



## Research Ireland - Public Service Fellowship Call 2026

### Call for Submission of Proposals

#### KEY DATES

• Call Launch	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
• Proposal submission	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
• Notification to applicants	July 2026

#### HOST ORGANISATIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP CALL 2026

- Central Statistics Office
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Culture, Communications and Sport
- Department of Children, Disability and Equality
- Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
- Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
- Department of Education and Youth
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- Department of Health
- Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
- Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Food Safety Authority of Ireland
- Forensic Science Ireland
- Health Service Executive
- Houses of the Oireachtas, Parliamentary Research Service
- Irish Prison Service
- National Cyber Security Centre
- National Council for Special Education
- National Disability Authority
- National Poisons Information Centre
- National Standards Authority of Ireland
- Office of Public Works
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- State Laboratory
- The Electoral Commission

*Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme***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) 2003 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 application 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.

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## Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme

### 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.

The **Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship** is an initiative which offers researchers based in Ireland a unique opportunity to be temporarily seconded to Government Departments and Agencies, to work on specific projects where they can add value resulting in mutually beneficial outcomes.

The work of the Public Sector is critical to the successful economic and social wellbeing of Irish Society, through its delivery of public services as well as developing and implementing policy. Research has an important role to play in helping Government address significant national and global challenges including climate change, health and wellbeing, food security and digital transformation. These challenges span Government departments, academic disciplines and national boundaries. In line with Impact 2030<sup>1</sup>, Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy, Research Ireland believes there is a significant opportunity to promote innovation and advance evidence-based approaches within the Public Sector through meaningful engagement with the academic research community in Ireland. Furthermore, the 2022 *Creating our Future* Expert Committee report<sup>2</sup> highlights that research-based evidence should be embedded in policy development at a local, regional, and national level in Ireland, and its recommendations include 4.2.3 *Create the architecture to support the research-policy interface*. Consequently, the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship 2026 Call is offering researchers a unique opportunity to be temporarily seconded to Government Departments and Agencies and the Parliamentary Research Service (collectively referred to hereafter as Host Organisations).

Research Ireland and the Host Organisations are collaborating on the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme in order to support researchers based at eligible Irish Research Bodies to apply their skills to address public sector matters. Under this collaboration, a researcher will undertake a temporary secondment at the office of the Host Organisation for a duration of up to 1-year full time or up to 2 years part-time. The 2026 Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship call is partnering with 26 Government Departments and Agencies, with 71 projects available for application.

#### 1.1 The specific objectives of the programme are to:

- Enhance collaboration of the research community with Government bodies;
- Foster innovation within the Public Sector by supporting research, knowledge exchange and the development and implementation of data-driven and evidence-based approaches;
- Provide the Public Sector with deep technical knowledge in specific areas to enhance service delivery and inform policymaking;
- Deliver the objectives of the Host Organisations as described in the project outlines;

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<sup>1</sup> [Impact 2030](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Creating our Future Expert Committee Report](#)

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- Enhance the breadth of researcher understanding of the Public Sector.

### 1.2 Research Project Topics for 2026 Call

Project outlines have been prepared by Host Organisations and the topics for the 2026 Public Service Fellowship call include environment and bioeconomy, culture, arts and creative economy, cybersecurity and online safety, data, statistics and digital evidence, education, inclusion and disability, energy, infrastructure, skills and workforce planning, food safety, health policy and regulation, support services, population health, and standards.

The expertise of researchers, both at early and at established career stages, and from both AHSS and STEM disciplines, are required and, in all cases, a collaborative approach to project development is expected.

## 2. PROGRAMME DETAILS

### 2.1 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 Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship is open to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria.

### 2.2 Programme Structure

Host Organisations have provided project outlines for applicants to consider. These comprise the background and scope of the project as well as the required researcher expertise and expected project outputs. Proposed timelines associated with each project are also provided. All projects are available for viewing on the call webpage<sup>3</sup>. Queries relating to specific projects should be directed to [psfellowship@researchireland.ie](mailto:psfellowship@researchireland.ie).

The co-funding partners for the 2026 Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship call are the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Health Service Executive, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, and The Electoral Commission. Additional awards may also be co-funded, subject to confirmation at award stage.

