



RESEARCH IRELAND

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

2026 CALL DOCUMENT

Key Dates for the 2026 Call:

Call open:	12:00 (Irish time) 11 September 2025
FAQ deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 16 October 2025
Applicant deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 23 October 2025
Mentor deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 06 November 2025
Research office deadline:	16:00 (Irish time) 13 November
Outcome of scheme:	End of April 2026
Award start date:	01 September 2026

Terms of Reference

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of this document, it is provided for information purposes only and as a guide to expected developments. It is not intended, and should not be relied upon, as any form of warranty, representation, undertaking, contractual, or other commitment binding in law upon Taighde Éireann | Research Ireland (“Research Ireland”), the Government of Ireland, or any of their respective servants or agents. Research Ireland Grant Conditions (to include General Terms and Conditions and Letters of Offer) shall govern the administration of Research Ireland Grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement. All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the proposal or as may be required under law, including the Research and Innovation Act 2024 and the Freedom of Information Acts 1997, (Amendment) 2023 and 2014.

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).

2. Purpose of this call document

This call document sets out detailed eligibility requirements and instructions for preparing and submitting an application to the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme. It also provides a general overview of the assessment process. Please note that all Call documentation (this Call document, *Guide for Applicants*, *Frequently Asked Questions*) should be carefully read by all applicants prior to making an application. This document, in conjunction with the Research Ireland [General Terms and Conditions](#), Letter of Offer and Research Ireland’s policy documents, set out the terms and conditions for all grants funded under the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme. Research Ireland reserves the right to amend this call document at any time.

3. Programme overview

The Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, is an established national initiative, funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and managed by Research Ireland. This programme supports suitably qualified postdoctoral candidates pursuing, or intending to pursue, full-time research in any discipline.

The Government of Ireland programme is unique in the Irish research landscape. Among its features are:

- individual, prestigious Grants for excellent research in the name of the applicant;
- the opportunity for Grant holders to direct their own research project at the early-career stage, working with a mentor;
- an objective selection process using international, independent expert peer review;
- funding across all disciplines, from archaeology to zoology; and
- grants for bottom-up, non-directed research.

Applications can be made in any discipline. Please consult Research Ireland’s [research categorisation document](#) for further descriptions of the primary areas, disciplines and other research areas covered. Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or those introducing creative, innovative approaches are welcomed. Proposals of an interdisciplinary

nature are also encouraged as it is recognised that advancing fundamental understanding is achieved by integrating information, techniques, tools and perspectives from two or more disciplines.

This programme is highly competitive, with an average success rate over the past five years of 12% on the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme. Successful Grant holders under this programme are recognised as demonstrating world-class potential as future research leaders.

4. What we offer

These grants will support suitably qualified postdoctoral candidates pursuing full-time research in any discipline. These grants can be either 12 or 24 months in duration and will consist of the following:

- A salary of €47,273 in the first year of the award and €47,879 in the second year of the award in line with points 1 and 2 respectively of the PD1 scale of the Research Ireland team members salary scale¹
- employer's PRSI contribution; and
- [eligible direct costs](#) of €5,000 per annum.

The purpose of a 12-month fellowship is to prepare the applicant's doctoral thesis for publication through a variety of high-quality research publications e.g. monographs, peer-reviewed articles, edited volumes. The purpose of a 24-month fellowship is to develop either a new research project or a research project that demonstrates a significant development of the subject of the doctoral thesis through a variety of appropriate, feasible and clear published outputs.

4.1 Duration and Structure of the Fellowship

Grants can have a duration of 12 or 24 months. Applicants can only apply to one stream i.e. a 12-month or a 24-month Fellowship.

Full-time Grants. All Grants must operate on a full-time basis regardless of the time frame. **Location:** Fellows will be based full time in the nominated Eligible Research Body for the duration of the Grant.

Start date: Successful applicants will be expected to start the Fellowship on 01 September 2026. In the case of eligible career breaks (see section 5.2), the start date of the Fellowship may be further delayed, subject to prior approval from Research Ireland.

All applicants must be affiliated with an [Eligible Research Body](#).

¹ https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/RESEARCH-IRELAND-Team-member-salary-scales_Jan-2024-to-Jun-2026.pdf

5. Eligibility

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](#) by clicking on the “IRC Eligible Bodies” link. The Research Body will administer the funds of successful Grant recipients.

