Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

Investigators 2025

Call for Submission of Proposals

Key Dates	
Call launch:	July 30th 2025
Expression of Interest submission:	September 17th 2025 - 13.00 Dublin local time
Full Proposal submission:	January 2026 - TBC

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 I 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.

During the application process or at any time following the conclusion of the application process and decision, Research Ireland may contact the Research Body, the Principal Investigator or any member of the Research Team concerning funding opportunities, Research Ireland activities or any events, or for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation including but not limited to collecting scientific data and data related to the applications process. Research Ireland may choose to authorise a third party to contact the Research Body, the Principal Investigator or any member of the Research Team on its behalf.

1   Introduction

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland is the national research and innovation funding agency which was established on the 1st of August 2024, building on the previous work of Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Research Council. Research Ireland is an agency of the 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 (HEA), IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland.

A new flagship initiative, the Investigators Programme, will fund excellent researchers to undertake cutting-edge research, create training and employment opportunities, increase Ireland's capacity and reputation for excellent research, support researchers in leveraging success in European and international funding programmes, retain and attract excellent research talent to Ireland, support collaborative research partnerships, and promote innovation in the Irish research system. The programme will support research and innovation in all disciplines and interdisciplinary projects, and will be open to researchers at a broad range of career stages.

The review process will consist of an initial Expression of Interest (EoI) stage, with the top ranked proposals then being invited to submit a full proposal.

2   Objectives of the Investigators Programme

- To enable excellent researchers to undertake cutting-edge research to push the boundaries of knowledge
- To facilitate training and development across all research disciplines, including for PhD and postdoctoral researchers
- To increase Ireland's capacity and reputation, and those of its research-performing institutions, for excellent research across all disciplines
- To support Ireland-based researchers, at all career stages, to leverage success in European and international funding programmes, including the European Research Council
- To retain and attract excellent research talent to Ireland
- To support partnerships that further enhance the opportunities for researchers to conduct collaborative research
- To support innovation in the Irish research system, and promote impact across the social, cultural, economic and environmental domains

As part of Research Ireland's goals to support a cohesive, collaborative and innovative research ecosystem, the Investigators call will involve the participation of a range of co-funding partners.

Given Research Ireland's commitment to supporting a diversity of applicants and grant recipients, we welcome applications from those individuals identifying as a member of a Historically Underserved

Community[1]. In this regard, we would encourage applicants to consult with Research Ireland's External EDI Strategy.

3   Programme Details

3.1   Programme Remit

Research Ireland funds research and innovation which pushes the boundaries of human knowledge and which contributes to economic, social, cultural and environmental development and sustainability in the State. This programme supports all disciplines across the full spectrum of endeavour—from curiosity-driven research that generates new knowledge, to applied research that seeks to develop solutions and innovations, including in the social and cultural domains.

The 2025 Investigator Programme will consider proposals from established and emerging, independent researchers in any discipline seeking to carry out excellent research that delivers on the objectives of the programme.

3.2   Programme Format and Review

The review process will involve two stages:

- **Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EoI)**
- **Stage 2: Full Proposal**

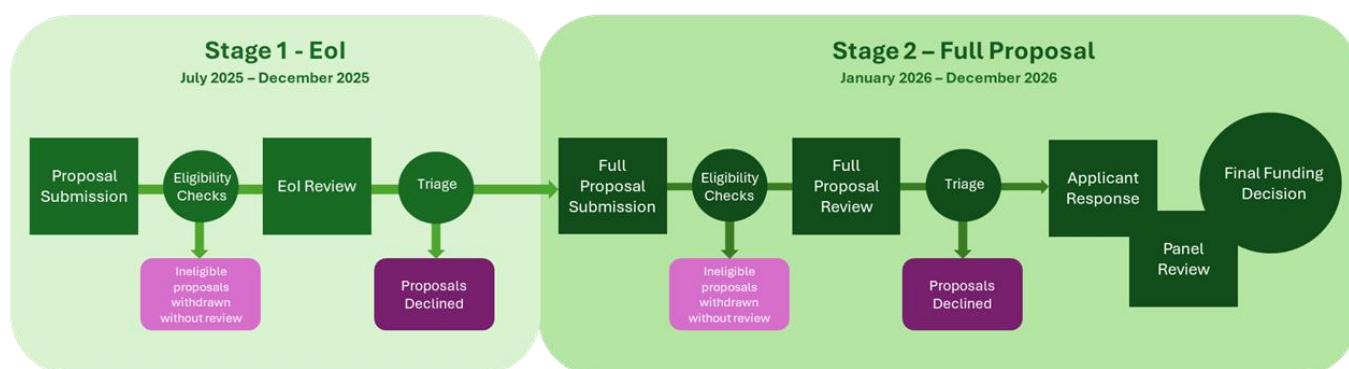A schematic of the review process and timelines is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Research Ireland Investigator Programme Review Process and Indicative Timeline.