Applicants are permitted to apply to work on one project and only one application to the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship 2026 call is permitted per applicant.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/public-service-fellowship/>

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**It is expected that appointed Fellows will actively participate during the project in co-creation of solutions and collaboration with their respective Host Organisations.**

During the secondment, Host Organisations will provide successful candidates with access to the necessary resources (e.g. IT, desk) to undertake their project work and will also provide appropriate management, mentorship and on-the-job training. In addition to the specific project, researchers may have the opportunity to participate in general activities of the Host Organisation, where relevant and appropriate.

Prior to commencement of a secondment, partnering Government entities must employ a Secondment Agreement with the relevant Research Bodies outlining the Terms and Conditions of the Fellowship including but not limited to confidentiality, data protection, intellectual property and matters particular to the Host Organisation (e.g. Business Code of Conduct, Confidentiality Agreement, Garda Vetting etc). **Please note that the Research Ireland Public Service Fellow will remain an employee of the Research Body for the duration of the fellowship.**

### 2.3 Definitions

Fellowships can be awarded to faculty and postdoctoral researchers based in an eligible academic or research institution.

<b>Faculty Researcher:</b>	A researcher who holds a PhD at the time of application and who is currently employed as a permanent or temporary academic staff member of an eligible Irish Research Body (e.g. lecturers, associate and full professors).
<b>Postdoctoral Researcher:</b>	A researcher who holds a PhD at the time of application and who holds a postdoctoral research contract in an eligible Irish Research Body.
<b>Host Organisation:</b>	A government department or agency of the State that has agreed to host a researcher within their organisation. A full list of Host Organisations and the projects proposed is provided on the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship webpage. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Eligible Research Body:</b>	The Research Body is the body responsible for the overall financial and administrative co-ordination of research programmes supported by research grants from Research Ireland. Researchers must be employed by the Research Body for the duration of the award. A list of Eligible Research Bodies is available on the Research Ireland website. The Research Body will administer the funds of successful Fellowships and will remain as the employer for the duration of the secondment. <sup>5</sup>

### 2.4 Eligibility Criteria of the Applicant

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/public-service-fellowship/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/eligible-research-bodies/>

## *Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme*

All applicants to the Public Service Fellowship 2026 call must meet the following eligibility criteria:

**(i) PhD Qualification:**

All applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent. Please consult the Research Ireland Policy on PhD Equivalence<sup>6</sup> for further information. Note that the PhD must have been conferred at the time of application. The official date is defined as the day, month and year that the degree was conferred, i.e. the month and year printed on the official PhD certificate. Verification of this official date by the awarding research body must be available upon request.

**(ii) Employment Status:**

All applicants must be:

- A permanent member of the academic staff (“Faculty Researcher”) of an Eligible Research Body (with a contract at the time of application), **or**
- A current contract postdoctoral researcher (“Postdoctoral Researcher”) based in an Eligible Research Body at the submission deadline.

The researcher must remain an employee of the Research Body at all times, including during the secondment.

**(iii) Individuals Under Review:**

Applicants who are currently under review for other Research Ireland Programmes are **not** eligible to apply to the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship.

**(iv) Individuals Holding Existing Fellowship Awards:**

- Providing all other eligibility criteria are met, individuals holding Research Ireland Fellowship or Research Ireland Enterprise Fellowship grants are only eligible to apply to the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship in the last six months of their current fellowship and on condition that there is no resulting overlap in Grant term.
- Providing all other eligibility criteria are met, current holders of other longer term individual Fellowships (e.g. Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship, MSCA Fellowships, Royal Society-Research Ireland University Research Fellowship) are eligible to apply in the last 6 months of their award. However, exceptions may apply in certain circumstances- this will depend on (i) the T&Cs of their individual Fellowship; (ii) the stage of the Fellowship and (iii) the duration of the proposed secondment. Applicants will need to provide a strong justification for the secondment, addressing each of the above factors. Please contact [psfellowship@researchireland.ie](mailto:psfellowship@researchireland.ie) in advance of application.

**(v) Individuals that have previously held a Public Service Fellowship Award:**

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/eligibility-related-information/PHD-equivalence-policy\\_September\\_2018.pdf](https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/eligibility-related-information/PHD-equivalence-policy_September_2018.pdf)

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- Providing all other eligibility criteria are met, individuals that have previously held a Public Service Fellowship award may apply to the current call but cannot apply for a project at the same Host Organisation they were previously seconded to. Please contact [psfellowship@researchireland.ie](mailto:psfellowship@researchireland.ie) in advance of application.

