

Research Ireland Fellowship Programme 2025

Dr Gráinne Cunniffe
Scientific Programme Manager

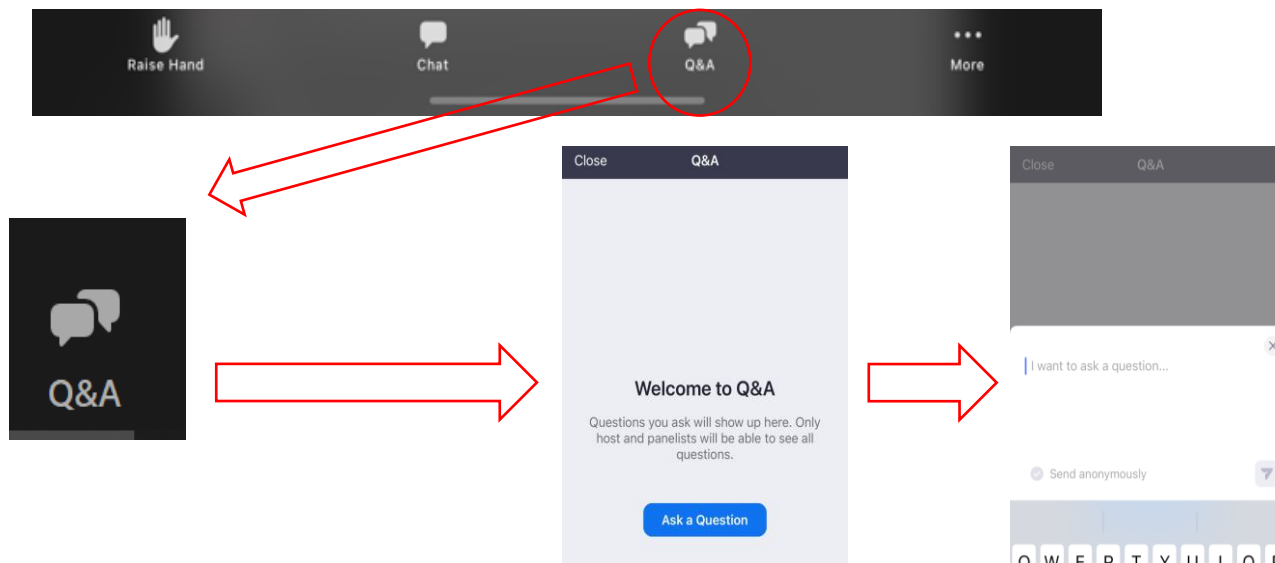
Dr Katy Adcock
Research Ireland Fellow

15th April 2025

fellowship@researchireland.ie

Webinar information

- Short, one-way PowerPoint presentation with voiceover
- Presented by Dr. Gráinne Cunniffe, Scientific Programme Manager, Enterprise Partnerships
- Joined by Dr. Katy Adcock, Research Ireland Fellow



➤ You may submit questions by typing them in the Q&A box on the bottom of the Zoom screen

- The recorded webinar will be available on the Fellowship Programme page at:
<https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/research-ireland-fellowship-programme/>

The Research Ireland Fellowship Programme

- Career development - Offers experiential learning for postdoctoral researchers.
- Placement - Fellows based within Research Ireland.
- Diverse opportunities and project-based learning - Enables career paths in:
 - Industry
 - Research funding and administration
 - Public administration
 - Government affairs etc.
- Skill development - Helps Fellows acquire key skills for these roles.



Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland

- Research Ireland is a new, competitive research and innovation funding agency
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science, working in collaboration with higher education institutions and other state agencies such as the Higher Education Authority, IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland.
- The annual budget for the agency is approximately €300 million.
- Research Ireland aims to build a world-class research system for the prosperity of our people and planet - connected, creative, inclusive.



**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Fellowship Objectives



- Provide experience of the duties and activities involved in research administration organisations.



- Gain experience in education and public engagement programmes in a funding agency.



- Provide a holistic overview and understanding of a funding agency's operations for those who wish to continue in academic research.



- Provide experience and skills to help those considering a transition from academia to the private/public sector.



- Provide applicants with relevant experience and skills in research policy and strategic development and implementation.



- Enhance knowledge transfer between partner organisations



Programme Structure

2

2 x 1-year placements



24 months on a
Full-time continuous basis



Development Plan



Fellows assigned Research
Ireland supervisor



Training and career
development

- Successful Fellows will be recognised **as an employee of their current Research Body** for the duration of the Fellowship grant.
- All terms and conditions associated with the Fellow's Contract of Employment with their Research Body will apply.
- Placement agreement signed by the Research Body and Research Ireland prior to commencement of the placement, with Fellows starting in October 2025.