Applications at both stages will be reviewed by a **'virtual panel'** comprised of international reviewers.

At Stage 1 (EoI) each member of the virtual panel will receive up to twenty proposals to review. At Stage 2 (Full Proposal) each member of the virtual panel will receive up to six proposals to review. A careful selection process ensures the best-possible alignment of panel members with each proposal under review. **Nonetheless, the virtual panels are generalist in nature and reviewers will be experts**

---

[1] Historically Underserved Community encompasses a broad and diverse range of historically marginalised groups including but not limited to the nine protected grounds established in the Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 and socioeconomic status.

only in the broad subject area of the proposals which have been assigned to them. Please consider this when writing your proposal.

Stage 1 requires a short Expression of Interest application, the details of which are provided in the Research Ireland Investigators Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EoI) Application Handbook. The application consists of a Research Idea (max. 1 page) and a Research Plan (max. 3 pages). Applicants will have to choose whether they will be reviewed as part of an Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) panel. A virtual panel of international peer reviewers will be convened to review the EoI proposals against the following review criteria:

- **Research Idea:** Reviewers will assess clarity, importance/significance, and originality/novelty of the question(s). They will also consider whether gaps in knowledge are being addressed and if the research area is well understood.
- **Research Plan:** Reviewers will assess the clarity, importance, originality/novelty of the research aims, in addition to clarity, novelty and effectiveness of the research design and the quality, novelty and appropriateness of research methods/approach. Reviewers will also consider whether the aims are feasible based on the proposed objectives and approach.

The top ranked proposals from Stage 1 will be invited to Stage 2 to submit a full proposal.

At Stage 2, a full proposal will be required. This will comprise a narrative CV(s), Research Programme, an Impact Statement, a full Budget (and justification statements), Collaborator(s) and Institutional support letters, and additional supporting documentation that will be detailed in full in the ***Research Ireland Investigators Stage 2 – Full Proposal Application Handbook***. This handbook will be made available at a later date.

At Stage 2, each proposal will receive three written evaluations and ratings under the following three review criteria:

- **Applicant key achievements and research track record:** Reviewers will assess the quality, significance and relevance of the applicant's key achievements and research track record, as demonstrated in their narrative CV, commensurate with their career stage and research discipline, and taking any periods of leave into account.
- **Research Programme:** Reviewers will assess the quality, significance and novelty of the research programme. Reviewers will consider points such as: novelty, importance, timeliness of the intended research; communication and description of the research; comprehension of the current state of the art; clearly delineated roles of the team, collaborators and students; suitability and achievability of the programme based on the experience of the applicant(s) and team; appropriate use of the requested budget, the sex and gender dimension in research; data management etc.
- **Potential Impact:** Reviewers will review an Impact Statement and from this assess the applicant's ability to demonstrate the potential impact and value to Ireland. Reviewers will consider points such as: Appreciation of how research may be developed and exploited; realistic and convincing evaluation of the benefits that will result from a successful project; potential to leverage success in European and International funding programmes; areas and fields where impacts are likely to be made.

At Stage 2, an applicant may apply as an Emerging Investigator where they meet the eligibility described in **Section 3.5**. In this scenario, the weighting of scores will be adjusted to increase the emphasis on the Research Programme over the Applicant's track record (Table 1). More detail on the

Stage 2 review process will be provided in the *Research Ireland Investigators Stage 2 – Full Proposal Application Handbook.*

Table 1: Score Weighting for Stage 1 and Stage 2

Stage	Category	Weighting	Emerging Investigator Weighting
Stage 1 (EoI)	Research Idea	50%	NA
	Research Plan	50%	NA
Stage 2 (Full Proposal)	Applicant	30%	10%
	Research Programme	55%	75%
	Potential Impact	15%	15%

Research Ireland reserves the right to modify the review process. Applicants will be notified of any relevant modification to the review procedure.

