|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **NEW FOUNDATIONS 2025**  **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  **Webinar Recording is available on the**  [New Foundations webpage](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/new-foundations/)  **Updated: 15.07.2025**  **(New queries are highlighted in yellow)** |
| **Questions have been grouped below in the following sections:**   1. **Strand 1a-Related Queries** 2. **Strand 1c-Related Queries** 3. **Strand 4b-Related Queries** 4. **Strand 10-Related Queries** 5. **Strand 11-Related Queries** 6. **Strand 15-Related Queries** 7. **Strand 17-Related Queries** 8. **Strand 18-Related Queries** 9. **Eligible Expenditure** 10. **Eligibility Criteria** 11. **Applying to the Scheme / General**   **Please note:**  **If you do not find the answer to your query in the Call Documentation, you should contact the Research Office in your proposed institution, in the first instance, which will provide information and clarification on the call.**  **Research Offices can send any queries they are unable to clarify to newfoundations@researchireland.ie. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers will be posted on the New Foundations webpage weekly, starting from the week after the call opening and ending a week before the call deadline.**  **The FAQ deadline is Thursday, 10 July 2025 (4pm Irish Time).** |
| **1. Strand 1a-related queries** |
| **Civic Society Organisation partner eligibility** |
| Applicants may partner with any civic society organisation which meets the criteria outlined in the Call Document for this strand. **Please note that the civic society partner must be a charity with an Irish CHY number and registered with the** [**Charities Regulator**](https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/en)**.** Applicants must include the name and endorsement of the civic society partner as part of the application.  Regarding any civic society organisations which contact Research Ireland expressing their interest in participating in the scheme, their details will be posted to the [New Foundations webpage.](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/new-foundations/) |
| **Is possible to work with two partners, i.e. schools, one being an all-girls and another all-boys school, in order to ensure the gender balance of research beneficiaries.** |
| Strand 1a supports collaborative projects between researchers and civic society partners. Additional collaborations are welcome but must be in addition to the partnership with the civic society partner. The civic society partner must be a charity with a CHY number. |
| **Must strand 1a projects be either exactly 9 or 12 months (e.g. 6 months or 13 months is not possible)?** |
| Award durations are as outlined in the Call Document.The duration of strand 1a projects must be either 9 or 12 months precisely. |
| **What does the civic partner need to submit exactly?** |
| Applicants to strand 1a must include the name and endorsement of the civic society partner as part of their application. The civic society partner endorsement template is available in the ‘Downloads’ tab on the [New Foundations webpage](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/new-foundations/).  This form is to be completed by the civic society partner. The applicant must upload the completed form as part of their application on Smart Simple. This form is deemed as proof that the application is supported by the civic society partner organisation. |
| **Can you give us an example of the type of project that has been funded under Strand 1a?** |
| The full list of projects which have been granted funding under past iterations of the New Foundations scheme can be found here: <https://research.ie/awardees/>. |
| **Does the civic society partner need to be Ireland-based?** |
| The civic society partner must be a charity with a CHY number and registered with the [Charities Regulator](https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/en). |
| **Is it possible for some of the award budget to be allocated to project-related activities carried out by the charity partner? In other words, can the expenditure include a budget of sorts for the charity to use?** |
| Where fully justified, costs for partner involvement can be included on the award in accordance with Eligible Research Body institutional rules and with relevant local employment practices**. Salary costs are not eligible for partners based outside of the lead applicant’s ERB or in the case of strand 1c, the co-PI’s ERB.** Costs for partner involvement may be included in the ‘Other’ budget category.  The Research Body must ensure that any agreement it enters into with a third party does not impede its ability to comply with Research Ireland’s Grant Conditions, inclusive of those stipulated in the Letter of Offer and its Grant General Terms & Conditions. |
| **2. Strand 1c-related queries** |
| **Can members of the Steering Committee be the Co-PIs?** |
| Strand 1c encourages both new and existing collaborations between two principal investigators from different disciplines: one PI and one co-PI. The co-PI must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined on page 9 and 10 of the Call Document. |
