



## **Social, Nursing, and Allied Health Research Fellowship 2020**

### Expression of Interest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## Who can apply?

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**1. Can I apply for a research fellowship if I have just submitted my soft bound thesis for examination?**

*To apply you must have graduated or be certified as having fulfilled all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected (post-viva) thesis. You do not need to have graduated at the time of EOI submission.*

**2. Regarding the maximum research experience of 6 years, should I consider the date on which I submitted my doctoral thesis or the date I graduated with my doctoral degree when calculating my research experience.**

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

**3. Are non-Irish citizens living in Republic of Ireland eligible to apply?**

*Yes, if you are eligible to study or work in the Republic of Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for the fellowship.*

**4. Can I apply to study abroad, such as in the USA?**

*No, funding is only available for research being conducted in the Republic of Ireland. However, the successful applicant will have the opportunity to spend up to six months abroad as part of the mobility and capacity building element of their fellowship.*

**5. I have a PhD in biomedical science but my project is in the area of allied health, can I apply?**

*You may only apply if you have sufficient research experience to fulfil requirements for PhD equivalence in that specific allied health area i.e. three or more senior (first, joint-first, or last) author publications in peer-reviewed academic journals or 4 years full time research experience post-primary degree.*

**6. Can medical doctors apply?**

*No. Medical doctors are not eligible for this award. However, they may be eligible for the translational biomedical fellowship. Please see [www.cancer.ie/research/researcher-hub/apply-for-funding](http://www.cancer.ie/research/researcher-hub/apply-for-funding) for details of other funding schemes.*

**7. Must I have an academic appointment before applying?**

*No. Applicants do not need to have an academic appointment at the time of applying. However, it is expected that the successful applicant will have an academic appointment for the duration of the fellowship.*

**8. Can individuals with permanent academic positions apply?**

*No. Applicants who already have a permanent academic position cannot apply.*

**9. Can I complete my fellowship part-time?**

*A part-time fellowship is only allowable for nursing and allied health applicants who will hold a concurrent clinical post in their professional field during the course of the fellowship.*

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## Research Project Eligibility

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**1. I have a PhD in social science but my project is biomedical science, can I apply?**

*Both the applicant and the project must be in the social, nursing, or allied health sciences.*

**2. I want to develop a new intervention, can I conduct a randomised controlled trial (RCT)?**

*A randomised controlled trial will only be eligible if the appropriate previous development phases have been complete e.g. theory-driven intervention development, feasibility investigation. Additionally, any intervention study must be*

*completed within the maximum time frame of the award i.e. the award will only fund a complete intervention development phase.*

**3. My project doesn't align with the Irish Cancer Society strategy, can I still apply?**

*No, projects must align with the Irish Cancer Society Strategy (2020-2025).*

**4. I am unsure if my project is eligible?**

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

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## Institutes

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**1. Can the fellowship be conducted in Northern Ireland?**

*Fellowships are only available 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. However, applicants can conduct research in collaboration with institutes in Northern Ireland and abroad.*

**2. My proposed host institute is a university that is not listed on the HRB's list of approved institutions, can I still apply?**

*No. A host institution must be currently listed on the HRB's list of approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/approval-of-host-institutions/>*

**3. My proposed host institute is a hospital, can I still apply?**

*Any host institution, including clinical sites such as hospitals, must be currently listed on the HRB's list of approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/approval-of-host-institutions/>*

## Mentorship

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**1. Do applicants have to nominate a mentor?**

*Yes. All applicants are required to nominate at least one experienced academic mentor.*

**2. Can a principal investigator be a mentor to more than one fellowship applicant?**

*Yes, an individual can be mentor to two distinct project submissions.*

**3. Do you have to be a permanent member of staff in order to be a mentor?**

*A mentor must hold a post either permanent or on contract basis that covers the duration of the fellowship.*

**4. Why do I need to upload my Mentor's CV as part of the application process?**

*The research track record and the record of supervision of the mentor will be assessed as part of the application.*

**5. Can I have more than one mentor?**

*You may nominate more than one mentor if you feel you or your project will benefit from the varied experience. However, you must nominate a single primary mentor who will take responsibility for overall mentorship.*

## Funding

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**1. How many fellowships are available?**

*This is funding available for one Fellowship in 2021.*

**2. Is the award transferable to another applicant?**

*No. If, for whatever reason, the applicant cannot complete the research, it cannot be transferred to another Postdoctoral scientist.*

**3. Does the grant cover host institute overheads?**

*As a charity, the Irish Cancer Society is not in a position to pay for host institution overheads for its research funding.*

## **Submission of Application**

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**1. Who needs to sign off and approve an application?**

*The lead applicant and the primary mentor must approve the application on the system before it is submitted for review.*

**2. Does the research office at the host institution need to approve the application?**

*Approval from the host institution is required in the form of a Declaration of Support, downloadable from the online application. However, the host institution does not need to approve the online form*

**3. When do EOI applications need to be submitted?**

*Applications must be submitted online through Gateway Grant Tracker by **3pm 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.***

**4. Does my mentor need to approve the application by the 16<sup>th</sup> March deadline?**

*Yes.*

## Full Application

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**1. When will applicants find out if they are shortlisted to submit a full application?**

*Late April 2020.*

**2. What will the full application entail?**

*The full application will look for more specific and in-depth details such as research project background, hypothesis, objectives, methodology; plus details on mobility and capacity building element, research environment, and budget. Additionally, shortlisted applicants will be required to detail revised PPI sections for the PPI reviewers to evaluate. Shortlisted applicants will be given all information required in April 2020.*

**3. Do I need to seek my own salary when applying for a fellowship?**

*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.*

**4. Is it mandatory to travel abroad for the mobility and capacity building element?**

*No. The applicant may choose to either travel to a national or international research group or lab or complete a substantial and distinct non-mobility initiative which facilitates academic and clinical networking; encourages national and/or international cooperation and collaboration; and promotes the development of new skills and/or perspectives. As such, travel is not mandatory.*

**5. Can I use the mobility element funding to visit research institutions within the Republic of Ireland?**

*The mobility can capacity building element funding may be used to visit research institutions based nationally or internationally.*