**Research Body endorsement certifies that the applicant meets the above criteria. Where an applicant fails to meet the eligibility criteria outlined above, the application will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted for review.**

### 2.5 Duration and Structure of the Fellowship

The proposed duration of secondment is indicated for each individual project (see Host Organisation Project Outline as provided on the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship webpage.<sup>7</sup> The *in-situ* secondment duration for a Fellowship may range between 6 and 24 months. For full-time Fellowships, the award duration would thus be between 6 and 12 months, and for part-time, between 12 and 24 months, where a time commitment of approximately 50% is expected.

Flexible and remote working arrangements are outlined in each project outline description (see under Working Arrangements).

**Start Date.** Successful applicants will be expected to start the Fellowship within 6 months following notification of funding from Research Ireland. In the case of maternity leave<sup>8</sup> or other justified circumstances, the start date of the Fellowship may be further delayed, subject to prior approval from Research Ireland and the Host Organisation.

### 2.6 Funding

The maximum Research Ireland contribution to a Fellowship award is **€130,000** direct costs.

The applicant should outline the details of all travel and accommodation expenses and open access costs directly related to Fellowship activities and describe the rationale for these costs in the budget justification section of their application. Should any taxation issue related to these costs arise, it is the responsibility of the grant recipient and the Research Body to address it.

#### (i) Eligible Direct Costs:

- **Teaching Buyout** may be requested for **Faculty Researchers** when undertaking a secondment. Teaching buyout costs should be calculated on the basis of hiring a temporary lecturer (e.g. at point 1 on the Assistant Lecturer, or equivalent, institutional salary scale) regardless of the seniority of the applicant. Requests must be pro-rata and proportional to the time commitment.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/public-service-fellowship/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/maternity-paternity-adoptive/>

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- **A Salary Contribution** for the duration of the secondment may be requested by **Postdoctoral Researchers** (whether fixed-term or on a contract of indefinite duration). Request must align with appropriate point on the [Research Ireland Team Member Salary Scales](#).<sup>9</sup> Please note:
  - The current salary of the applicant must be indicated in the Letter of Support from the Research Body. Based on this information, successful applicants will be awarded a contribution to salary on the subsequent point on the Research Ireland salary scale.
  - Salary requests must be pro-rata and proportional to the time commitment.
- **Mobility Allowance** (max. €10,000). A contribution towards travel and accommodation costs directly related to the progress of the Fellowship may be requested to support:
  - Travel to and from the Public Service Host Organisation throughout the secondment. This does not include short distance daily commuting but may include relocation costs or long-distance travel within Ireland on a regular basis where required and justified. By default, travel is calculated as the cheapest available public transport option.
  - Accommodation costs related to relocation of the Researcher, where relevant and justified.
- **Open Access Costs** - applicants may request open access publishing costs; these costs should be included under the 'Materials' cost heading in the SESAME budget table and must be justified in the budget justification. No other materials or consumables costs will be supported by Research Ireland. All other materials costs should be supported by the Host Organisation.

### (ii) **Eligible Indirect Costs:**

In addition to the direct costs, Research Ireland also makes an indirect or overhead contribution to the Research Body, which is reflected as a percentage of the direct costs. Overheads are payable as a contribution to the Research Body for the indirect costs of hosting or facilitating Research Ireland-funded research programmes and are intended to enable the Research Body to develop internationally competitive research infrastructure and support services. All grants are made directly to the Applicant's Research Body<sup>10</sup>.

## 3. REVIEW PROCEDURE

Following submission, all proposals are checked for compliance with; non-technical mandatory criteria (e.g. all sections complete, page numbers not exceeded, all Letters of Support included); technical mandatory criteria (e.g. employment/qualification status, all other relevant eligibility criteria); and any other requirements outlined in the call document. Proposals identified as ineligible at this stage will be declined without review.

Proposals will then be shortlisted by relevant Host Organisations and successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview. Applicants will be notified about the outcome of the shortlisting stage within 2-3 weeks of the application deadline, with interviews to take place in May and June 2026.