5.2 Eligibility Criteria of The Applicant (Fellow)

The programme is open to late-stage PhD candidates who will have completed all steps necessary for the award of their PhD by 31 May 2026 and Postdoctoral researchers who have a PhD graduation date within the 5-year period before 31 May 2026 (01 June 2021 to 31 May 2026) and are not currently under contract or whose contract will end before this Grant begins i.e. that any successful candidate will claim 100% of their salary costs from the Grant.

The following conditions also apply:

- There is no age limit for applicants to be eligible.
- All applicants must be affiliated with an Eligible Research Body, who will be responsible for verifying all results from undergraduate or postgraduate degrees named in the application.
- If the applicant has not already been awarded their PhD, they must have completed all steps necessary for the award of their PhD by 31 May 2026.
- Applicants from any country may hold a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant.
- Applications will only be accepted in either the Irish or English language.
- Applicants must not have had two previous unsuccessful applications to the programme. This applies regardless of whether the applicant has changed their eligible research body or research topic since a previous submission.
- Applicants must not be a permanent member of staff in either an Irish or international Research Body.
- All applications require an academic mentor willing to guide the proposed research project. Research Ireland is not in a position to assist applicants in finding an academic mentor for their application.
- **Academic mentors may not support more than one applicant to the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship programme.** As such, Mentors should endorse only **one** submitted application². If the Research Office endorses multiple applications with the same Mentor, all applications will be

² This condition relates only to applications to the current (2026) open Call and not to any existing fellows the Mentor may be supporting under previous Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Calls.

deemed ineligible.

Please also note:

- Applicants must not currently hold, or have previously held, a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant.
- Applicants may previously have held an Enterprise Postdoctoral Fellowship; however, they must have completed the full funding term of their Enterprise Postdoctoral Fellowship before commencing a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant.
- Applicants must state during the online application process whether they have submitted, or intend to submit, the same or a similar application to any other Research Ireland, Irish, or international programme.
- This grant may be held in conjunction with other externally funded travel bursaries, equipment grants or small grants which do not exceed the amount of annual funding provided by Research Ireland in any given year provided that:
 - (a) the grant holder seeks the approval of Research Ireland prior to accepting any such additional funding;
 - (b) the grant holder's request for approval is endorsed by the host Research Body confirming the amount, source and stipulations of any such additional funding;
 - (c) doing so does not affect the ability of the grant holder to carry out their research project as outlined in their application;
 - (d) accepting such an award is in line with the grant holder's career training and development plan;
 - (e) Research Ireland continues to be recognised as the primary funder and acknowledged as such in any material relating to the grant;
 - (f) there is no significant overlap with the research project that has been funded by Research Ireland;
 - (g) the relevant information is recorded as part of the required progress reporting; and
 - (h) compliance with Irish laws and regulations on taxation in respect of any additional funding will be a matter for the grant holder, their host Research Body, and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.
- Applicants whose PhD graduation date falls **before** the designated eligibility window for this Call may be deemed eligible for the Call if they have a properly documented eligible career break, provided the eligible career break started before the call deadline and is at least equivalent to the adjustment being sought. Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, parent's leave, extended sick leave and carer's leave.
- Only career breaks taken by the applicant as a statutory entitlement will be considered eligible. Career breaks explained by working outside of academia or by

being unemployed for a period of time will not be considered as valid reasons to adjust the eligibility window.

- Verification of an eligible career break may be requested from the Research Office of the eligible research body by Research Ireland at any stage of the application, assessment or grant award process. Should it become apparent to Research Ireland at any stage of the application, assessment or award process that an applicant does not meet the conditions set out herein for adjustment of the period of eligibility or cannot provide verification of same, Research Ireland shall be entitled to deem an application ineligible and rescind any grant offer. **Please do not provide any personal health and/or medical documentation and/or information (including evidence of a medical diagnosis/diagnoses) in correspondence with Research Ireland.**
 - For maternity leave, applicants will be granted an 18-month adjustment for each child born before or after the first PhD award, regardless of how long the applicant took for maternity leave. If the applicant can document a longer maternity leave, the eligibility period will be adjusted by the documented amount of actual leave taken until the call deadline. The same principle also applies for child adoption.
 - For paternity leave, applicants will be granted an adjustment equal to the documented amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child born before or after the first PhD award. The same principle also applies for child adoption.
 - For long-term illness (over ninety days for the applicant or a close family member, i.e. child, spouse, parent, sibling), applicants will be granted an adjustment equal to the documented amount of leave actually taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the first PhD award.
 - For all other eligible career breaks, applicants will be granted an adjustment equal to the documented amount of leave actually taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the first PhD award.
- If an applicant wishes to adjust their period of eligibility, the Research Office at the eligible research body will be requested to provide verification to Research Ireland of same at any stage of the application, assessment or grant award process. Should it become apparent to Research Ireland at any stage of the application, assessment or award process that an applicant does not meet the conditions set out herein for adjustment of the period of eligibility or cannot provide documented evidence of same, Research Ireland shall be entitled to deem an application ineligible and rescind any offer of award.
- All applicants must:

- have authored or co-authored at least one published peer-reviewed research publication³;
or
- have demonstrable equivalent intellectual property output (*other publications and research outputs*).
- All degree results as entered in the application form and endorsed by the Research Body must be the applicant's overall results and verifiable as such on official transcripts. Regardless of whether they are relevant to the eligibility requirements listed above, conditional grant holders will be required to submit official transcripts for each degree listed in the application confirming the overall result, date of graduation and awarding institution⁴. If such transcripts cannot be presented, or do not verify the information exactly as detailed in the application, any conditional offer of a grant will be withdrawn.
- Applicants must not have been employed as a postdoctoral researcher for more than five years as at 31 May 2026.

5.3 Eligibility Criteria of the Academic Mentor

In addition to meeting the criteria set by their Eligible Research Body for acting as a research mentor, the academic mentor must also meet the following eligibility requirements as defined by the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme:

- **Academic mentors may not support more than one applicant to the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship programme. As such, Mentors should endorse only one submitted application⁵. If the Research Office endorses multiple applications with the same Mentor, all applications will be deemed ineligible.**
- The academic mentor must be a permanent member of academic staff or a contracted member of academic staff who will hold a primary contract of employment with the Eligible Research Body that will span the term of the proposed grant.
- The academic mentor must be a suitably qualified experienced member of staff to act as a research mentor.
- The academic mentor must have the capacity to support the proposed research project, including access to necessary facilities and resources.
- Retired Academic Staff (RAS) may be permitted to support applications to postdoctoral fellowship programme, subject to the discretion of the host Research Body. The eligibility of a

³ A journal article in an international journal, or a peer-reviewed conference proceedings paper, that has been published or accepted for publication. Articles submitted or in preparation are not acceptable.

⁴ Supporting, non-returnable material must be forwarded in a timely manner to the Research Body for inspection before the grant can commence. Research Ireland reserves the right to request this material for inspection. All transcripts must be appropriately stamped and signed to confirm that they are official documents of the institution.

⁵ This condition relates only to applications to the current open Call and not to any existing fellows the Mentor may be supporting under previous Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Calls.

RAS member to act as a mentor depends on the Research Body's assessment that the individual remains active in their research field and that the applicant will have regular and adequate access to them throughout the duration of the research programme. The inclusion of a RAS member in a mentorship role must be supported by institutional assurance of their continued academic engagement and availability.

6. Ineligible Applications

Applicants must complete a preliminary eligibility quiz to gain access to an application form. Passing of the preliminary eligibility quiz and provision of access to the application form should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. All Call documentation (this *Call document*, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *Guide for Applicants*) should be carefully read before applying to the programme. Following submission, all proposals will be checked for compliance with all mandatory criteria (e.g., all sections complete, uploads are appropriate, all endorsements are complete). Proposals identified as ineligible at this stage will be withdrawn without review.

In addition to section 5 above, applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding if:

- **the Research Office endorses multiple applications with the same Mentor, all applications will be deemed ineligible.** Mentors may support no more than one applicant to the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship programme. As such, Mentors should endorse only **one** submitted application⁶.
- an applicant submits more than one application to a given call;
- the name of the mentor included in the preliminary eligibility quiz on the online system does not match that on the application form;
- more than one mentor's name is included in the preliminary eligibility quiz on the online system;
- the preliminary eligibility quiz on the online system is submitted without an academic supervisor's or mentor's name;
- an application has not been submitted via the online system by the relevant deadline. No hardcopies or email forms will be accepted;
- an application does not have all the required participant forms, i.e. mentor, completed in full and submitted via the online system by the relevant deadline. No hardcopies or email forms will be accepted;
- an application is incomplete or exceeds the word limits;
- an application includes additional materials other than those requested;
- an application includes materials in a format other than those requested;

⁶ This condition relates only to applications to the current open Call and not to any existing fellows the Mentor may be supporting under previous Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Calls.

