OF PROPOSAL

- **Keywords (max. 15 words):** Please list the keywords/phrases from the research discipline or sub-discipline that best describe the research proposed in the application.
- **Technical abstract (max. 200 words):** This should be a succinct, stand-alone and accurate summary, in technical language, of the proposed work. Confidential information should **not** be included in the scientific abstract.
- **Lay Abstract (max. 100 words):** This should be a succinct, stand-alone and accurate summary in lay, non-technical language of the proposed work. Confidential information should **not** be included in the lay abstract.
- **Fellowship proposal (max. 6 pages):** The proposal must be a maximum of 6 pages in total (excluding references) and must be structured under the headings and sub-headings described in Appendix B. This document should be uploaded to SESAME as a PDF.
- **References (max. 1 page):** This document should be uploaded to SESAME as a PDF.
- **Conflict of Interest statement (max. 2 pages):** This document should be uploaded to SESAME as a PDF.

17.4.5 Ethical Issues

All applicants, in particular those expecting to carry out research involving the use of animals, human participants, biological material or identifiable (or potentially identifiable) data, are required to complete an ethical issues questionnaire within SESAME, which forms part of the application. The project proposal section must include a description of the proposed research and methodology relating to the intended animal- and/or human-based studies. Guidance on the ethical and scientific issues related to such studies is provided on our website⁴⁶. For any studies where research involving the use of animals, human participants, biological material or identifiable (or potentially identifiable) data will be conducted outside of Ireland, applicants must ensure that this research will comply with both Irish legislation and the legislation of the jurisdiction in which the work takes place.

Research Ireland will require evidence that relevant ethical and regulatory approval has been granted for studies involving human or animal subjects prior to an award commencing. In cases where such research does not commence until a later stage of an award, Research Ireland may permit submission of ethical and regulatory approvals following the award start date but prior to commencement of the research involving animal and/or human subjects.

Sex and gender dimension in research statement (max. 1000 words).

In accordance with Research Ireland's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy⁴⁷, all applicants must complete a statement articulating the consideration of biological sex and/or social gender

⁴⁶ <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

⁴⁷ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

variables in their research programme. Please consult the Guidance for Applicants on Ethical and Scientific Issues⁴⁸ for resources on how to address the sex and/or gender dimension of research in your grant.

Do not include information on how you have addressed gender equality, diversity, and inclusion in your research team/environment; this should be addressed in your CV, should you choose to highlight.

To complete this section, please consider the following questions:

1. Is sex as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?
2. Is gender as a socio-cultural factor taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?

If the answer is yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal. If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal.

Clinical trials

Clinical trials and investigations requiring approval by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) will not be permitted through the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme.

17.4.6 Proposed Budget

Please note that the **Budget Table** is located at the end of the full proposal application in SESAME. **See notes for completion in the SESAME Users Guides⁴⁹ and within SESAME.**

Applicants are required to complete two budget templates for this programme:

- 1) A SESAME budget table detailing the Research Ireland requested costs (the industry partner costs should NOT be included in the SESAME budget table) and
- 2) A detailed budget, which includes the industry partner costs as well as the Research Ireland requested costs, using a Microsoft Excel budget template provided, this must be **uploaded as an attachment** to the proposal in the SESAME.

RESEARCH IRELAND BUDGET TABLE

- **Staff: Teaching Buy-out (Category A applicants only)**

Teaching buy-out can be requested for when the Fellow (Category A) is located on the industry partner's premises, but only for Fellowships of >3 months duration. Teaching buy-out costs should be fully justified, detailing the number of hours per week of teaching buy-out. Requests must be pro-rata and proportional to the time commitment.

- **Staff: Salary (Category B and C applicants only)**

Category B and C applicants may apply for funding to support their own salary. Salary requests for Category B applicants should be in line with their number of years post-PhD experience. Salary requests for Category C applicants must be at the first point of the New Post Doctoral

⁴⁸ <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/ethical-and-scientific-issues/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/>

Researcher scale (i.e. Level 2A point 1). Please refer to the **Research Ireland Team Member Budgeting Scale**⁵⁰.

- **Travel: (Category A, B and C applicants)**

A contribution (max. €10,000) towards mobility/travel and accommodation costs directly related to the progress of the Fellowship may be requested (see eligible costs under Section 3).