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/RESEARCH-IRELAND-Team-member-salary-scales\\_Jan-2024-to-Jun-2026.pdf](https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/RESEARCH-IRELAND-Team-member-salary-scales_Jan-2024-to-Jun-2026.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/> <https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Research-Ireland-Grant-Budget-Policy-Interim.pdf>

## Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme

Research Ireland will convene an interview panel which will include representatives of the relevant Host Organisation and Research Ireland in addition to an independent external interviewer. Applicants will be interviewed to assess suitability based on the following evaluation criteria:

- *Technical understanding of the proposed project outline;*
- *Specific expertise and experience of the applicant as required to meet the goals of the proposed project;*
- *Motivation of the applicant for participating in the Fellowship;*
- *Suitability of the applicant for the Fellowship taking key competencies into consideration. These may include interpersonal & Communication skills, Teamwork, Initiative & Creativity, Personal Effectiveness and Project Management.*

Interview panel members are required to operate in a confidential, fair, independent and equitable manner. Research Ireland shall not be liable for the release of information concerning proposals to third parties by those experts involved in the review process.

## 4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

### 4.1 Submission Procedure

Detailed instructions for the submission procedure can be found in the SESAME User Guide for Public Service Fellowship available for download on the call webpage.<sup>11</sup> Full proposals must be submitted online through SESAME to Research Ireland by the Research Office of the Applicant's Research Body before the call deadline.

Applicants should follow carefully the instructions below and in the associated SESAME User Guide to complete the various sections of the application.

The following documents must be created outside SESAME and uploaded onto the system as PDF documents:

1. **CV (max. 3 pages).** See CV Template in Appendix A.

2. **Personal Statement (max. 2 pages)**

The Applicant should provide a statement to demonstrate their interest in and suitability for the project. This may include details about relevant research experience and expertise as well as other experience to date that would enable them to carry out the project.

3. **Budget Justification (max. 1 page)**

The Applicant should provide a justification for all costs associated with the application. Please note that costs that are not considered to be fully justified in this section will not be approved for funding.

4. **Letters of Support (max 2 pages)**

Please note that not supplying a mandatory letter of support will deem an application ineligible. Letters of support must not exceed 2 pages in length. The following letters are required:

### **Category A Applicants (Faculty Researchers)**

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/public-service-fellowship/>

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The following letters of support must be provided by Category A Applicants:

- **Research Body Letter of Support.** The Research Body submitting the application must supply a signed letter of support endorsing the suitability of the Researcher's expertise to the proposed project.
- **Statement from a Research Ireland-funded Applicant** (where relevant). If the Applicant is already the holder of an active Research Ireland award, a signed statement must be submitted describing how the Fellowship will not negatively impact on the activities of all active Research Ireland awards in which they are involved, how these awards will be managed for the duration of their Fellowship and what arrangements will be put in place for the supervision of associated team members.

### **Category B Applicants (Postdoctoral Researchers)**

The following letters of support must be provided by Category B Applicants:

- **Research Body Letter of Support.** The Research Body submitting the application must supply a signed letter of support which must include details of the Postdoctoral Researcher's current funding award, details of the funding body and details of the Postdoctoral Researcher's current remuneration level as aligned to the Research Ireland Team Member Budgeting Scale.
- **Research Fellow Salary Justification.** If the salary requested is on the Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow Research Ireland salary scale, an additional formal letter from the Research Body should be supplied describing that the Applicant will be contractually differentiated by the Research Body from the standard cohort of postdoctoral researchers. It is important to note that the inclusion of a support letter will strengthen but not guarantee funding contributions at Research Fellow level. Please refer to the Research Ireland Interim Grant Budget Policy<sup>12</sup> for further details.

Early submission in SESAME is **strongly recommended**. Applicants who wait until shortly before the close of the call to upload their proposal for Research Body review and approval prior to the deadline are at risk of encountering submission issues. The submit button will cease to be active at the indicated deadline.

Once submitted by the Research Body to Research Ireland through SESAME, an application cannot be withdrawn and subsequently modified for resubmission in the same call, regardless of the date of submission.

Please note that the deadlines referred to in this Call Document refer to submission of the finalised application to Research Ireland by the Applicant's Research Office. Research Offices may mandate internal submission deadlines in order to ensure that they have sufficient time to review applications and submit them to Research Ireland.

Applications that are incomplete in content, or exceed the page limit specifications, will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted for review.