Development of competencies

Including:

- Project management
- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Stakeholder management
- Initiative and innovation
- Flexibility and resilience
- Communication and influencing
- Collaboration



- Fellows will develop key competencies by independently managing a primary project during their placements with Team 1 and Team 2, while also being exposed to a variety of activities.

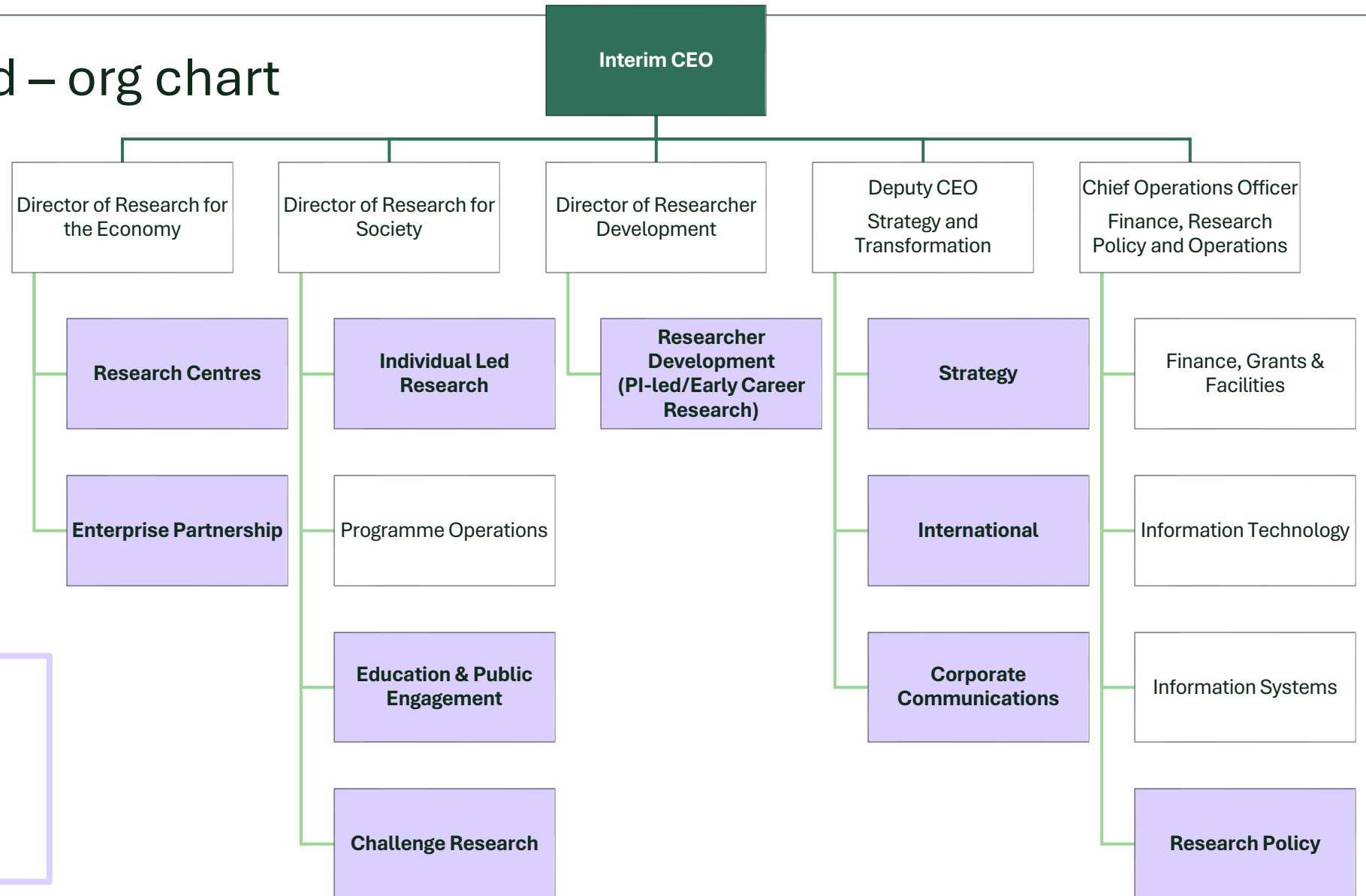
Research Ireland – Teams

The Research Ireland Fellowship Programme provides opportunities for postdoctoral researchers of eligible Research Bodies to undertake placements in two of the following Teams:

- Challenge Research
- Corporate Communications
- Education & Public Engagement
- Enterprise Partnerships
- Individual-Led Research
- International
- Research Centres
- Research Policy
- Researcher Development
- Strategy



Research Ireland – org chart



➤ Eligible teams for Fellowship rotations are highlighted

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Hold a PhD or equivalent.
- Be on a research contract in an eligible Irish Research Body at the time of application.
- Be able to take a period of 24 months (continuous and full-time) away from their current research activities within the Research Body, starting in October 2025.
- Have a right to work in Ireland with a work visa/permit (if applicable) for the duration of the Research Ireland Fellowship placement.
- Researchers/scientists who are employed under a Contract of Indefinite Duration are not permitted to apply.

