

2026 Ulysses Scheme
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
24/04/2025

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 24th April 2025 (16:00 local Irish time)

New questions will be marked ****New****

Updated questions will be marked ****Updated****

Questions are grouped under the following headings:

1. Eligibility
2. Applying to the programme
3. Conditions of award

If you do not find the answer to your query in the call documentation, you should contact the research office in your proposed institution which will provide information and clarification on the call. **Research Offices** can send any queries they are unable to clarify to ulysses@researchireland.ie

1. ELIGIBILITY

Q1: Regarding mandatory participation of early-career researchers, the proposed PI is an Assistant Professor who submitted their PhD thesis within the last five years. The same would hold for the partner in France. Are both considered to be early-career researchers?

Q2: Just a quick query in regards Early Career Researcher eligibility for the Ulysses, if someone is in a lecturer role but still within the 5-year post-PhD window, would they still be eligible to count as an Early Career Researcher for this call? From the Campus France definition it seems pretty straight forward that all researchers within this 5-year time frame would count, but in the Research Ireland guidance it seems to say specifically postgrad and postdoc researchers.

A: An Assistant Professor or researcher with a lecturing role (i.e. a lecturer's contract) at their institution, would not qualify as an early career researcher on the Irish side, even if they have submitted their PhD thesis within the last 5 years.

As per the Call Document, *"an early career researcher is defined as a current PhD student, or a postdoctoral researcher who has submitted their PhD thesis within the last 5 years"*.

For queries relating to the eligibility of the French partner, and whether or not they can be considered an early career researcher or "jeune chercheur", contact should be made with Campus France.

Q: One of our PIs is very keen on submitting their application to Ulysses 2026 call. They currently have a postdoc with a contract ending in January 2026. Can this postdoc be a part of the application? We notice that the call document states that applicants must have contracts that will cover the two-year period of the award. But normally postdoctoral fellowships are only for two years. So, even if the postdoc starts during the application period, they will not have contract until the end of the two-year award period. Would you be able to kindly suggest if our understanding is correct?

A: The applicant / Principal Investigator on the Ulysses award needs to have a contract that covers the duration of the award. However, team members may be in place for some, or all, of the award. It would be expected that an Early Career Researcher would have an active role for the majority of the project.

2. APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME

****New****

Q1: I would like to apply for this call. However, I noticed in the call document that a maximum of three research participants is mentioned. Could you please clarify whether four participants from one side of the group would be acceptable? Please note that all four will not incur travel costs, but they will be involved in one of the work packages for carrying out the project.

Q2: In the table for the budget in section 4 of the application (Resources Required), is it limited to three researchers or is it possible to edit the table to include more than three researchers?

A: A higher number of Early Career Researchers in one application is not a criteria which would render an application ineligible. **The Call Document does not state anywhere that the maximum of research participants is three.** Please feel free to extend the table and include more than three researchers. A gentle warning to applicants that the number of people involved in a project must remain in proportion to the budget allocated.

3. CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Q: The Ulysses 2026 funds can be used until December 2027; can funds be used to involve new people in the project at a later stage? (e.g., future PhD students or last-year Master students) and use the funds to cover travel expenses for visiting periods? For example, hosting a student from ENS Lyon for a 3-month internship for his master's dissertation. Can Ulysses funds could be used to finance future internships? We do not know who the students will be next year, but there will be some interest.

A: No, the proposed budget plan in the application form should cover the costs for the period of January 1st 2026 – 31st of December 2027. Funds can not be used at a later stage.