- **Materials and Consumables: (Category A, B and C applicants)**

Applicants who request additional aid intensity in return for the wide dissemination of results may request open access costs. Applicants should consult with Research Ireland's Grant General Terms & Conditions⁵¹, Open Access Policy and Publishing guidelines⁵² to ensure when they come to publish their research outputs, that their chosen publication platform or journal is compliant with Research Ireland's Open Access policy and associated requirements. Funds may be requested to pay Article Processing Charges (APCs) for Plan S compliant OA journals. Research Ireland will not offer specific additional funding for Open Access charges outside of your grant budget. Research Ireland encourages grant holders to consider the appropriateness of an APC and to satisfy themselves that the cost associated with an APC is justified. Note all other materials and consumables costs should be met by the industry partner.

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

In addition to the Research Ireland-requested budget, applicants are required to submit a fully costed budget that includes both the Research Ireland requested costs (Fellow salary/teaching buy-out and mobility costs) and a full breakdown of all the industry partner's costs in supporting the project. A budget template is provided on the Industry RD&I Fellowship section of the Programme webpage⁵³ and must be completed and uploaded onto the SESAME grants system as part of the application. This spreadsheet checks to ensure that the requested Research Ireland budget does not exceed the permitted aid intensity (see total eligible project costs under Section 5).

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (MAX. 3 PAGES)

All information required to complete the budget justification can be found in Section 7 of the **Grant Budget Policy**⁵⁴. Details of the industry partner costs should be included.

Please include the salary scale (as per **Research Ireland Grants Team Member Budgeting Scale**) for Category B and C applicants.

17.4.7 Letters Of Support

Category A Applicants (Faculty Researchers)

The following letters of support should be provided by Category A Applicants:

- **Research Body letter of support [mandatory].** The Research Body submitting the application must supply a signed letter of support endorsing the suitability of the applicant's expertise for the

⁵⁰ <https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RESEARCH-IRELAND-TEAM-MEMBER-SALARY-SCALES.pdf>

⁵¹ <https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Research-Ireland-Grant-GTCs.pdf>

⁵² <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/open-research/>

⁵³ <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/enterprise-fellowships/>

⁵⁴ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/>

proposed research project and comment on the industry mentor's expertise. The letter should contain a description of the institutional policy regarding management of Conflicts of Interest. It is recommended, where possible, that this letter is signed by both the applicant's Head of School/Department and Vice-President for Research (or equivalent).

- **Industry Mentor letter of support [mandatory].** The industry mentor must supply a signed letter of support endorsing the relevance of the applicant's expertise to the proposed research project. The industry mentor must also describe how they will provide the required infrastructure and capability to host the Fellow for the duration of the programme. The industry partner's financial contribution should be detailed in the letter of support and correspond to the detailed project budget spreadsheet submitted as part of the application.
- **Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) letter of support [mandatory].** A signed letter of support from the Research Body's TTO should indicate that the TTO is aware of the proposed Fellowship and highlight any relevant IP issues or discussions. The letter is expected to describe how the IP generated by the project will be protected and managed. For the purpose of the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme, the IP arrangements are the responsibility of the Research Body, and shall reflect the collaborative nature of the project, the level of commitment of the industry partner and compliance with State aid regulations.
- **Statement from a Research Ireland-funded applicant [where relevant].** If you are already the holder of an active Research Ireland award, a signed statement must be submitted describing how this programme will not negatively impact on the activities of all active Research Ireland awards in which you are involved, how these awards will be managed for the duration of the Fellowship and what arrangements will be put in place for the supervision of associated team members. If you have previously held an Industry Fellowship award, describe the added benefit to your career of the proposed Fellowship.
- **Centre Director letter of support [where relevant].** If you are a co-PI in a Research Ireland Research Centre, a signed letter of support from the Centre Director, indicating their support for the application and describing what arrangements will be put in place such that temporary departure from the Centre will not negatively impact on the activities of the award.

Category B and C Applicants (Postdoctoral and PhD Researchers)

The following letters of support should be provided by Category B and C Applicants:

- **Research Body letter of support [mandatory].** The Research Body submitting the application must supply a signed letter of support endorsing the suitability of the applicant's expertise for the proposed research project and comment on the industry mentor's expertise. Where an applicant has previously held an SFI Industry Fellowship award, the added benefit of the proposed Fellowship to the applicant's career should be described. For Category B applicants, this letter of support **must** include details of the postdoctoral researcher's current funding award, details of the funding body and details of the postdoctoral researcher's current remuneration level as aligned to the **Research Ireland Team Member Budgeting Scale**⁵⁵. The letter should contain a description of the institutional policy regarding management of Conflicts of Interest. It is recommended, where possible, that this letter is signed by both the applicant's Head of School/Department and Vice-President for Research (or equivalent).

