Taighde Éireann Research Ireland

Research Ireland Discover Programme Call Handbook

The Research Ireland Discover Programme Call

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland ("Research Ireland") is the national research and innovation funding agency which was established on 1 August 2024. Established under the Research and Innovation Act 2024, Research Ireland is an agency of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science.
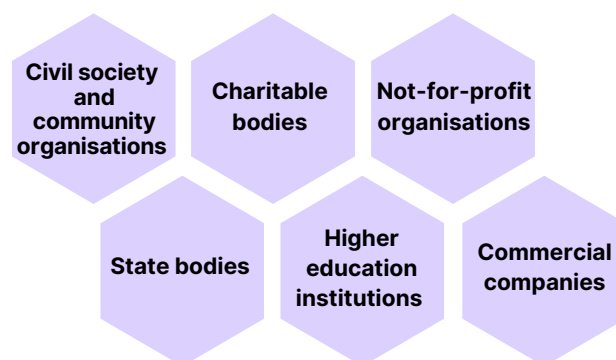
It is part of Research Ireland's role to promote and support an awareness and understanding of the value of research and innovation to society and to facilitate engagement of members of the public with those engaged in research and innovation activities.

The outcomes of this research and public engagement promote and assist in the development and competitiveness of industry, enterprise and employment in Ireland, delivering tangible impact for society. The **Research Ireland Discover Programme Call** supports education and deep public engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) to extend activity and ability in this area.

Who Can Apply?

The Research Ireland Discover Programme Call supports **a wide range of organisations** to develop and deliver **education and public engagement** projects that aim to broaden participation and engagement of the public with STEM. **Applications must be submitted by organisations based and registered in the Republic of Ireland, however organisations may partner with groups internationally.** The programme specifically seeks to fund projects that are inclusive, based on best practice and are tailored to engage target audiences in ways that are most suited to them. We welcome and encourage **cross and interdisciplinary projects** that embrace wider **partnerships and contributions from across the arts, sciences, humanities, media, education, youth and/or community work sector.** The Research Ireland Discover Programme Call **strongly welcomes applications from organisations including community and civil society groups, charities and NGOs.** The expertise, experience and insight that these organisations bring allows for **deep collaborative engagement with their target communities**, helping to improve, understand, or investigate a topic of public interest or concern.

Project leads may be based in

- Civil society and community organisations
- Charitable bodies
- Not-for-profit organisations
- State bodies
- Higher education institutions
- Commercial companies

Following successful review of applications, recipients will receive funding of up to **€60,000 for a Project grant** (12-month duration) and **up to €300,000 for a Regional or National Initiative Grant** (12- or 24-month duration). Furthermore, administrative expenses of up to an additional 15% of the direct project costs, up to a maximum of €30,000 may be requested.

See Research Ireland Discover Programme Call Document for full details.

Focus on Public Engagement

The Research Ireland Discover Programme Call welcomes applications for projects that create opportunities for broader participation and engagement of the public with STEM.

Why Apply?

The Research Ireland Discover Programme Call gives recipients the opportunity to inspire and create greater public awareness of the impact of research, innovation and science on society and its connection and contribution to everyday life. Successful projects will stimulate and create debate and dialogue amongst the public and will create opportunities for dialogue with Research, Innovation and science experts, on topics of societal importance. Such opportunities will broaden participation and equity of access, promoting greater engagement with groups currently under-represented in STEM, and will help to build awareness, curiosity and trust in the field.

What Are We Looking For?

We are looking for **new and creative approaches to engage the public** in ways that are most suited to them, but also welcome projects that promote engagement with STEM through **tried and tested methods.**

Successful projects should do at least one of the following:

- Raise awareness and heighten the public(s)' engagement with STEM
- Have strong public purpose and value and work with community partners to promote dialogue on an issue of societal interest or concern
- Contribute to improving diversity and inclusion in STEM
- Foster engagement which could lead to deeper engagement of the public with research, innovation and science.
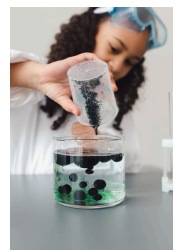
The nature of project activities can be very broad. Examples can include workshops, theatre pieces, exhibitions, games, events, debates and discussions.

Focus on Education

The Research Ireland Discover Programme welcomes applications for projects that are aimed at school audiences (teachers and/or pupils) – pre-school, primary and second level.

Why Apply?

The Research Ireland Discover Programme Call includes a co-funding partnership with the Department of Education, and it provides recipients with the opportunity to empower participation, grow confidence, and develop an inclusive and equitable STEM talent pipeline through inspiration, skills development and increasing awareness of STEM education and careers.

What Are We Looking For?

We are looking for education projects which align to one or more of the **Department of Education themes.**

Successful projects should do at least one of the following:

- Focus on development of key skills and increasing awareness of STEM education and careers
- Increase STEM awareness with families
- Increase awareness of STEM for learners and their parents in advance of transition from primary to post-primary school
- Provide connections between STEM and the Arts.

In addition, applicants should have considered the Irish education landscape, ensuring that the project is complementary to the formal education system (See Call document for further details).

Examples may include **workshops, games, classroom activities, events, debates and discussions.**

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How to apply

Complete the application form outlining project details, budget request, evaluation plans and project team. Applications must be submitted via SESAME, Research Ireland's Grants and Awards Management System. If you have not previously been registered with SESAME, please email discover.programme@researchireland.ie for information.

What costs are eligible ?

Eligible costs may include:

- **Project Management**

- **Direct Project Delivery Costs:**
- Including content development, venue hire, catering, AV and additional insurances required specifically for the project or event
- Costs to ensure appropriate access requirements are met

- **Consumables** – equipment and materials required for the delivery of the project

- **Training** - any training of personnel required for the delivery of the project

- **Evaluation costs**

- **Expenses for travel and subsistence**

- **Administrative expenses -** *an additional 15% of the direct project costs, up to a maximum of €30,000, can be requested. These costs may include IT support, office space, utilities (heat, light, water etc), grant management / administration, financial management, reporting, the costs of hiring project personnel.*

Key Dates

MAY 12
May 2025
Call opens for applications

JUN 24
June 2025
Application Deadline
13:00, Dublin Local Time

NOV Mid
November 2025
Notification of results

JAN 1
January 2026
Project commencement

Further Information

For all information on the Research Ireland Discover Programme Call please visit https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/

Applicants are advised that they should consult the call document for all details and eligibility criteria for the call in advance of preparing an application. For any further queries, please contact the Discover Team at *Discover.Programme@researchireInd.ie*.

🌐 https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/

✉ discover.programme@researchireland.ie

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