



Translational Research Fellowship Scheme 2021

Expression of Interest

Updated: 17.02.21

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Question: Is the Research Fellowship for post-doctoral researchers?

Answer: The Research Fellowship is for untenured post-doctoral researchers, medical doctors, 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 extended leave has been taken applicants may extend their period of eligibility. Please contact grants@irishcancer.ie for more information

Question: **What is meant by extended leave?**

Answer: The Society recognises that applicants may have had to take a period of extended leave from their careers for a number of reasons including carers, maternity, paternity, adoptive, parental and medical leave. To ensure equity for those who have had to take extended leave in the past, where relevant, there will be an opportunity for applicants to extend their period of eligibility for this award or justify reasonable shortcomings in their application portfolio commensurate with these circumstances to the external reviewers. Please contact grants@irishcancer.ie for more information. Extended leave will also be taken into consideration during the assessment of applicants

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 the Republic of Ireland.

Translational Research Project Eligibility

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: 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_0) will not be accepted. The project must be translational ($T_{0.5}$ – T_1).

Please note, applications in the areas of prevention, survivorship, drug design, SAR (structure–activity relationship) analysis, or drug screening will not be considered at this time. Applicants undertaking non-biomedical research projects are not eligible for this award.

The following are eligible project examples:

- As preliminary work, the researchers identified a new drug which prevents growth in lung cancer cells (T_0 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 ($T_{0.5}$ to T_1).
- As preliminary work, a protein has been identified as a potential candidate for targeted therapy (T_0 basic research discovery). As part of the scholarship application, the translational research project ($T_{0.5}$ to T_1) 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.

Institutes

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. The proposed host institution must be a higher education institution in the Republic of Ireland and must be one of the HRB's approved host institutions: <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/hrb-policy-on-approval-of-host-institutions>.

Mentor

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

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

Answer: The maximum funding granted for a Fellowship is €225,000 over three years. Applicants may also apply for a further €5,000 for mobility and capacity building element.

Question: Must I apply for the mobility and capacity building element

Answer: Yes, all applicants must apply for the mobility and capacity building element. It is an important opportunity for fellows to build their network and careers.

Number of Awards

Question: How many Research Fellowships are available?

Answer: This is funding available for one Fellowship.

Expression of Interest Application Deadline

Question: When do Expression of interest applications need to be in by?

Answer: The online application form must be submitted by **3pm Monday 22nd March 2021.**

Commencement of Research Fellowship

Question: When do successful Research Fellowships commence?

Answer: It is envisaged that the Research Fellowships will begin in October 2021.

Full Application

Question: When will applicants find out if they are shortlisted to submit a Full Application?

Answer: Early April 2021.

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 and capacity building element, research environment, budget and impact plan. It will also require you to address the reviewers comments from the scientific and PPI sections of your EOI application.

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 must 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.