| **When is a Letter of Endorsement for the Co-PIs required?** |
| The Strand 1c Co-PI Institution Letter of Endorsement template is available in the ‘Downloads’ tab on the [New Foundations webpage](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/new-foundations/). All applicants under strand 1c must upload a signed Letter of Endorsement as part of their application. Applicants must ensure that the Letter of Endorsement is fully signed by all parties. |
| **Who signs the Letter of Endorsement?** |
| The Letter of Endorsement requires the signatures of the PI, Co-PI and Co-PI’s Host Institution. The Research Office of the Co-PI’s Host Institution may decide their preferred institutional signatory of the Letter of Endorsement. |
| **Is a signed Letter of Endorsement required if the Co-PI is in the same institution as the PI?** |
| Yes, all applications under strand 1c must include a signed Letter of Endorsement. |
| **Is it acceptable for two researchers from the same institution to be involved in the project as team members, while the required Co-PI comes from an external institution?** |
| Team members may reside in different institutions or the same institution. |
| **Is it a requirement that the proposed co-PI holds a doctorate, or would it be sufficient that the lead PI holds a doctorate and the co-PI is an experienced lecturer at an eligible institute?** |
| The co-PI must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined on page 9 and 10 of the Call Document, available in the ‘Downloads’ tab on the [New Foundations webpage](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/new-foundations/). The criteria refers to both PI and co-PI. |
| **Should the PIs involved be from different universities? Different fields? For example, one from business school and one from maths is enough to have the interdisciplinarity dimension?** |
| The PI and co-PI can be based in the same [Eligible Research Body](https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies) or based in different Eligible Research Bodies. The PI and co-PI should be from two different disciplines. The partnership may include two different disciplines within STEM or within AHSS. |
| **Does the Co-PI need to be based in an Irish Higher Education Institution / Research Performing Organisation? Can the Co-PI be based outside of Ireland?** |
| Both the PI and the co-PI must be based at an [Eligible Research Body](https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies). |
| **Can there be more than one Co-PI?** |
| As outlined in the Call Document, Strand 1c encourages both new and existing collaborations between two principal investigators from different disciplines (one PI and one Co-PI). |
| **For strand 1c, can some members be drawn from outside Ireland?** |
| Team members may reside in different institutions or the same institution. Both the PI and the co-PI must be based at an [Eligible Research Body](https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies). Please note, salary costs are not eligible for partners based outside of the lead applicant’s ERB or in the case of strand 1c, the co-PI’s ERB. |
| **Is it necessary that the PI and Co-PI are in different institutions? Can both the PI and Co-PI be from the same HEI?** |
| The PI and co-PI can be based in the same [Eligible Research Body](https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies) or based in different [Eligible Research Bodies](https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies). |
| **If a PI and a Co-PI are from the same HEI, will the Research Officer be able to endorse for both of them in the Smart Simple portal or should the RO submit a letter of support for the Co-PI during the application process?** |
| There is a requirement to upload a signed letter of endorsement from the Co-PI’s host institution as part of the application. The Strand 1c Co-PI Institution Letter of Endorsement template is available in the ‘Downloads’ tab on the [New Foundations webpage](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/new-foundations/). |
| **Is someone allowed to be a Co-PI on an application under this strand while also submitting their own application as lead applicant to the call?** |
| As stated in the Call Document, applicants may only make one application to the scheme in a given year. This includes involvement in an application as a Co-PI. |
| **The guidance states that strand 1c is open to either AHSS or STEM leadership, with any combination of an AHSS and STEM co-partnership. Does this include partnerships within STEM or within AHSS i.e. is a STEM-STEM partnership allowed?** |
| Yes, it may include two different disciplines within STEM or within AHSS. |
| **3. Strand 4b-related queries (no queries to date)** |
| **Can you work with a charity partner as part of the 4b application?** |
| As per Appendix 4 in the Call Document, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) are particularly interested in funding partnerships between researchers and practitioners in both formal, non-formal and informal education as well as partnerships between academia and other sectors, **including civil society** and private sector actors. There is a requirement for Civic Society Partners to have a CHY number. |