⁵⁵ <https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RESEARCH-IRELAND-TEAM-MEMBER-SALARY-SCALES.pdf>

- **Industry Mentor letter of support [mandatory].** The industry mentor must supply a signed letter of support endorsing the relevance of the applicant's expertise to the proposed research project. The industry mentor must also describe how they will provide the required infrastructure and capability to host the Fellow for the duration of the programme. The industry partner's financial contribution should be detailed in the letter of support and correspond to the detailed project budget spreadsheet submitted as part of the application.
- **Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) letter of support [mandatory].** A signed letter of support from the Research Body's TTO should indicate that the TTO is aware of the proposed Fellowship and highlight any relevant IP issues or discussions. The letter is expected to describe how the IP generated by the project will be protected and managed. For the purpose of the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme, the IP arrangements are the responsibility of the Research Body, and shall reflect the collaborative nature of the project, the level of commitment of the industry partner and compliance with State aid regulations.
- **Academic Collaborator letter of support [where relevant for Category B applicants].** A signed letter of support (max. 2 pages) from any named academic collaborator. [Please note that the inclusion of an academic collaborator is optional]. Letters from academic collaborators should provide full details of the intended intellectual and/or technical input to the proposal. Letters of support that do not originate from the officially listed academic collaborator will be removed from the proposal. The letter should include a statement outlining how the collaborator will provide added value to the proposal.
- **Academic Collaborator letter of support [mandatory for Category C applicants].** Category C applicants must include their current PhD supervisor as an academic collaborator. The academic collaborator must provide a signed letter of support (max. 2 pages) in which they confirm their support for the application and also confirm that the applicant is within the final 6 months of their PhD studies, providing an estimated date of completion. In addition, the letter should provide full details of the intended intellectual and/or technical input to the proposal.
- **Research Fellow salary justification [where relevant].** If the salary requested is on the Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow salary scale, an additional formal letter from the Research Body should be supplied describing that you will be contractually differentiated by the Research Body from the standard cohort of postdoctoral researchers. It is important to note that the inclusion of a support letter will strengthen but not guarantee funding contributions at Research Fellow level.

17.4.8 View Proposal Prior to Submission

A PDF of your proposal is available in SESAME and should be reviewed prior to submission to enable you to validate your application. The responsibility lies with the applicant in this regard. Submission is made initially to your local Research Office for approval, prior to submission by the Research Office to Research Ireland. Please contact your Research Office well in advance to obtain registration details for SESAME and familiarise yourself with any internal Research Body submission deadlines.

You will receive a notification from SESAME periodically when the status of your proposal changes. Alternatively, if you wish to track the status of your proposal e.g., proposal pending Research Office approval or under review at Research Ireland, this information will be displayed in SESAME.

17.4.9 Applicant Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions

It should be noted that Research Body submission of an application represents their approval of an application and confirms that the Research Ireland Grant General Terms & Conditions have been read and understood.

Submission of an application confirms that Research Ireland's **Grant General Terms & Conditions**⁵⁶ have been read and understood; that the project is in full agreement with all legal and regulatory matters governing research in Ireland; that no aspect of this project is already being funded from another source and that all details provided are correct; that the information supplied in the application is correct and the research proposal is the applicant's own work. Failure to do so, or to comply with requirements outlined in this call document, will deem an application ineligible resulting in its withdrawal prior to expert review. Research Ireland's Grant Conditions shall govern the administration of Research Ireland grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement.

Research Body Approval

Submission must only be made by an authorised Research Body representative. In particular, the Research Body is approving:

- The eligibility of the applicant.
- That the applicant is, or will be upon receipt of the grant, recognised as an employee of the Research Body for the duration of the grant.
- That the requested Research Ireland budget including salaries/stipends, teaching buy-out and travel are in line with accepted institutional guidelines.
- The availability of infrastructure within the institution as outlined by the applicant in the research proposal.
- That the proposed research programme has not been funded by other sources.
- That relevant ethical and regulatory approval has been or will be sought and must be granted prior to the award commencing.
- That the relevant licences will be in place at the time of award.
- That the details provided in relation to research funding history i.e., current, pending and expired grants, as detailed in the application, are valid and accurate.

⁵⁶ <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

18. Appendix B – Proposal Template

The proposal must be a maximum length of 6 pages in total (excluding references). All text in uploaded PDFs should be provided in Times New Roman font, or similar, with minimum font size of 11, and at least single line spacing as well as a minimum margin size of 2.5cm. Text in diagrams may be in any clearly legible font.