- it is found at any stage during the process that any section of an application has been plagiarised or is not the applicant's own work (see section 12 for more information);
- any information supplied in an application is false, misleading or unverifiable with appropriate documentation;
- the research project as proposed in the application form is currently or has previously been funded either in full, or in part, by Research Ireland or any other funding agency;
- the application is not endorsed by the applicant's eligible research body, i.e. the vice-president/dean of research or their authorised nominee, via the online system by the relevant deadline;
- canvassing on behalf of the applicant occurs.
- it is not evident to the assessors that the application is an individual and original project, written by the applicant and distinctively different to any other proposals.
- it becomes apparent to Research Ireland at any stage of the application, assessment or award process that an applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria, an application will be deemed ineligible and any grant offer shall be withdrawn.

Please note that assessment of an application should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. The status of applications in terms of eligibility may change over the course of the Call process. In the event of an unsustainable number of applications, Research Ireland may implement a triage step to reduce the number of proposals at the review stage.

7. How to Apply

All applications must be submitted via the online system by the relevant deadline. It is strongly encouraged that application and participant forms are submitted well in advance of the relevant deadline as heavy server traffic on the day may slow down their submission. **Applicants are advised not to wait until the day of the deadline to register on the system or submit their application.** If an applicant needs to submit their application on the closing day, it is strongly recommended to do this at least eight hours before the deadline. No hardcopies or email forms will be accepted. No additional material, beyond that requested in the application form, will be accepted and inclusion of any such material may render the application ineligible.

All applications require an academic mentor willing to guide the proposed research project. The academic mentor must complete and submit an endorsement form as part of the application process. Failure to submit these forms by the deadline will render the application ineligible. Mentors may support no more than one applicant to the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship programme. As such, Mentors should endorse only one submitted application⁷. Research Ireland is not in a position to assist applicants in finding an academic mentor for their

⁷ This condition relates only to applications to the current open Call and not to any existing fellows the Mentor may be supporting under previous Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Calls.

application. If the Research Office endorses multiple applications with the same mentor, all applications will be deemed ineligible.

Prior to creating an application, applicants should contact and discuss their research project with the proposed academic mentor. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to inform the proposed academic mentor of their nomination. This should be done well in advance of completing the online application.

For reasons of transparency and fairness to all applicants, Research Ireland will not enter into written or telephone correspondence with any individual about the assessment process or their eligibility to apply. In the first instance, applicants should contact the research office in their proposed Research Body for information and clarification on the call. It is highly recommended that applicants contact the research office well in advance of submitting an application. If the research office is unable to answer a query, the research office should email it to postdoc@researchireland.ie for answer through the frequently asked questions (FAQ) process. An updated FAQ document will be published on the [GOIPD funding call website](#).

8. Proposal Review Procedure and Criteria

Following submission, all proposals will be checked for compliance with all mandatory criteria (e.g., all sections complete, uploads are appropriate, all endorsements are complete). Proposals identified as ineligible at this stage will be withdrawn without review. Please note that assessment of an application should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. The status of applications in terms of eligibility may change over the course of the Call process. In the event of an unsustainable amount of applications, Research Ireland may implement a triage step to reduce the number of proposals at the review stage.

9. Research Ireland Policies and Positions

In addition to complying with the [General 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 Paternity and Adoptive leave Policy
- Appeals Process
- Child Protection
- Data Protection Policy
- Open Research
- Data Management
- Grant Budget Policy
- Disability Policy

9.1 State Aid and Research Ireland Grant Funding

As per Research Ireland’s Grant Conditions (inclusive of Research Ireland’s General Terms and Conditions,⁸ Letters of Offer and Research Ireland policy documents⁹), all Research Ireland funding granted is subject to, and must be compliant with, State aid legislation based on Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).¹⁰

Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a grant awarded under the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, and agreed to subject to Research Ireland’s General Terms and Conditions, must be “non-economic” in nature and designed to ensure that any funding received does not, directly or indirectly, give rise to the granting of State aid.

Where an application for funding involves an ‘undertaking’¹¹ or industry party, recipients of grant funding under the Research Ireland Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme are required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of “effective collaboration” and that the conditions relating to the allocation between the parties of the results and/or intellectual property rights arising from the collaboration comply with one of the conditions set out in paragraphs 29 and 30 (as appropriate) of the 2022 Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (2022/C 414/01) (the “Framework”).¹²

Research Ireland has set out guidance to support how the programme of research or project is developed and undertaken in accordance with these conditions. See ‘Guidance on State aid for applicants to, and recipients of, Research Ireland Grant funding’ for further information.¹³ To support compliance with “effective collaboration”, Applicants must complete and return an “Industry Collaboration Form” (ICF) to Research Ireland on or before the date that the Collaborative Research (or Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement (CRA) has been ‘agreed’ with, or signed by, the relevant (industry) partner(s). The ICF should be used by Applicants to assist in defining the relationship with the industry partner(s). Further, a copy of each CRA arising from the

⁸ [Research Ireland Grant Terms and Conditions - Research Ireland](#)

⁹ <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/>

¹⁰ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719\(05\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719(05)&from=EN)

¹¹ The concept of an “undertaking” under EU competition law rules is an entity that is engaged in an “economic activity” regardless of its legal status or the way that it is financed. An activity is economic in nature when it involves offering goods or services on a market.