| **4. Strand 10-related queries (no queries to date)** |
| **5. Strand 11-related queries (no queries to date)** |
| **6. Strand 15-related queries (no queries to date)** |
| **6. Strand 17-related queries (no queries to date)** |
| **Is there any restriction on having two researchers from the same institution working together on the project, with one named as the PI and the other involved as a collaborator or team member (not as a formal Co-PI)?** |
| The PI is the lead of the project and, as such, can collaborate with other partners and team members. Under Strand 17, the PI only is eligible to apply for academic replacement costs. |
| **7. Strand 18-related queries (no queries to date)** |
| **8. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE** |
| **In relation to teaching buyout costs, the Call Document specifies that 'A value equal to point 1 on the Research Ireland salary scale for Postdoctoral Researchers may be charged to the project to facilitate the PI/co-PI’s leadership of the project.' In instances where the Research Ireland postdoctoral rate does not meet the actual hourly costs of teaching replacement, is it permissible to use the institutional rate set for hourly lecturer fees instead?** |
| In line with the Call Document, a value equal to Point 1 on the Research Ireland Team member salary scale may be charged to the project, this is on a pro rata basis. |
| **Are salaries for collaborators an eligible cost?** |
| As per [Research Ireland’s Grant Budget Policy](https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Research-Ireland-Grant-Budget-Policy-Interim.pdf), collaborators’ salaries are an ineligible cost. |
| **Can third parties or institutions add to the project budget?** |
| The budget categories as set out in the application form must be adhered to. External funds cannot be included in the application form. The proposal will be assessed on its own merits. |
| **We have an applicant who wishes to make a payment to project partners for their contribution on a project steering committee. Is this allowable under New Foundations?** |
| As per Call Document, costs for partner involvement can be included on the award in accordance with Eligible Research Body institutional rules and with relevant local employment practices. If relevant to the viability of the research, partner costs can be considered. All costs must be specified and fully justified and must be value for money. |
| **Are any overheads permitted on the Strands?** |
| No. Only eligible direct costs as set out in the budget table on page 15 of the New Foundations 2025 Call Document will be considered. |
| **Can applicants use the grant funds to pay for a membership fee for an existing network?** |
| Membership fees can be included but must be fully justified and explicitly relevant to the wider research project being applied for. |
| **Are salaries of the PI or Co-PI or partnering organisations eligible?** |
| PI salary (and co-PI salary for strand 1c) are not eligible costs. |
| **Would travel costs associated with a sabbatical be permissible?** |
| No. Only eligible direct costs as set out in the Call Document will be considered. |
| **9. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & GENERAL QUERIES** |
| **If the partner team has more than one person, is this permitted?** |
| Section 6 of the New Foundations Call Document outlines partner requirements per strand. All applications require one PI. Strand 1c applications require one PI and one Co-PI. Other team members such as postdoctoral and research assistants are permitted across all strands. |
| **I am a member of a professional staff at an eligible HEI and hold a doctorate, with teaching experience on several academic programmes. Am I eligible to apply for New Foundations funding in my own right, or do I need to act as a co-applicant with an academic partner?** |
| Applicants must on the call deadline hold a contract of employment with an [Eligible Research Body](https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies), which is of sufficient duration to carry out the out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date. Inclusive of reporting requirements. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined on page 9 and 10 of the New Foundations 2020 Call Document. |
| **Does the New Foundations grants paperwork allow hyperlinks?** |
| All relevant information must be contained within the text of the application form. |
| **Is there a definition of a "civic society organisation (CSO)" for the purposes of this call? Can inter-governmental organisation be regarded as a civic society organisation? Or should CSOs listed as partners on New Foundations proposals be based primarily in the non-governmental sector?** |
| For the purposes of Strand 1A, the civic society partner must be a charity with an Irish CHY number and registered with the Charities Regulator. Other organisations can also be involved in a project, in addition to the required civic society partner. |
| **What is the indicative start date of the New Foundations 2025 projects?** |