3.3 Funding

Applicants can request up to a maximum of **€625,000 in total direct costs**. The grant term will be fixed at **48 months**. The programme is intended to support a spectrum of excellent research projects across the range of disciplines and provide excellent training and development opportunities for postgraduate and postdoctoral team members. The programme aims to support at least two PhD students on each grant awarded.

3.4 Co-Funding Partnerships

Further details of the preferred themes of the Investigator Programme co-funding partners will be provided in the *Research Ireland Investigators Stage 2 – Full Proposal Application Handbook*. Should a co-funding partner require a specific application process, this will only be required at Stage 2, and not at Stage 1.

3.5 Definition of Lead Applicant, Co-Applicant, and Collaborator

At Stage 1 (EoI), details of the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant (if applicable) will be required in the Application form.

The **Lead Applicant** will be responsible for the overall direction of the research programme and the submission of reports to Research Ireland. The Lead Applicant has primary responsibility and accountability for carrying out the research within the funding limits awarded and in accordance with

Research Ireland General Terms and Conditions.[2] The Lead Applicant will serve as the primary point of contact for Research Ireland during the review process and, if successful, during the course of the grant.

The **Co-Applicant, where applicable,** has a well-defined, critical and continuing role in the grant. For the purposes of **eligibility**, **reviewing** and **monitoring**, a Co-Applicant applying for funding under the Research Ireland Investigators Programme will receive equal evaluation to the Lead Applicant and will hold equal accountability for the delivery of the proposed research objectives. **In this documentation, the terms and conditions for 'Lead Applicant' and 'Co-Applicant' are interchangeable.** The inclusion of a Co-Applicant is not mandatory and no more than one Co-Applicant per application is permitted.

A Co-Applicant may be located at a different Eligible Research Body to the Lead Applicant. However, the grant will be administered through the Research Body of the Lead Applicant only.

Co-Applicants are not permitted on an application where the Lead Applicant is planning to be evaluated as an Emerging Investigator (see below).

Emerging Investigators – for Stage 2 application ONLY

Applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal (Stage 2) for review, can choose to be evaluated as an Emerging Investigator if, in addition to meeting all eligibility criteria, they:

- Have not previously held a SFI, IRC, or Research Ireland research award of over €500,000 in direct costs;
- Have had a period of eligible leave from research (e.g., following time spent in industry, statutory maternity leave, statutory adoptive leave, statutory parental leave, statutory paternity leave, carer's leave, long-term medical illness, conscription).

Although an applicant may meet the criteria of an Emerging Investigator, **there is no obligation to apply under this category.**

Full details of applying as an Emerging Investigator will be available in the *Research Ireland Investigators Stage 2 – Full Proposal Application Handbook*.

Collaborators

Details on collaborators will **not** be required at Stage 1 (EoI). Only applicants invited to submit a full proposal for review (Stage 2) will be required to detail any formal collaborations associated with the application.

- An **Academic Collaborator** is an individual working in an academic institution who is committed to providing a valuable intellectual and/or technical contribution to the proposed research. As appropriate, Academic Collaborator(s) based in a Research Ireland Eligible Research Body within the Republic of Ireland may receive funding through the grant, but the

---

[2] https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/grant-terms-and-conditions/

funding allocated should reflect the supporting role that such Collaborator(s) are expected to play in the research programme. Academic Collaborators may not be the primary supervisor/mentor of postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers or research staff enrolled on the grant, but may be a short-term 'local supervisor' (no longer than 12 months total; unless there are exceptional circumstances or requirements that must be clearly detailed in the research plan) if these team members conduct a portion of their research activities in a different institution to the Lead or Co-Applicant. The plan to use a local supervisor, including proposed time commitment, should be clearly indicated in the research programme. Academic Collaborators intending to act as a local supervisor to team members should be able to demonstrate a competitive track record of achievements and must have previously held a supervisory role in research programmes.

- Clinicians without secondary appointments at a Research Ireland Eligible Research Body, should be added as **Academic Collaborator**, with their relevant hospital affiliation.

- **Industry Collaborators** are permitted but please consider where other Research Ireland programmes are more suitable for industry collaboration, co-funding or placement. All industry collaborations must comply with Research Ireland's grant conditions on State aid (See section 5.1), and Applicants may be required to demonstrate compliance in advance of funding being granted.

- Collaborators may also be from societal partners such cultural institutions, civil society organisations, policymakers, NGOs and other organisations (e.g. trade bodies), as appropriate to the research topic. These collaborators should be added on SESAME as **Industry Collaborator.** Funding may be provided to support the engagement of societal partners in the research; however, this must be fully justified in the budget justification and in proportion to the role they play; to be documented in the research programme and relevant letters of support.