¹² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2022.414.01.0001.01.ENG

¹³ [State Aid – Research Ireland](#)

grant must be held on file by the relevant Research Body. Research Ireland may request a copy of the signed CRA to be provided (as advised in the General Terms and Conditions) to be held on file by Research Ireland for audit purposes. The ICF and related guidance, inclusive of an FAQ document, can be found on the Research Ireland website.¹⁴ Applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice in advance of applying to Research Ireland for funding where further clarification is sought.

10. Applicant Gender Identity and the Research Ireland External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy 2023-2028

Research Ireland seeks to provide equal outcomes for all applicants so that Ireland can attract and retain the most talented, creative and innovative researchers, thereby maximising its collective research intelligence. To support a level playing field for all applicants, the applications to this funding call will adhere to a gender-blind assessment process. Details of the applicant's gender identity will not be provided to the international assessors. As such, profile information containing the name and gender identity of applicants is not provided to reviewers during the assessment process.

Applicants are, therefore, asked to refrain from identifying their gender when completing their application forms. We also ask that mentors use 'the applicant', and 'they/them', when providing their observations, rather than the applicant's name or pronouns which would identify their gender identity. Applicants are advised to consult the sex/gender dimension statement in Appendix 1 in advance of completing the personal, ethical and sex/gender statements section of their application.

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 2023-2028¹⁵, increasing the number of women and members of Historically Underserved Communities in Applicant Teams are key objectives. As such, women and members of Historically Underserved Communities are strongly encouraged to apply to this programme.

Research Ireland's External EDI Strategy 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

¹⁴ [State Aid – Research Ireland](#)

¹⁵ <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

outputs are relevant to society. Gender identity 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.

11. San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

Research Ireland is a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)¹⁶ 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 member. 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 indicators/metrics and research performance-based indicators/metrics such as impact factors and the H-index. In the spirit of supporting open research and as a signatory to Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030¹⁸ and a signatory of Plan S,¹⁹ Research Ireland will also consider a commitment to making data and other types of research open and accessible. To complement these activities, Research Ireland is a signatory to the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment²⁰ and is a member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA).²¹

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/> for information relating to Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)
- Visit <https://research.ie/about-us/policies/> for information relating to the Irish Research Council (IRC)

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

12. ORCID

ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes researchers from each other and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between a researcher and their professional activities ensuring that their work is recognised. If an applicant does not currently have an ORCID, please register for one at

¹⁶ <https://sfdora.org/read/>

¹⁷ Contributor level membership

¹⁸ [National Action Plan | National Open Research Forum \(norf.ie\)](#)

¹⁹ <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

²⁰ https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022_07_19_rra_agreement_final.pdf

²¹ <https://coara.eu/>

www.orcid.org in advance of submitting an application.

13. Plagiarism and related issues

Applications are expected to be entirely the applicant's own work. Random sampling for evidence of plagiarism and excessive duplication will be carried out during the application and award process. Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. It will be deemed that excessive duplication has arisen when significant portions of multiple applications to Research Ireland are similar or identical in content.

If such instances of plagiarism or excessive duplication are identified by Research Ireland at any stage during the application or award process, the relevant application(s) will be deemed ineligible, grant offers will be withdrawn, or active grants will be terminated. Such instances of plagiarism or excessive duplication will also be brought to the attention of the host Research Body and the applicant in question will be prohibited from applying for Research Ireland funding in the future.

14. Assessment Process

All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material provided at the time of submission. **Applicants should not include any additional links to online research profiles or supplementary information. Any such additional material will render the application ineligible.**

Applications are checked by Research Ireland for eligibility. Please note that assessment of an application should not be taken as confirmation that all eligibility requirements for the programme have been met. The status of applications in terms of eligibility may change over the course of the Call process.

Grant holders will be selected following a transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable selection procedure, based on international peer review. There are separate funding streams for STEM and AHSS. Each stream is assessed independently on a competitive basis. Profile information containing the name, date of birth and gender of applicants is not provided to reviewers during the assessment process.

