



Social, Nursing, and Allied Health Research Fellowship 2020

Expression of Interest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Who can apply?

1. Is the research fellowship for post-doctoral researchers?

The Research fellowship is for untenured post-doctoral researchers, nurses, or allied health professionals who meet eligibility criteria and are committed to developing a career in cancer research.

2. 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.

3. 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.

The date on which you graduated. In certain circumstances where eligible leave has been taken applicants may extend their period of eligibility. Please contact grants@irishcancer.ie for more information.

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

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 the fellowship.

5. 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 a maximum of six months abroad as part of the mobility element of their Fellowship.

6. I have a PhD in biochemistry 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.

7. Can medical doctors apply?

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

8. Do I have to 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 appointment for the duration of the fellowship.

9. Can individuals with permanent academic positions apply?

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

Research Project Eligibility

1. I have a PhD in psychology 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. As such, a person with a PhD in psychology would need to apply with a project in psychology (or a similar allied health field) to be eligible.

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. I am unsure if my project is eligible?

If you have any concerns please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

Institutes

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.

Mentor

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.

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

1. How many fellowships are available?

This is funding available for one Fellowship in 2020.

2. Is there an overall target for the amount of funding granted?

The maximum funding granted for a Fellowship is €160,000 over 2 years full-time or 3-4 years part time (for clinical applicants). This funding includes a provision of €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, in addition to 1,000 for Public and Patient Involvement (PPI).

3. 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.

Commencement of Fellowship

1. When do successful fellowships commence?

The fellowships will begin before the end of 2020, usually from September onwards.

Submission of Application

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

The lead applicant and the main 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

Application deadlines and dates

1. When do EOI applications need to be submitted?

*Applications must be submitted online through Gateway Grant Tracker by **3pm 10 March 2020**.*

2. Does my mentor need to approve the application by the 10 March deadline?

Yes.

3. When will applicants find out if they have been shortlisted for full application?

Applicants will find out if they have been shortlisted in early April 2020.

4. How long will I have to complete the full application?

Applicants will have approximately 4 weeks to complete the full application.

Full Application

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

Early 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 element, research environment, and budget. Additionally, shortlisted applicants will be required to detail Public and Patient Involvement plans and provide lay summaries 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. What is the mobility element?

The mobility element makes available additional funding so that the fellow may travel to a national or international lab/research group. This travel is in aid of technical, professional, skill, or career develop.

5. Is the mobility element mandatory?

*The mobility element is optional for applicants; however, it can be used to strengthen your proposed training and development plan (requested as part of full application). The additional €7000 allocated to the mobility element will not be made available to applicants who do not include mobility within their full application. **Please note** that applicants may change the details of the mobility element during their Research Fellowship and for this reason applicants must re-apply for this funding at least three months in advance of the period of travel.*

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

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