3.6   Eligibility Criteria of Applicant and Co-Applicant

3.6.1 Employment Status

The Research Ireland Investigators Programme is open to independent investigators only. Applicants will be expected to hold (or be guaranteed) a minimum 50% Full Time Equivalent contract with the host research body. Please see the Who Can Apply Policy for more information. If the applicant holds any type of joint or secondary appointment, this must be declared at Stage 2.

Because they are not considered to be independent investigators at the time of application **Postdoctoral Researchers are not eligible to apply to the Investigators Programme** call even if their host research body agrees that an academic staff member position will be provided to the applicant in the event of the application being funded. Please note that the *Research Ireland Pathway* programme is open to applications from Postdoctoral Researchers and will launch later this year.

For applicants, the following employment status criteria applies:

The Lead Applicant and any Co-Applicant must be a member of academic staff in a Research Ireland Eligible Research Body, and hold either a permanent contract or a contract that covers the period of the grant,

or

An independent contract researcher with a signed contract in place on the date of proposal submission to Research Ireland. This contract must cover the period of the grant, and the contract researcher must be recognised by the Research Body as an independent investigator and have an independent office and (if applicable) research space at the host Research Body for which the researcher will be fully responsible for *at least* the duration of the grant,

or

An individual who will be recognised by the Research Body upon receipt of the grant as a member of academic staff or as an independent contract researcher as defined above. The applicant does not necessarily need to be employed by the Research Body at the time of proposal submission but must be recognised by the Research Body as an independent investigator and have an independent office and (if applicable) research space at the host Research Body for which the researcher will be fully responsible for *at least* the duration of the grant.

Research Body Endorsement:

At **Stage 1** the Research Office endorsement of the application will act as confirmation that an applicant meets all of the above eligibility criteria.

In advance of proposal submission, eligibility queries regarding employment status may be directed to Research Ireland at investigators@researchireland.ie; however, full eligibility checks are not conducted before proposal submission. Research Ireland reserves the right to make an application ineligible where the employment status of an Applicant/Co-Applicant is unclear or unsatisfactory, or where commitment levels are deemed to be insufficient.

3.6.2 PhD Duration

The Lead Applicant and any Co-Applicant must have held a PhD or equivalent[3] qualification for at least **three years** at proposal submission.

- The official date of a PhD is defined as the year that the degree was conferred (i.e., the year printed on the official PhD certificate). The number of years is determined by calendar year. Only individuals with a PhD certificate date from 2022 or earlier are eligible to apply.
- Details on Research Ireland's PhD equivalence policy can be found on the Research Ireland website.

---

[3] https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/eligibility-related-information/

3.6.3 Other Research Ireland Grants

Applicants holding active Research Ireland grants, or who are under review in other Research Ireland calls, should refer to the information below regarding eligibility for the Research Ireland Investigators Programme:

Researchers funded through an existing grant from the Research Ireland programmes listed below may apply to this call at any stage of their grant and once all other eligibility criteria are met:

- Research Ireland Research Centres
- Research Ireland US-Ireland R&D Partnership
- Research Ireland HERA awards
- Research Ireland CHIST-ERA awards
- Royal Society – Research Ireland University Research Fellowship
- Research Ireland Strategic Partnerships Programme
- EPSRC-Research Ireland Joint Funding of Research
- Research Ireland Discover Funding Programme
- Research Ireland ERC Support Programme
- Joint Programming Initiatives and European Research Area Networks
- Research Ireland Research Infrastructure Programme
- NSF I-Corps@ Research Ireland
- Research Ireland Centres for Research Training Programme
- Research Ireland Frontiers for Partnership Awards
- Research Ireland National Challenge Fund (NCF)
- Research Ireland New Foundations awards
- Research Ireland-WIN Research Alliance Award
- Research Ireland Innovate for Ireland
- Research Ireland Ulysses Scheme

Researchers currently funded by Research Ireland as either a Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant under certain programmes may **only** apply to this call if the time to the 'close date' of their active award is **less than 12 months**, at time of EoI submission. These programmes include, but are not limited to:

- Research Ireland Investigators Programme Awards (IvP/IA)
- Research Ireland COALESCE awards
- Starting Investigator Research Grant (SIRG)
- Research Ireland Career Development Award (CDA)
- President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Award (FRL)
- Research Ireland Research Professorship Programme
- Research Ireland Pathway Programme
- Research Ireland Digital Humanities Research Grants
- Research Ireland Frontiers for the Future Projects or Awards
- Research Ireland Laureate Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant

Researchers currently under review as Lead Applicant under the **Research Ireland Research Professorship Programme** or the **Research Ireland Global Talent Ireland Programme** are **not**

permitted to apply to the Investigators call. Please contact investigators@researchireland.ie if you have a query regarding this.