Line Manager

- Require the support of a Line Manager within their research body (academic member of staff)
- Takes administrative responsibility for the Fellow if the applicant is successful, arranging salary, leave entitlements and other administrative duties for the Fellow within the Research Body while the Fellow is participating in the Fellowship Programme

Eligible costs - salary

Salary Contributions

- Research Ireland Team Members Salary Scales (Level 2A Point 1 to Level 2B Point 4)
 - <https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RESEARCH-IRELAND-TEAM-MEMBER-SALARY-SCALES.pdf>
- The current salary of the applicant must be indicated on the Application Form which is endorsed by the Research Body.
- Applicants will be entitled to one increment increase for months 13-24 of the Fellowship Programme, subject to the maximum of point 6 for Level 2A and point 4 for Level 2B.

Overheads

- Payable as a contribution to the Research Body
- Should not be included in the requested budget to cover costs incurred directly as a result of the Fellowship award.

Application procedure

- Not through Research Ireland's grant management system SESAME
- To apply to the programme, the following documents should be completed and submitted as a single pdf via:
 - <https://api.occupop.com/shared/job/researchireland-fellowship-programme-1b766>
- Application Form (Appendix 2 in call document)
 - Research Integrity, Requested Salary, Details of Line Manager, Research Body Signature, Applicant signature
- CV (max. 2 pages)
- Personal Statement (max. 2 pages)
- Line Manager Letter of Support (max. 2 pages)
 - Confirming that they will take administrative responsibility for the Fellow if the applicant is successful

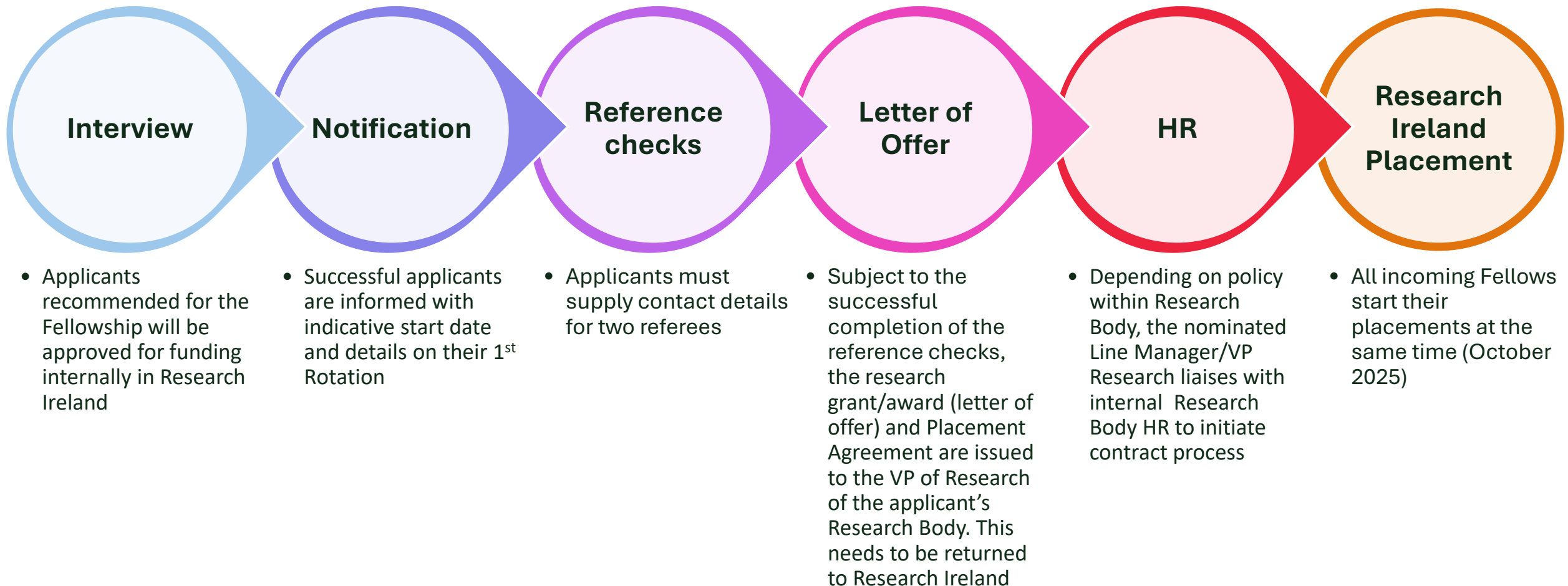


Selection Process

Review Criteria

- Motivation of the applicant for participating in the Fellowship.
- Suitability of the applicant for the Fellowship taking key competencies into consideration. These may include problem solving and communication skills, teamwork, innovation and creativity, and organisational skills.
- Following confirmation of eligibility, candidates will be shortlisted by Research Ireland, and suitable applicants will be invited to attend an in-person interview.
- Candidates invited for interview will undergo a competency-based interview process
- Research Ireland expects that candidates who are invited for interview will have a high-level understanding of our mission and purpose and will be able to articulate their motivation for the Fellowship
- Typically, the interview will take 30-40 minutes. Indicative interview dates in early June 2025*