Applications will be sent for remote evaluation to an outer international assessment board (IAB). Each application is assessed by at least two independent, international reviewers. Each assessor submits their evaluation and applications are ranked in order of merit. The top ranked applications are then referred to an inner IAB where they

are assessed by two further independent, international reviewers before being discussed at an inner IAB panel meeting relevant to the particular funding stream. The primary responsibility of the inner IAB is to determine a quantitative ranking of the applications presented to it, arrive at an overall judgement of standard and make final recommendations to Research Ireland.

While outer IAB members may be more familiar with the specific research field of the proposed project, the inner IAB will be made up of representatives with significant overarching experience who may have a more general understanding of the field. Thus, it is important that the application is written so that both outer and inner IAB members can clearly understand the research proposed therein and form a fair evaluation and assessment of whether it is of a sufficient standard to recommend for funding.

Applications are assessed under four headings:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • Applicant: | 30% Review Weighting |
| • Project: | 35% Review Weighting |
| • Training and Career Development: | 25% Review Weighting |
| • Environment: | 10% Review Weighting |

Assessors consider all four headings and allocate scores as per the evaluation criteria detailed in appendix 2. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves fully with the evaluation criteria prior to making an application. If the total average score is the same between two or more applications, applications with the same average scores will be ranked according to the higher average score under the highest weighted category (project). If a tie still remains, the ranking will be determined by the highest average scores in the following order: applicant, training and career development, and finally, environment. Research Ireland will then fund down the ranked list presented to it by the international assessment board until funding is exhausted. Research Ireland's decision on whether to make an award under either programme is final.

Research Ireland is precluded from discussing results of the competition or the outcome of individual applications over the telephone or in writing. Feedback to unsuccessful candidates will consist of the score assigned by the international assessment board. The score assigned by the international assessment board is final and no correspondence will be undertaken in relation to individual assessments or scoring. Additional qualitative feedback will be provided to applicants not receiving notification of an offer of award under the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme only. Applicants seeking feedback based on assessor commentary should email their request to postdoc@researchireland.ie. Feedback will

likely be provided in July/August after the overall process has concluded. Under no circumstance will feedback compromise the confidentiality of any participant in the process.

15. 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 Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowships must comply with the practices and procedures described in the [RDI Framework](#) and the National IP Protocol [Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019](#). The arrangements related to the management of IP arising from the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowships are the responsibility of the Research Body.

16. Frequently Asked Questions

Please read this call document thoroughly. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are available on the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme [webpage](#). For general queries, including eligibility queries, please contact the Research Office of the Research Body you intend to submit your application through. If the research office is unable to answer a query, the research office should email it to postdoc@researchireland.ie for answer through the frequently asked questions (FAQ) process. An updated FAQ document will be published on the funding call website.

17. Applicant Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions

Submission of an application confirms that Research Ireland's General Terms & Conditions have been read and understood; that the applicant meets eligibility requirements; 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 their 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. 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.

1. Overheads are not applicable to this Grant.
2. For the purpose of the Grant, the Postdoctoral Fellow will be synonymous with the Lead Investigator. The Lead investigator is required to engage in full-time research in their Research Body during the funding term to develop the Research Programme and training and career development plan. They must be a full-time employee at the host Research Body and not be a full-time employee of another Research Body or any other

organisation, including any undertaking. The Lead Investigator must maintain a physical presence within their department or school in their Research Body for the duration of the Grant, be a resident in the Republic of Ireland and their residence be within a reasonable travelling distance of the Research Body.

3. For the purpose of the Grant, the Mentor and the Lead Investigator (Postdoctoral Fellow) will be members of the Research Team, as defined in Research Ireland's General Terms & Conditions.
4. The Mentor will have a well-defined role as the person responsible for supporting and guiding the Lead Investigator (Postdoctoral Fellow) and ensuring the quality of the research produced under the Grant.
5. The Eligible Research Body is responsible for verifying all results from undergraduate or postgraduate degrees named in the application. However, Research Ireland reserves the right to request the original and/or certified copy of the Doctoral/ Masters Candidate's undergraduate and postgraduate degree certificate(s) or transcript(s) at any stage of the Grant term. Original and/or certified copies of documents must be submitted to postgrad@researchireland.ie at the top of this letter within a maximum of two weeks of the request date. Failure to submit the required documents may result in the suspension or termination of the Grant. Research Ireland's decision on this matter is final.
6. The Research Body is responsible for ensuring that ethical issues relating to the Research Programme are identified and brought to the attention of the relevant approval or regulatory body. Approval to undertake the research must be granted before any work requiring approval begins but no later than three months after the start date of the Grant.
7. The Research Body, the Lead Investigator and the Mentor shall not make any public announcement about the Grant until after Research Ireland's official announcement, the timing of which will be advised in due course.
8. All publicity, including public lectures, publications, print materials and press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, film, video and audio recordings associated with or arising from for this Research Programme must contain acknowledgement of funding received from 'Research Ireland' and any Strategic Funding Partner, where applicable. Please refer to clause 20 in Research Ireland's [General Terms & Conditions](#).
9. The Lead Investigator is permitted to engage in additional duties such as teaching, tutoring, or demonstration work in a Research Body during the Grant, provided:

- a. the work is relevant to the Research Programme and consistent with the Lead Investigator's training and career development plan;
- b. the Lead Investigator has the written permission of their Mentor;
- c. the work does not prevent the Lead Investigator from carrying out the Research Programme;
- d. such additional duties are detailed in the required Progress Reports.

10. Research Ireland expects the host Research Body to ensure that:

- a. additional duties contribute to the professional development of the Lead Investigator; and
- b. additional duties are taken into account as part of the relevant evaluation or appraisal systems.

APPENDIX 1

GUIDANCE ON THE SEX/GENDER DIMENSION STATEMENT

In accordance with the Research Ireland External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy²², all applicants must complete a statement articulating the consideration of biological sex and/or social gender variables in their research programme.

To complete this section, please consider the following questions:

Is sex as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?

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.

While there are research projects in which biological sex and/or gender may not be relevant in terms of the research content, it is well established that, where relevant, integrating sex and gender analysis into the design, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of the research can lead to better results and opportunities. If relevant sex-gender issues are missed or poorly addressed, research results will be partial and potentially biased. In worst-case scenarios poor consideration of the sex-gender dimension in research can result in real-world applications based on inaccurate results or conceptions. Full consideration of the sex-gender dimension in research content is a requirement for all Research Ireland Grants.

The integration of the sex-gender dimension in research is commonly mistaken for the integration of gender balance in research teams. These are two distinct matters, and the gender balance of a team should not be used to answer the sex-gender dimension in research question. We recommend this short video [here](#) from the European Commission on the integration of sex/gender dimension in research.

Definitions

Sex refers to a set of biological attributes in humans and animals. It is primarily associated with physical and physiological features including chromosomes, gene expression, hormone levels and function, and reproductive/sexual anatomy. Sex is usually categorised as female or male. **Gender** refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions, and identities of girls, women, boys, men, and gender diverse people. It influences how people perceive themselves and each other, how they act and interact, and the distribution of power and resources in society. Gender is usually conceptualised as a binary (girl/woman and boy/man) yet there is considerable diversity in how individuals and groups understand, experience, and express it. The Irish charity, BelongTo provides a list of terminology associated with gender [here](#).

²² <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

Resources

The following links provide positive and negative examples that result from the inclusion or exclusion of sex and gender in research respectively. These may be useful for applicants to complete the sex-gender dimension statement in the application:

General

[Stanford University resource concerning the sex-gender aspects of research](#)

[The gender dimension in research | Kilden](#)

STEM

[Online training for integrating sex and gender in health research](#)

[Article about the dangers of drug testing on all-male animal populations](#) (animal studies, drug design)

[Gender research focus in agricultural technology and botanical science](#) (agriculture, botanical science)

[Machine learning reinforcing gender stereotypes](#) (machine learning)

AHSS

[Book by Trine Rogg Korsvik & Linda M. Rustad on the gender dimension in research](#) (multiple examples provided in the chapter, Safe Societies)

[Article on urban design principles that take into account the needs of women and minority groups](#) (urban design)

How to consider the potential gender dimension and implications for your research

The following is provided to help applicants complete the sex/gender dimension statement in the application. This is taken from the '[Gender in EU-funded research](#)' toolkit, which aims to give the research community practical tools to integrate gender aspects into their research, including gender equality (equal outcomes for women and men) and integration of sex/gender analysis in research content.

The best possible research validity: Research should take into account the differences between men and women in the research population, and results will be more representative. General categories such as 'people', 'patients' or 'users' do not distinguish between men and women. Research based on such categories may well draw partial conclusions based on partial data. For example, research on a new breast cancer treatment should include male patients, so as to draw a complete picture. Most basic research with animal models focuses on males to the exclusion of females (Zucker et al., 2010; Marts et al., 2004). Research on economic miGrants cannot limit itself to male points of view if it wants to understand the whole miGrant population.