Applicants may only be under review as an applicant (Lead or Co-Applicant) on one proposal to the Research Ireland Investigators programme.

Applicants on a Research Ireland Reserve List or under review:
For applicants currently on a reserve list (Frontiers for the Future Programme (FFP) 2024 Projects stream, FFP Awards Stream, 2025 COALESCE Scheme), or under review (FFP Awards Stream):

- Subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria, **applicants currently on an FFP or 2025 COALESCE Scheme reserve list** are eligible to apply to the Investigators call. **Applications may be re-submissions or distinct submissions from the application currently on the reserve list.** Should an existing application on one of these reserve lists be funded, the Investigators application will be withdrawn from review.
- **Applicants under review in the FFP Awards stream** are eligible to apply to this Investigators Programme call, subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria. Should an Awards stream application under review be funded, the Investigators application will be withdrawn from review, even if a distinct submission.
- **If an applicant submits an Investigators application, they cannot subsequently apply for the FFP Awards stream while their Investigators application is under review.** However, should the applicant be declined or withdrawn (at any stage) from the Investigators competition, they may then apply to FFP Awards.

If you are under review or are a Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant currently funded under any SFI/IRC/Research Ireland programme call that is not listed above, please contact investigators@researchireland.ie if you have a query regarding your eligibility to apply.

> **At Stage 2 (Full Proposal), all Lead Applicants and Co-Applicants managing other/multiple grants must provide justification and rationale for how they would manage two or more major grants under the heading: "Management of More Than One Major Grant" as part of the information provided concerning research overlap.**
>
> Where Research Ireland finds that an applicant holds a live grant, or has a pending application, that demonstrates significant overlap with their application to this Investigators Programme call, the Investigators application will not be reviewed. Details on potential funding overlap may be sought from applicants as part of eligibility checks.
>
> Where applicants have indicated that a pending application has overlap with their Investigators Programme call application, they are required to contact investigators@researchireland.ie should this pending application be awarded funding.

Research Ireland has stringent requirements for the reporting[4] by awardees on the grants that it makes. Failure to satisfactorily complete Research Ireland's reporting requirements on a current

---

[4] https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/grant-terms-and-conditions/

Research Ireland or historic SFI/IRC-funded grant may result in an applicant being deemed ineligible for the Research Ireland Investigators Programme.

3.7   Eligibility of Research Body

The Research Body of the Lead Applicant is the body responsible for the overall financial and administrative co-ordination of research programmes supported by funding from Research Ireland. Where a grant awarded under this programme has both a Lead and Co-Applicant, the grant will be administered by the host Research Body of the Lead Applicant. A list of Eligible Research Bodies is available on the Research Ireland website.[5]

4   Application Procedure

Although the call document outlines the programme format and provides an overview of review processes and eligibility requirements, a detailed application procedure and review process for Stage 1 (EOI) is provided in the *Research Ireland Investigators Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EoI) Application Handbook*.

The *Research Ireland Investigators Stage – 2 Full Proposal Application Handbook* will be provided to applicants invited to full proposal, when Stage 2 launches in early 2026.

5   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 relevant national policies when preparing their application to any Research Ireland programme call. All members involved in the funded programme of 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 polices 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

---

[5] https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies/

5.1 State Aid and Research Ireland Grant Funding

As per Research Ireland's Grant Conditions (inclusive of Research Ireland's General Terms and Conditions,[6] Letters of Offer and Research Ireland policy documents[7]), 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).[8]

Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a grant awarded under the Investigators 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'[9] or industry party, recipients of grant funding under the Research Ireland Investigators 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").[10]

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.[11] 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 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.[12] Applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice in advance of applying to Research Ireland for funding where further clarification is sought.