The proposal content must be structured under the following 3 headings and address each sub-heading:

1) Research & Training

Challenge: Describe the research/technological challenges to be addressed and their relevance to the industry partner's activities.

State of the art: Describe the current state of the art in the area.

Research programme: Describe the novelty and/or innovative aspects of the research programme, including work packages

Training plan: detail any training activities as appropriate.

Applicant and Mentor: Describe the mentor's expertise and business sector, and how the Fellow's expertise is suitable to carry out the proposed research programme.

2) Impact

Describe the **potential for long-term collaboration** between the participants, and their commitment to the programme.

Describe how the Fellowship will **enhance the career perspectives** and employability of the Fellow and how it will contribute to their skills development.

Describe how the proposed research will **impact on the industry partner's activities**.

Describe the proposed **measures to exploit and disseminate the results**, including intellectual property (IP) management measures.

Applications where additional grant aid is requested for wide dissemination of results must detail **how results will be disseminated**.

3) Execution & Delivery

Describe how the **research programme will be implemented** (include a Gantt chart).

Describe the **supervision and mentoring arrangements**, including **risk management**.

Describe the **infrastructure, facilities and space to be provided by the mentor**. This should include details of the office, laboratory, computing, animal or other facilities as necessary, where the research will be done, including the equipment and materials that will be available.

19. Appendix C – Industry Partner Financial Declarations & Templates

1) Declaration of Financial Resources

On Company Letterhead

DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABILITY FOR THE PROJECT

I, _____, in my capacity as **Managing Director/Finance Director / (or equivalent)** of _____ (hereinafter called “the Industry Partner”) confirm to Research Ireland that the Industry Partner has access to an amount of _____ in place to meet the costs of the project outlined in the applicant’s grant application to the Research Ireland Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme 2025.

Managing Director/Finance Director

(or equivalent): (Print)

Signature:

Date:

2) SME Declaration- *only required for small/medium enterprises*

On Company Letterhead

DECLARATION OF SME STATUS*

Industry Partner Identification:

Name or Business Name	
Address (of registered office)	
Company Registration Number	
VAT Number	
Names & titles of the principal director(s)	

Data used to determine the category of enterprise:

Reference period (**):		
Headcount ***	Annual Turnover (€) ***	Balance Sheet Total (€) ***

Signature:

Name & position of the signatory authorised to represent the enterprise.

I declare that the information provided above is a true and accurate reflection of the size of the enterprise.

I declare that in case of change affecting the SME status of the enterprise, I will immediately inform the Research Body.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

***Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are defined in the EU recommendation 2003/361.** Data must be related to the last approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. In the case of a newly established enterprise whose accounts are not yet approved, the data should be derived from a reliable estimate made during the course of the year.

** Headcount number of full-time equivalent employees.

*** Please submit a copy of your company's most recent financial and management accounts (Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet signed off by an accountant)

3) Declaration of Solvency

On Company Letterhead

DECLARATION OF SOLVENCY

I, _____, in my capacity as **Managing Director/Finance Director/(or equivalent)** of _____ (hereinafter called “the Industry Partner”) wish to assure Research Ireland that I am unaware at this time of any issue that could present a threat to the solvency of the Industry Partner.

I declare, based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, that the Industry Partner can meet its financial obligations and does not envisage any challenge to this situation in the immediate future. I believe the Industry Partner will continue to operate as a going concern.

Furthermore, I am not, at this time, aware of any undisclosed matter which could be damaging to the financial interests of the Industry Partner, including a pending litigation.

I commit to informing Research Ireland via the Research Body immediately should such a situation arise. In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/20144 as amended by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1315](#) I declare that the company is NOT:

- An undertaking subject to a recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market,
- a limited liability company where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses,
- a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company, where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses,
- an undertaking which is subject to collective insolvency proceedings or fulfils the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors,
- an undertaking which has received rescue aid and has not yet reimbursed the loan or terminated the guarantee, or has received restructuring aid and is still subject to a restructuring plan,
- an SME regarding which, for the past two years, its book debt to equity ratio has been greater than 7,5 and its EBITDA interest coverage ratio has been below 1,0. I understand that any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements knowingly made by me to Science Foundation Ireland may result in the grant being revoked, demand for grant repayment and current and future grant applications being deemed ineligible by Science Foundation Ireland.