| Projects are expected to commence in December 2025. |
| **What types of projects are awarded?** |
| Strand objectives and further information are included in the appendices of the [New Foundations 2025 Call Document](https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/new-foundations/). Examples of past projects can be found on [Research Ireland's webpage](https://research.ie/awardees/) |
| **Is a postdoctoral researcher whose contract is due to end in Sept 2026, which would likely coincide closely with the project end date eligible to apply?** |
| Applicants must on the call deadline hold a contract of employment with an [Eligible Research Body](https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies), which is of sufficient duration to carry out the out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date. Inclusive of reporting requirements. |
| **How many awards are given per strand?** |
| Information on number of awards available is detailed for specific strands in the New Foundations 2025 Call Document. If not, this will be determined at a later date and are dependent on available funding. |
| **Can listed partners in the application (not co-PIs) be from outside of Ireland?** |
| Yes, collaborators and partners can be from outside of Ireland. However, there is a requirement for Civic Society Partners to have an Irish CHY number. |
| **Can staff on admin contracts who meet the eligibility criteria (holder of PhD, contract duration, etc.) apply for funding from this scheme?** |
| As per the Call Document, applicants must on the call deadline hold a contract of employment with an Eligible Research Body, which is of sufficient duration to carry out the out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date. The applicant must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation of the project. |
| **Do lead applicants need to have a PhD?** |
| Yes, as per the Call Document, applicants must hold a doctoral degree. |
| **If you have already received a previous New Foundations Award, are you eligible to apply a second time?** |
| Past and Current New Foundations grant holders are eligible provided their proposal is clearly distinct from their past/current New Foundations grant. |
| **Can you apply if you currently hold another Research Ireland award?** |
| Yes. However, the lead applicant and any co-PIs must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation of the project. The PIs are advised that, by submitting an application in their own name, they personally undertake to develop the project, with due attention and viable commitments of time and without sub-contracting the project to another party or parties. |
| **I am an Hourly Paid Assistant Lecturer (HPAL), am I eligible to apply for the scheme?** |
| Applicants must, on the call deadline, have a contract of employment with their Eligible Research Body for the duration of the award. |
| **The proposed Co-PI is a consultant with the HEI who also holds an honorary researcher position. Would they be eligible to act as a Co-PI under the terms of the scheme?** |
| Both the PI and Co-PI must, on the call deadline, have a contract of employment with their Eligible Research Body for the duration of the award. |
| **I will be joining an Eligible Research Body in September 2025 and will have a signed contract at the date of submission of my application, am I eligible to apply for the scheme?** |
| Yes, providing that your contract is of sufficient duration. Eligible applicants must, on the call deadline, hold a contract of sufficient duration with an Eligible Research Body to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date. |
| **10. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME** |
| **Can I name myself (PI) in the narrative of the application?** |
| Yes, this is permissible. |
| **Can the duration of the awards be shorter or longer than indicated?** |
| Award durations are as outlined in the Call Document. |
| **Can a single supporting organization or civil service partner be attached to more than one application across different strands?** |
| A civic society partner can support more than one application across strands provided the research projects proposed are clearly distinct. |
| **Can a diagram/figure be uploaded to Smart Simple to illustrate how the proposal contributes to the identified themes of the strand, or is only text allowed?** |
| An application will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding if it includes additional materials other than those requested and/or it includes materials in a format other than those requested. |
| **You said that each applicant can only submit one application. Is this one application per strand or one application overall?** |
| As per the Call Document, applicants may only make one application to the scheme in a given year (i.e., one application overall). |
| **Could you please explain what a contract of sufficient duration is? For example, if the applicant is an occasional lecturer (employed during term time), are they excluded from this call?** |
| Applicants must, on the call deadline, have a contract of employment with their Eligible Research  Body for the duration of the award. |