### **4.2 Research Body Approval and Application Submission**

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Research-Ireland-Grant-Budget-Policy-Interim.pdf>

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It should be noted that Research Body submission of an application represents their approval of an application and agreement to Research Ireland General Terms and Conditions. Submission must only be made by an authorised Research Body representative. In particular, the Research Body is approving:

- *The eligibility of the applicant(s);*
- *That the applicants are, or will be upon receipt of the grant, recognised as employees of the Research Body for the duration of the grant;*
- *That the requested budget including salaries/stipends, travel, and open access costs are in line with accepted institutional guidelines;*
- *The availability of infrastructure within the institution as outlined by the applicant in the research proposal;*
- *That the proposed research programme has not been funded by other sources;*
- *That relevant ethical and regulatory approval has been or will be sought and must be granted prior to the award commencing;*
- *That the relevant licenses will be in place at the time of award;*
- *That the details provided in relation to research funding history i.e., current, pending or expired grants, as detailed in the application, are valid and accurate.*

The submission of an application shall also be construed as consent by the applicants to participate in the review process. Research Ireland reserves the right to return applications without review where they do not meet the eligibility criteria.

### 4.5 Deadline

The deadline for proposal submission is 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 13:00 Dublin Local Time.

## 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 all relevant national policies when preparing their application to any Research Ireland programme call. All team 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 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

## Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme

### 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<sup>13</sup>, Letters of Offer and Research Ireland Policy documents<sup>14</sup>), 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).<sup>15</sup>

Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a grant awarded under the Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme, and agreed to subject to Research Ireland General Terms and Conditions, must be predominantly “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’<sup>16</sup> or industry party, recipients of grant funding under the Research Ireland Public Service 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”).<sup>17</sup>

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.<sup>18</sup> 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) which may 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.<sup>19</sup> 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

<sup>13</sup> [Research Ireland Grant Terms and Conditions - Research Ireland](#)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.researchireland.ie/about/policies/state-aid/>

<sup>15</sup> [Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107\(1\) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2022.414.01.0001.01.ENG](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2022.414.01.0001.01.ENG)

<sup>18</sup> [State Aid – Research Ireland](#)

<sup>19</sup> [State Aid – Research Ireland](#)

## Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme

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,<sup>20</sup> increasing the number of women and members of Historically Underserved Communities<sup>21</sup> 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.

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),<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> 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<sup>24</sup> and a signatory of Plan S,<sup>25</sup> Research Ireland will also consider a commitment to making data 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

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/gender/>

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> <https://sfdora.org/read/>

<sup>23</sup> Contributor level membership

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

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

## Research Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme

a signatory to the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment<sup>26</sup> and is a member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA).<sup>27</sup>

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](mailto:researchpolicy@researchireland.ie).

## 6. AWARD MANAGEMENT

### Progress Reporting Requirements

Research Ireland has stringent requirements for the reporting on awards that it makes. Individuals who hold the primary responsibility for reporting and who fail to comply with reporting requirements, run the risk of having their grant payments suspended. Failure to report can also prevent future applications being considered for funding. Reporting is inclusive of annual reporting (including a statement from the industry partner), completion of the annual stocktake of Research Ireland Research Outputs and the completion of a Researcher Snapshot. A number of meetings/workshops will be scheduled with funded researchers during the course of their fellowship. Further details will be provided post-award. In addition, surveys of both the Host and Researchers in Residence will be conducted to gain feedback and insight and to help inform the development of future calls.

The Research Ireland Grants and Awards Management System, SESAME, is the primary conduit for reporting. In addition to the annual report, awardees are also obliged to keep their SESAME Research Profile updated. The annual stocktake of Research Ireland Research Outputs is drawn directly from the data entered into the Research Profile; this must be updated and completed in January every year. Research Ireland reporting procedures are detailed [here](#), and webinars describing the entry of data into the Research Profile are available on the Research Ireland website.

For Research Ireland to evaluate the success of the Public Service Fellowship Programme, grant holders will be required to complete a final report at the end of their award, and the Host Organisation will also be required to provide a statement. The purpose of these reports will be to assess how the award has delivered on the programmatic objectives. This report will need to be submitted within 3 months of the Fellowship ending.