Managing Director/Finance Director

Signature:

Date:

20. Appendix D – Industry RD&I Fellowship Proposal Checklist

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENTS
	Proposal title (max. 30 words)	Max. 30 words
	Proposal ID	Autogenerated
	Research Body	
Applicant Details	Applicant name	
	Department	
	Applicant Research Body	
	Address details	
	Telephone	
	Email	
	Year of PhD	
	Gender	
	Location of applicant at time of submission	
	Applicant associated with a Research Ireland Research Centre	If Yes - Specify Research Centre name or proposal ID
	PhD awarding institution (name and country)	
	Applicant category	
	Applicant sub-category	
	Grant number of current or previous employing grant	
	Name of current or previous supervisor	Category B/C applicants
	Applicant's current or previous contract expiry date	Category B applicants
	Expected Date of Submission of PhD thesis	Category C applicants only
Proposal summary	Duration of grant requested (in months)	1-24 months
	Time commitment to Fellowship (percentage time spent on placement against the total award duration)	
	Placement duration	1-12 months
	Total Industry Partner Costs (€)	
	Does your proposal relate to a previously submitted application to any Research Ireland scheme? If the application is a resubmission, a statement referencing the previous application and explaining the differences must be provided below, making reference to reviewer comments where relevant. This statement will assist Research Ireland staff in the assessment of eligibility of a revised application and will not be shared with reviewers:	Yes/ No
	Resubmission statement	Max. 1000 words
Research Alignment	Research Area - Primary	
	Please describe how your proposal is aligned with the objectives of the Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme	Max. 250 words

Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme

	Select Research Category	
	Please provide justifying narrative for the selected Research Category	Max. 250 words
Applicant Details & supervisory experience	Supervisory experience	
	Narrative CV (PDF upload)	Max. 5 pages (use template provided)
Research Funding	For each current and pending grant listed above, clearly indicate any overlap with this application, referring only to overlap in content (max. 1000 words)	Max. 1000 words
	Please confirm that you have completed the research funding section or that you have no current, pending or expired funding.	Yes/No
Collaborator Details Industry Mentor	Organisation	Name of company
	Department	
	Prefix	Select title
	First name	Insert name of industry mentor
	Last name	
	Job title	
	Collaborator type	'Industry' must be selected
	Email	
	Address	
	City	
	Country	
	Postal code	
	Industry mentor CV (PDF upload)	Max. 5 pages
Collaborator Details Academic Collaborator	Organisation	
	Department	
	Prefix	Select title
	First name	Insert name of academic collaborator
	Last name	
	Job title	
	Collaborator type	'Academic' must be selected
	Email	
	Address	
	City	
	Country	
	Postal code	
	Narrative CV (PDF upload)	Max. 2 pages
	Enterprise name	
	Location of Enterprise	

Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme

Industry Partner Information	Annual turnover (€)		
	Organisation type		
	Organisation description/Business sector		Max. 1000 words
	Total number of employees (FTEs)		
	Number of employees in R&D (FTEs)		
	Independently owned premises		Yes/No
	Irish Owned		
Main Body of Proposal	Keywords		Max. 15 words
	Technical abstract		Max. 200 words
	Lay abstract		Max. 100 words
	Fellowship proposal (PDF upload)		Max. 6 pages
	References (PDF upload)		Max. 1 page
	Conflict of Interest Statement		Max. 2 pages
Ethical Issues	Does your research involve the use of animals?		Yes/No
	Does your research involve human participants, human biological material, or identifiable/potentially identifiable data?		Yes/No
Sex/Gender Dimension in Research	Is there a sex and/or gender dimension to be considered in your research proposal?		Yes/No
	If yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal.		Max. 1000 words
	If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal.		Max. 1000 words
Budget	Research Category (Grand aid intensity 1)		Drop-down
	Company Size (Grant aid intensity 2)		Drop-down
	Dissemination (Grant aid intensity 3)		Drop-down
	Requested Grant Aid (%)		
	Please indicate the requested salary level (point on scale)		Drop-down
	Research Ireland requested budget		Budget table
	Budget Justification (PDF upload)		Max. 3 pages
	Detailed project budget (Excel upload)		
Letter(s) of Support	Category A (Faculty Researchers)	Research Body	PDF upload max. 2 pages
		Industry Mentor	
		Technology Transfer Office	
		Statement from Research Ireland-funded applicant (where relevant)	
		Centre Director (Research Ireland Research Centre co-PIs only)	
	Category B & C (Postdoctoral/ PhD Researchers)	Research Body	
		Industry Mentor	
		Technology Transfer Office	
		Academic Collaborator (where relevant)	
		Research Body (Research Fellows only)	

Viewing the PDF of your application prior to submission allows you to verify content. There is no system validation on multiple upload file fields as the number of documents required may vary for each application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all documentation is included and that page lengths are not exceeded.