



## Translational Research Fellowship Scheme 2020

Expression of Interest

Updated: 30.01.20

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Who can apply?

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- Question:** Is the Research Fellowship for post-doctoral researchers?
- Answer:** The Research Fellowship is for untenured post-doctoral researchers, medical doctors, nurses and other researchers who meet the eligibility criteria and are committed to developing a career in cancer research.
- Question:** Can I apply for a Research Fellowship if I have just submitted my soft bound thesis for examination?
- Answer:** To apply you must have graduated with or be certified as having fulfilled all the requirements for the award of a Doctoral Degree, including the submission of the *hardbound* corrected thesis, but have not yet graduated by the Fellowship EOI submission date.
- Question:** In terms of the maximum four years research experience, should I consider the date in which I submitted my doctoral thesis or the date I graduated with my doctoral degree when calculating my research experience.

Answer: The date that you graduated. In certain circumstances where eligible leave has been taken applicants may extend their period of eligibility. Please contact [grants@irishcancer.ie](mailto:grants@irishcancer.ie) for more information

Question: Are non-Irish citizens living in Republic of Ireland eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study or work in the Republic of Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for a Fellowship.

Question: Can I apply to study abroad, such as in the USA?

Answer: No, funding is only available for research being conducted in Ireland.

### Translational Research Project Eligibility

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Question: What does translational biomedical research mean?

Answer: Translational research can be defined as “bench to bedside” or patient-focused research, the aim of translational research is to translate existing knowledge about cancer biology into techniques and tools that will accelerate progress towards patient benefit.

Question: What type of projects are eligible?

Answer: If you are unsure of your project eligibility, please contact [grants@irishcancer.ie](mailto:grants@irishcancer.ie) before 3pm Monday 10 February.

The following are examples of the types of projects that will be considered, please note that the examples are for demonstrative purposes. The list of examples given is not an exhaustive list but will provide guidance on some project options.

**Please note: Basic discovery or knowledge gathering research projects (T<sub>0</sub>) will not be accepted. The project must be translational (T<sub>0.5</sub> – T<sub>1</sub>).**

The following are eligible project examples:

- As preliminary work, the researchers identified a new drug which prevents growth in lung cancer cells (T<sub>0</sub> basic research discovery). As part of the scholarship, the

researchers will now complete further studies to test if the drug will progress positively towards early-stage cancer trials (T<sub>0.5</sub> to T<sub>1</sub>).

- As preliminary work, a protein has been identified as a potential candidate for targeted therapy (T<sub>0</sub> basic research discovery). As part of the scholarship application, the translational research project (T<sub>0.5</sub> to T<sub>1</sub>) will evaluate potential compounds or combinations of compounds that will potentially have therapeutic efficacy. The compound will be tested using an established experimental system.
- Biomarker projects to stratify patients for treatments, i.e. advancing personalised treatment.
- A translational research project associated with a clinical trial. Payment to the host institute will only be released on receipt of all necessary institutional ethical approvals. However, a small provision of allocated monies may be made available at the start of the award to facilitate the ethical approval process where necessary.
- Preclinical studies to determine the optimal combination and sequencing of standard-of-care drugs prior to the commencement of a clinical trial.
- Preclinical or early phase trials to aid in guiding treatment regime/assess response to therapy e.g. test markers, imaging or assays.

Question        I am unsure if my project is eligible?

Answer         If you have any concerns please contact [grants@irishcancer.ie](mailto:grants@irishcancer.ie).

### Institutes

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Question:        Are the Research Fellowships tenable in universities in Northern Ireland?

Answer:         Fellowships are tenable only for individuals who propose to carry out their research at host institutions in the Republic of Ireland. This is because the money raised for the Irish Cancer Society to fund cancer research is raised in the Republic of Ireland.

Question:        Can I only apply for funding at a host institution in the Republic of Ireland?

Answer:         Yes, funding is only available for research to be undertaken at a host institution in the Republic of Ireland

## Mentor

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Question: Can a principal investigator be a mentor to more than one Research Fellowship applicant?

Answer: Yes, a principal investigator can mentor more than one Research Fellowship applicant.

Question: Do you have to be a permanent member of staff in order to be a Mentor?

Answer: A Mentor must hold a post either permanent or on contract basis that covers the duration of the Research Fellowship.

Question: Why do I need to upload my Mentor's CV as part of the application process?

Answer: The research track record and the record of supervision of the Mentor will be assessed as part of the overall Research Fellowship application.

## Funding

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Question: Is there an overall target for the amount of funding granted?

Answer: The maximum funding granted for a Fellowship is €223,000 over three years. Applicants may also apply for a further €7,000 for mobility funding to travel to a national or an international research institution for up to a maximum of six months during the Fellowship.

## Number of Awards

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Question: How many Research Fellowships are available?

Answer: This is funding available for one Fellowship.

## Expression of Interest Application Deadline

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- Question: When do Expression of interest applications need to be in by?
- Answer: The online application form must be submitted by **3pm Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

## Commencement of Research Fellowship

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- Question: When do successful Research Fellowships commence?
- Answer: The Research Fellowships will begin in October 2020.

## Full Application

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- Question: When will applicants find out if they are shortlisted to submit a Full Application?
- Answer: Early April 2020.
- Question: What will the Full Application entail?
- Answer: The Full Application will look for more specific and in-depth research project details such as project background, hypothesis, objectives, methodology and plans plus details on mobility element, research environment and budget.
- Shortlisted applicants will be given all information required.
- Question: What budget details are required for the Full Application?
- Answer: In the Full Application you will need to give details of Salary, Consumables and Dissemination. For salaries, applicants will be referred to the [Irish University Association's salary scale](#). Your number of years' experience will determine your point on the salary scale.
- Question: Do I need to seek my own salary when applying for a Research Fellowship?

Answer: You should apply for at least part of your salary when applying for a Fellowship. If you are receiving part of your salary from another funding source, please specify the time you propose to allocate to each research project.

Question: Is the Mobility Element mandatory?

Answer: The Mobility Element is optional for applicants; however, this funding should be used to strengthen your proposed Training and Development plan. **Please note** that applicants may change the details of the mobility element during their Research Fellowship and for this reason applicants must reapply for this funding at least three months in advance of the period of travel.

Question: Can I use the Mobility Element funding to visit research institutions within the Republic of Ireland.

Answer: The Mobility Element funding may be used to visit research institutions based nationally or internationally.