Successful Applicants



Important Dates

Launch: 2nd April 2025

Deadline for Applications: 14th May 2025 @ 1pm

Proposed Start Date: early-October 2025



Queries please contact: fellowship@researchireland.ie

Dr Katy Adcock, Research Ireland Fellow



Experience at Research Ireland

Day to Day

Comms

- Writing and coordinating press releases
- Curate content and develop comms campaign strategies
- Event support

Enterprise Partnerships

- Reviewer sourcing
- Programme support (EOI reviews, annual report summaries, attend progress reviews)

Projects

- Helped with ‘Little Book of Irish Research’ publication
- Analysed web traffic data for comms team
- Collate data to evaluate programmes
- Cross-organisation committees

Skills

- Stakeholder engagement
- Communication
- Administration
- Project management
- Data analysis
- Problem solving

Advice to Applicants

- First piece of advice* – apply!
- Reach out to current and former fellows to discuss their experience

Preparation

- Spend time mapping your skills to competencies
- Clarify your motivation for applying - which Teams and why

Application

- Familiarise yourself with Impact 2030, SFI Strategy, Research & Innovation Bill

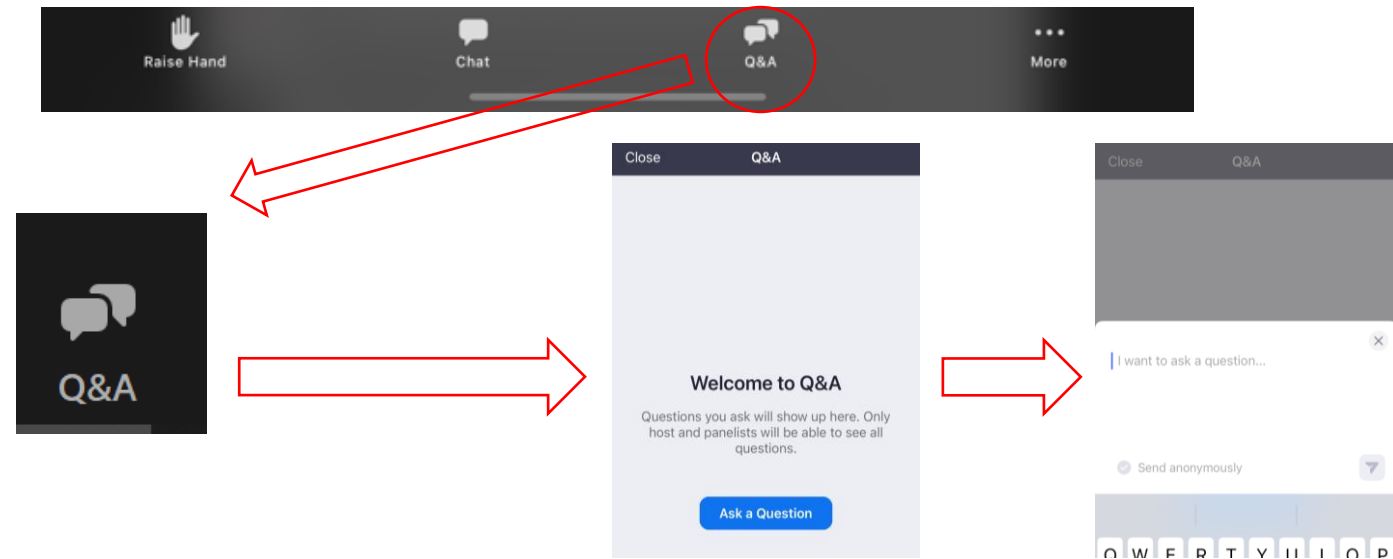
Interview

- Prepare for competency-based questions (evidence)
- Mock interview panel

*Read the call document!

Q&A Session

- We are now reviewing questions
- You may submit questions by typing them in the Zoom Q&A box- please be concise
- We will deal with as many of these as we can, verbally
- We will post a recording of this webinar on the Research Ireland Fellowship webpage
- Questions can be submitted after the webinar to fellowship@researchireland.ie



Thank You

Contact Us:

Email: fellowship@researchireland.ie