



Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 03/10/18

Who Can Apply?

- 1. Can I apply for both the Biomedical Sciences and Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Awards?**

No, applicants can only apply for one Stimulus Award.

- 2. I have started the Biomedical Sciences Award application but I want to apply for the Social and Allied Health Sciences instead. Can I proceed with my application?**

No, application processes are different for the two awards. You must start your application again using the correct application procedure specific to the area of your research proposal.

- 3. Do I need to have obtained a PhD to apply?**

Not necessarily. You must have a PhD if your background is in academia (e.g., social policy, psychology). However, if your background is in the allied health sciences or nursing, you do not need to have obtained a PhD.

4. Do I have to have a clinical qualification to apply?

Not necessarily. If you have a research PhD, you do not need to have a clinical qualification. However, if you do not have a PhD, you must have a professional qualification in nursing or allied health sciences entitling you to work in a clinical capacity.

5. In terms of post-doctoral research experience, should I consider the date in which I submitted my doctoral thesis or the date in which I graduated with my doctoral degree when calculating my research experience.

Applicants must calculate your research experience based on the submission date for your PhD thesis.

6. Why are three first-author publications required for nurses and allied health professionals?

Obtaining a PhD suggests that a minimum standard of research capability has been met. A 'PhD by publication' is offered by some higher education institutes in which a collection of peer-reviewed publications is sufficient to award the PhD degree. Three first-author publications are most often cited as the minimum standard. Therefore, for the purpose of this award, three first-author publications is considered equivalent to a PhD for nurses and allied health professionals.

7. I don't have three first-author publications, but have extensive research experience. Can I still apply?

You may still be eligible to apply. Due to the diversity in background and experiences of those working in the social and allied health sciences, the eligibility criteria may not apply to all applicants. If you feel you possess sufficient research experience to apply, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie. Eligibility will be determined based on your research background and your potential to complete the proposed body of work to the highest standards. The Irish Cancer Society reserves the right to judge suitability of candidates at its own discretion.

8. Can medical doctors apply for the Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award?

Unfortunately, no. This award is intended for researchers in the social and allied health sciences, in addition to clinical staff in those areas. However, the Irish Cancer Society is concurrently running a Biomedical Stimulus Award for which medical doctors may be eligible. Please see the Biomedical Stimulus Award Guidelines for details of eligibility.

9. Can I apply for Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award if I have just completed my PhD?

In order to apply, applicants must have at least two years research experience since the submission date of their PhD thesis. In exceptional circumstances, applications from recent PhD graduates may be considered. In such circumstances, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie before applying. If you are otherwise unsure of your eligibility, please contact grants@irishcancer.ie.

10. Are non-Irish citizens living in Ireland eligible to apply?

Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study or work in Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for the Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award.

11. 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.

12. Can more than one person apply on the same grant?

No. Only one applicant and one mentor can be listed per application, and each applicant can submit only one Stimulus Award application. However, if other members of a research team will play an important role in the success of the project, their involvement can be detailed in the Project Summary section of the application form.

The proposed project

1. My project is biomedical, can I apply for the Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award?

Unfortunately, no. Research in the areas of basic or translational science are not eligible for the Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award.

2. My project is not directly about cancer, but may impact people with cancer, can I still apply?

If the project is sufficiently justified to build capacity in cancer research and directly benefits people with cancer, then it may be eligible. However, we would recommend you contact grants@irishcancer.ie before applying.

3. If the proposed project is about cancer, but the existing project is not about cancer, is my project eligible?

The aim of the award is not to fund pilot data, but to expand an existing project and make it more competitive/impactful over a 12 month period. We would recommend you contact grants@irishcancer.ie before applying.

Institutions

1. Can I only apply for funding at an Irish host institution?

Yes, funding is only available for research to be undertaken at Irish host institutions.

2. Must the research be carried out in the Republic of Ireland?

Yes. The research should, first and foremost, impact the lives of Irish people.

3. Are universities in Northern Ireland eligible for the Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award?

The Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award is tenable only for individuals who intend 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.

Mentor

1. Can a principal investigator be a mentor to more than one Stimulus Award applicant?

*Yes, a principal investigator can mentor more than one Biomedical Science **or** Social and Allied Health Sciences Stimulus Award applicant.*

2. 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 Stimulus Award.

3. 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 overall application.

4. Why do I need to provide a statement of suitability for my mentor of choice as part of the application process?

It is important that the mentor chosen is suitable for the area of research that you have chosen for your research proposal. We need to ensure that you will have suitable guidance and support for this project.

5. What criteria will be used to evaluate the suitability of mentors?

Mentors should have a strong relevant research profile in the specific cancer area (including last author publications in this area) addressed in the research project. Mentors should also possess a track record of mentorship experience.

6. Can my mentor be based outside of Ireland?

No, it would be important to have a mentor that is embedded within the host institution or hospital through which your research will be conducted. International advisor may be included in your application and details of this could be included as part of your project summary

Funding

1. Is there an overall limit to the amount of funding awarded?

Yes, the maximum funding granted for each Stimulus Award is €30,000 over 12 months.

2. Can the grant be used to pay for my salary costs?

Yes, you can use the funding to cover your salary.

3. Can the grant be used to pay for equipment?

Yes. However, the grant can only be used to fund small equipment vital to the completion of the project. Large equipment, or equipment which constitutes infrastructure for the host or data collection institute will not be funded. Ultimately, the Irish Cancer Society retains the right to reject any equipment costs included in proposed budgets.

4. Can the grant be used to employ staff?

Ideally, no. Staff, such as research assistants, would need to be sufficiently justified within the remit of the Stimulus Award. We recommend that you contact grants@irishcancer.ie to discuss allocation of budget to staff before applying.

5. Can the grant be used to fund a Masters student?

No, the grant cannot be used to fund a Masters student.

Number of Awards

1. How many Stimulus Awards are available?

There is funding available for one Biomedical Science Award and one Social and Allied Health Sciences Award.

Commencement of Project

1. When do successful projects commence?

The successful projects will not begin earlier than March 2019.

The Application Process

1. What budget details are required for the Application?

In the Application you will need to give details of Salary, Consumables, Equipment, and Travel/Dissemination. For salaries, applicants will be referred to the [Irish University Association's salary scale](#). Your years' experience will determine your point on the salary scale.

2. Why is it essential to detail the sustainability plan?

The purpose of the Stimulus Award is to provide additional seed funding to make a project more impactful, or to allow researchers to leverage external funding. It is necessary to show how the Stimulus Award will act as a stepping stone for your future applications to

external funding organizations, or by bridging the gap between research, policy, and practice.

3. Is it compulsory to attend the webinar?

The webinar is not compulsory but it is highly recommended. General information regarding the Stimulus award will be presented, including eligibility and the review process. The webinar will be largely focussed on the lay research pitch section, this will aid in preparing this section of your application.

4. How important is the lay research pitch?

Very important. The lay research pitch will first be reviewed by the Scientific Review Panel. They will ensure the research plan correlates with the pitch. They will also ensure that the impact is true and not overstated. They will chose the top fundable applications to proceed to stage two. At stage two, the Patient Panel will review the lay research pitch alongside the Scientific Review Panel comments. Ultimately, the Patient Panel will select the successful grant recipient.