5.2 Research Ireland's External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy 2023-2028

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

---

[6] https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/grant-terms-and-conditions/
[7] https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/state-aid/
[8] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719(05)&from=EN
[9] 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.
[10] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2022.414.01.0001.01.ENG
[11] https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/state-aid/
[12] https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/state-aid/

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 2023-2028,[13] increasing the number of women and other members of Historically Underserved Communities[14] in Applicant Teams are key objectives. As such, women and members of Historically Underserved Communities are strongly encouraged to apply to this programme. Further details on application submission and success rates by gender (binary) can be found for historic programmes on the Research Ireland website.[15]

Gender data fields on Research Ireland's Grants and Awards Management System, SESAME, have been expanded to encompass more inclusive gender identifiers. These expanded gender identifier fields support those objectives described in Research Ireland's External EDI Strategy, which 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 outputs are relevant to society. Gender 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.

Furthermore, as part of its EDI Strategy, Research Ireland also aims to increase awareness of the sex and gender dimension in research, by requesting that researchers demonstrate that they have considered any potential biological sex and/or socio-cultural gender aspects in their proposed research activities.

5.3   Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA) Principles

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.[17] 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 2022-2030[18] and a signatory of Plan S,[19] Research Ireland will also consider a commitment to making data

---

[13] https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/
[14] For the purposes of this Strategy, Historically Underserved Community encompasses a broad and diverse range of historically marginalised groups including but not limited to the nine protected grounds established in the Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 and socioeconomic status.
[15] https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/
[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/

and other types of research open and accessible. To complement these activities and further reinforce Research Ireland's commitment to the overarching objectives of the Narrative CV, Research Ireland is a signatory to the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment[20] 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*.

5.4 Data Management Plan and Sex and Gender Section Guidance

At Stage 2 (Full Proposal) a Data Management Plan and Sex and Gender statement will be required

- **Data Management Plan**
    - Good data governance and stewardship are key components of good research practice. Applicants to the Investigators Programme are required to provide a short **high-level summary** Data Management Plan (DMP) as part of their full proposal application. In preparing this plan, consideration should be given to Research Ireland's Guidance on Data Management Plans.[22] A DMP is a living document which details the procedures for careful handling of data and other research outputs. A DMP follows the data through the lifecycle of the programme of research,[23] from collection to analysis and interpretation, sharing and dissemination, and long-term storage.

      DMPs will be evaluated by reviewers to ensure that they contain sufficient information on practices and standards as guided below; this assessment will be incorporated into the overall scoring criteria for the Research Programme section of the application. Although practices and standards vary across disciplines, Research Ireland recommends the use of Science Europe DMP templates and guidelines.[24]

      Each DMP should include a **high-level summary** of the following, as appropriate to the research programme[25]:
      1. Data description and collection or re-use of existing data

---

[20] https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022_07_19_rra_agreement_final.pdf
[21] https://coara.eu/
[22] Policies - Research Ireland
[23] Research Ireland-funded research programmes, as described in call documents, can range from a single research project to a collection of research projects encompassed in several work packages. The data management plan should reflect the relevant standards for individual research projects while describing a cohesive approach to managing data across the overall programme of research as appropriate.
[24] https://www.scienceeurope.org/our-priorities/research-data/research-data-management/
[25] Based primarily on guidance provided by Science Europe: https://www.scienceeurope.org/our-resources/practical-guide-to-the-international-alignment-of-research-data-management/ and supplemented by guidance from the European Research Council of the European Commission: https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_info_document-Open_Research_Data_and_Data_Management_Plans.pdf

2. Documentation and data quality
3. Storage and backup during the research process
4. Legal and ethical requirements, codes of conduct
5. Data sharing and long-term preservation
6. Data management responsibilities and resources including institutional or project-specific resources dedicated to managing data and ensuring adherence with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable).

- **Sex and Gender Dimension in Research Statement**
In accordance with the Research Ireland External Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy 2023-2028,[26] all Applicants must complete a statement articulating the consideration of biological sex and/or social gender variables in their planned research. Please consult the Guidance for Applicants on Ethical and Scientific Issues[27] for resources on how to address the sex and/or gender dimension of research in your grant. This will be required at Stage 2 (Full Proposal).

  Do **not** include information on how you have addressed gender equality, diversity and inclusion in your research team/environment; this should be addressed in the narrative CV.

  To complete this section, please consider the following questions:

1. Is sex as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?
2. 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 to either or both of these questions, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research programme. If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research.

6   Further Information

All information related to the Research Ireland Investigators programme can be found on the website:

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

For all additional queries please contact: investigators@researchireland.ie

---

[26] http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/
[27] https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/ethical-and-scientific-issues/