Research ideas and hypotheses: The relevance of biological sex and/or gender for and within the subject matter needs to be analysed and an assessment made as to whether these are relevant variables. The formulation of hypotheses can draw upon previous research and existing literature. Indeed, the body of knowledge on sex/gender issues has been steadily growing over recent decades and can serve as interesting reference material to build new hypotheses for future research.

Project design and research methodology: While research methodologies may vary, they all strive to represent (aspects of) reality. Whenever this reality concerns humans, any sound methodology should differentiate between the sexes and take into account the men's and women's situations equally. Groups such as 'citizens', 'patients', 'consumers', 'victims' or 'children' are therefore too general as categories.

Research implementation: *Data collection tools* (such as questionnaires and interview checklists) need to be gender-sensitive, use gender neutral language, and should make it possible to detect the different realities of men and women. This will help to avoid gender bias. For example, answers to be provided by the 'head of household' are not necessarily valid for all household members.

Data analysis: In most research concerning human subjects, data is routinely disaggregated by sex, which would logically lead to analyses according to sex. However, to date this is still not common practice. Systematically taking sex as a central variable and analysing other variables with respect to it (e.g. sex and age, sex and income, sex and mobility, sex and labour) will provide significant and useful insights. Involving gender-balanced end-user groups in the course of the research is also a good way of guaranteeing the highest impact.

Dissemination phase – reporting of data: Collecting and analysing sex and/or gender specific data is not enough if they are omitted from the published results. Sex and/or gender should be included in 'mainstream' publications as it is as much part of daily reality as any other variable studied. Specific dissemination actions (publications or events) for sex and/or gender findings can be considered. Institutions and departments that focus on gender should be included in the target groups for dissemination. Publications should use gender-neutral language.

Checklist for sex and/or gender in research content

Research ideas phase:

If the research involves humans as research objects, has the relevance of biological sex and/or gender to the research topic been analysed?

If the research does not directly involve humans, are the possibly differentiated relations of men and women to the research subject sufficiently clear?

Have you reviewed literature and other sources relating to differences in the research field?

Proposal phase:

Does the methodology ensure that (possible) sex/gender differences will be investigated: that sex/gender differentiated data will be collected and analysed throughout the research cycle and will be part of the final publication?

Does the proposal explicitly and comprehensively explain how sex/gender issues will be handled (e.g. in a specific work package)?

Have possibly differentiated outcomes and impacts of the research on women and men been considered?

Research phase:

Are questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, etc. designed to unravel potentially relevant sex and/or gender differences in your data?

Are the groups involved in the project (e.g. samples, testing groups) gender-balanced? Is data analysed according to the sex variable? Are other relevant variables analysed with respect to sex?

Dissemination phase:

Do analyses present statistics, tables, figures and descriptions that focus on the relevant sex/gender differences that came up in the course of the project?

Are institutions, departments and journals that focus on gender included among the target groups for dissemination, along with mainstream research magazines?

Have you considered a specific publication or event on sex/gender-related findings?

APPENDIX 2 - GOIPD – EVALUATION CRITERIA²³

MAXIMUM APPLICANT MARKS = 30

APPLICANT, including:

- Track record and research potential of the applicant²⁴,
 - Quality
 - Significance and relevance of the applicant's key achievements
 - Applicant's personal statement
- Match between the applicant's profile and the proposed project
- Evidence of independent thinking and leadership qualities
- Quality of the reference provided by the academic mentor

MAXIMUM PROJECT MARKS = 35

PROJECT, including:

- Clarity and coherence of the proposed research
- Quality of the proposed research design and methodologies
- Feasibility of the proposed milestones, deliverables and contingency plans
- Consideration as to how the proposed research will advance state of the art and make a contribution to existing knowledge
- Plans for dissemination and knowledge exchange of the proposed research
- Consideration of the relevant ethical issues and sex/gender dimension

MAXIMUM TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT MARKS = 25

TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL, including:

- Clarity and quality of training and career development plan
- Potential for the development of new research-related and transferable skills and competencies, including those relevant to employment outside the traditional academic sector
- Capacity to acquire new knowledge
- Clarity of thought as to how the fellowship will impact on the applicant's career path, including their professional independence

MAXIMUM ENVIRONMENT MARKS = 10

ENVIRONMENT, including:

- Suitability and track record of the mentor, with a particular focus on their experience in developing researchers
- Quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by the host institution
- Match between the applicant, mentor and the Research Body

²³ Applicants are invited to carefully consult the *General Application Feedback* document available on the [webpage](#) to ensure they are addressing all aspects of the evaluation criteria.

²⁴ For instance, collaboration, networking, generation of knowledge, contribution to research and higher education, leadership and management experience etc may be considered.