## 7. QUESTIONS

<sup>26</sup> [https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022\\_07\\_19\\_rra\\_agreement\\_final.pdf](https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022_07_19_rra_agreement_final.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> <https://coara.eu/>

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Please read this call document thoroughly. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are available on the Public Service 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. For additional information or clarification, contact: [psfellowship@researchireland.ie](mailto:psfellowship@researchireland.ie)

## 8. APPENDIX A - Applicant CV Template

### Applicant Narrative CV Template (max. 3 pages)

Please note that your full research funding track record and supervisory details should be uploaded via SESAME and should **not** be included in this CV. Please **do not** include any type of journal or publication indicators/metrics or research performance indicators/metrics, e.g., impact factor and h-index<sup>28</sup>, or refer to the total number of papers you have authored or co-authored. If these indicators/metrics are included, they will be redacted prior to expert review. More details on Research Ireland's Narrative CV can be found [here](#).

#### SECTION 1 – Applicant Details

##### NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS

##### CAREER PROFILE (Education and Employment)

*[Please outline your education and employment history, provide details of any periods of leave from research (for example, due to parental leave, long-term absence through illness, or working in industry) or periods of part-time work.]*

##### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN RESEARCH EXCELLENCE & IMPACT

*[Describe the **significance and / or impact** of up to 3 key achievements per category below. For each example, provide an outline of the stated achievement, what **specific** role you played, why you think it is important, any benefit to the field and, where relevant, the resulting impact.]*

###### A. Key Achievements in the Generation of Knowledge

*[Please describe how you have contributed to the generation of new ideas, hypotheses and tools in your field. These can include but should not be limited to, preprints; open data sets; software; publications (e.g., journal articles, monographs, conference proceedings, and book chapters); blogposts; innovation and commercialisation activities (e.g. verified invention disclosures; patents; licences; novel assays and reagents); policy publications; evidence synthesis pieces; performances and performance media, exhibitions, musical compositions, cultural and natural commons. Highlight if these are openly available and include a DOI, if available. Please delete this guidance once completed.]*

###### B. Key Achievements in the Development of Individuals and Collaborations

*[Please describe how you have contributed to the development of individuals and how your role shaped the team's or organisation's direction and strategy. These can include but should not be limited to teaching activities; workshops; project management; supervision; mentoring or line management contributions to the success of a team or advancement of colleagues; involvement in collaborations/networks within your organisation or where you demonstrated strategic leadership in shaping the direction of a team, organisation, company or institution, conference and colloquium/symposium organisation. Please delete this guidance once completed.]*

###### C. Key Achievements Supporting Broader Society & the Economy

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<sup>28</sup> Examples include, but are not limited to, H-index, i10-index, G-index, H(2)-index, HG-index, Q2-index, AR-index, M-quotient, M-index, W-index, Hw-index, E-index, A-index, R-index, W-index, J-index

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*[Please describe your key achievements in supporting society and knowledge exchange, such as engagements with the private sector, the public sector, the non-profit sector clients and the broader public. These can include but should not be limited to positive stakeholder feedback; inclusion of patients in process/procedural development and clinical trials; and other impacts on research policy and/or business practice; evidence of advising policymakers at local; national or international level; and the provision of information through the press; public exhibitions, public performances, social media etc. Please delete this guidance once completed.]*

### **D. Key Achievements Supporting the Research Community**

*[Please describe your key achievements supporting the wider research community and improving research culture including but should not be limited to contributions to research consortia; research community outreach/engagement; editing, reviewing, and refereeing responsibilities; appointments to positions of responsibility such as committee membership, boards, sitting panels, and administrative roles within your department, institution or organisation; organisation of events that have benefited your research community; contributions to raising awareness of research integrity and other good research practices, and improving research culture (equality, diversity, inclusion, mobility of researchers, reward and recognition of researchers' various activities). Please delete this guidance once completed.]*

## **SECTION 2 – Publication Details**

*[Please detail **up to 3** publications you consider to be your most important and explain why. Briefly describe the importance/impact<sup>29</sup> of each publication, your contribution/role in the published work and the publication's relevance to the proposed research, and state whether these are openly available. Please **do not** exceed the maximum number of publications requested. Deviating from these instructions may result in the redaction of these details or make your application ineligible for review.]*

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**\*\*\* Please convert to PDF before uploading to SESAME \*\*\***

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<sup>29</sup> Number of citations is appropriate in this instance.