

## NEW FOUNDATIONS 2018 FAQ

**Updated: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following theme(s):

- CVO & Strand-related Queries
- Eligible Expenditure
- Eligibility Criteria

### CVO & STRAND-RELATED QUERIES

**NEW:** One of our potential applicants in the School of Social Work plans to work with several partners on the proposed project. They wonder if IRC requires stamps from all of them or just one? If it is multiple, is IRC happy for the applicant to duplicate the signature page for Strand 4, for example?

For Strand 1 applicants, the signature of the partner organisation must be provided. For strand 4, the signature of at least one partner institution/organisation relevant to the strand theme must be provided.

Additional endorsements may be added to the application (such that the signature page would be duplicated), but these additional endorsements are not compulsory.

**NEW:** In the Part A form there is an endorsement section for Strand 1 and Strand 4 applications to be completed by the NGO/CVO partners or partner organisations. Could you advise if it's okay to leave the 'Organisational Stamp' section blank if there is the organisation does not have one?

For Strand 1 applicants, the signature of the partner organisation must be provided. For strand 4, the signature of at least one partner institution/organisation relevant to the strand theme must be provided.

If the organisation does not have a stamp, please note this in the application.

**NEW:** I am interested in applying to IRC New Foundations Strand 1: Engaging Civic Society. The civic partner is a registered Charity, I would like to clarify whether the charity must be a member of Wheel or Dochas to be eligible.

The charity does not need to be a member of The Wheel or Dóchas in order to be eligible.

I am making an application for New Foundations and already have a CVO/NGO partner. Does this partner then need to submit an expression of interest?

As you have a CVO partner in place, they do not need to submit an expression of interest form. The form is for CVOs looking for academic partners.

What is the definition of a community/voluntary organisation (CVO) for the purposes of Strand 1? And/or is there a list of CVOs eligible for participation in Strand 1?

At the time of application, a CVO must be a registered charity with a CHY number. The Irish Research Council does not provide a list of CVOs. However, the applicant may find the [Charities Register](#) useful.

Strand 1A – The application form has a space for the Name of the applicant in the HEI and the details of the charity organisation. We would like to ask if it is possible to have more than one name listed on the application for the HEI and also to include more than one registered charity?

This Strand supports applications from researchers in partnership with a CVO/NGO. The latter must be a registered charity. The proposal may include the involvement of other groups; however, only one may be named as the partner in the proposal.

No more than one applicant/HEI can be named on the application.

The civil society organisation I am looking to partner with is already committed to partnering with another academic organisation in a separate application to this scheme for another project (also under section 1). I can see from the scheme documentation that 'an applicant may make only one application to the scheme'. Does this only refer to the lead academic applicant? Or does it also apply to the civil society organisation? Basically, I am asking if a civil society organisation can be involved in multiple applications to this scheme, if they are for distinctly different projects with different academic lead applicants?

Civil society organisations can be associated with more than one application.

Re Strand 1(b): This strand references 'societal challenges' and 'is intended as a 'priming' measure to enable collaboration internationally between researchers and CVOs/NGO'. I was wondering if the reference to societal challenges means that it is only aimed at fostering collaborations/consortia that will ultimately be applying to the Horizon 2020 scheme? Our team would probably be aiming to apply to a DG Justice action grant with European partners (other NGOs and researchers) – would this or other non-H2020 European funding schemes be suitable future funding options?

Applications that are aimed at cultivating future proposals to address societal challenges from funding lines other than Horizon 2020 are eligible.

For strand 4a 'Networking & Collaboration Grants for prospective North-South Research Partnerships (awards up to a maximum of €10,000)'. Does North-South mean the Global North and Global South (as opposed to the North of Ireland and South of Ireland) identified in strand 4b? (See pages 8-9 of the call documentation).

This Strand addresses Global North and Global South as per Irish Aid's mandate.

## **ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE**

I was wondering if you could please advise if international travel, accommodation/subsistence are eligible costs for potential consortia members/stakeholders associated to the applications who will be visiting the applicant to partake in a symposium?

Requests for travel and accommodation costs may be included. Applicants should provide details of the number and duration of trips being proposed. Travel and accommodation, where required, will only be provided for on a vouched basis.

Per diems/subsistence rates will not be provided.

Every effort must be made to ensure that air travel, where used, is economical. Requests must take regard of institutional norms.

A Strand 2 applicant wishes to organise a conference which would be the starting point for the development of an international research network on a specific aspect of his discipline. Are catering and accommodation for the speakers in Dublin during the conference eligible research expenses?

Catering and accommodation costs may be included where relevant to the validity of the proposal and where specified and fully justified.

Would you mind advising if the following items might be categorised as either 'consumables' or 'equipment'? These are digital items, such as arduinos, raspberry pis, wiring, dmx controllers, various leds lighting, cables, microphones, small portable amplifiers, etc. The total value would not exceed €1.5-2K.

These items would be classified as equipment. Please note that equipment is not an eligible research expense under this scheme.

Are personnel costs allowed?

Awards are valued at up to a maximum for each strand. All costs sought must be detailed and justified in Part B of the application (Excel spreadsheet). Applicants must clearly demonstrate that any costs sought are necessary to carry out the proposal. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration under the evaluation and assessment process.

Where not covered by the categories outlined in the Terms and Conditions and clearly relevant to the viability of the proposal, other costs such as staff costs can be considered. All such costs must be specified and fully justified.

Irish Research Council/institutional rates should be used for all research staff costs sought. Recruitment to these posts should be in accordance with the scheme's Terms and Conditions and institutional norms. Irish Research Council rates are as follows:

<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>Maximum cost for 1 calendar year</b>	<b>Maximum cost for ½ calendar year</b>
Academic replacements	€24,353 (inclusive of PRSI 10.85% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%)	€12,177 (inclusive of PRSI 10.85% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%)
Research Assistant (can be pro-rata) Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)	HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form. The salary requested must include provisions for PRSI 10.85% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%. As part of the award acceptance process, the research office must confirm that the requested salary is in line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.	
Other	Other personnel costs may be considered such as technicians, digital archivists. These costs must be explicitly justified, and institutional salary scales can be used for this category. As part of the award acceptance process, the research office must provide documentary evidence of the salary scale used.	

Staff costs should be included in the 'Other' cost heading in Part B of the application.

Under your 9<sup>th</sup> Nov FAQs figures are provided for academic replacements based on one year or half a year but you do not state that these figures may be pro-rata (while it is explicitly stated that the research assistant can be pro-rata). Given that a half year buy out (€12,000) eats up most of the budget, can teaching be bought out for a lesser period of, for example, three months and would the cost to the budget be €6088.25?

Yes, academic replacement costs may be pro rata.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

I've had a few queries about the eligibility of the applicant based on p.10 of the Call Document where it says "Competitively acquired research awards granted by higher education institutions are also eligible."

Would a competitively awarded grant by an Irish Higher Education Institution to one of its staff, e.g., to attend a conference make that person an applicant eligible? And what sort of documentation should be included?

An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (i.e. the award holder) to be considered eligible.

Awards granted by higher education institutions are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and the institution is willing to endorse the application.

Evidence of the award can take the form of a letter of award from the relevant funding or award institution.

Are the following types of competitively acquired research award eligible?

- Galway City Council/Gaillimh le Gaeilge (Irish language promotional body) grant for preparing a language plan for Galway City. Neither bodies are research funders, but this is a partnership between a local authority and NGO in order to fund research. It was competitively acquired.
- Research Support Scheme, NUI Galway. This is an annual competitive internal College of Arts scheme – does it count as an example of ‘competitively acquired research awards granted by higher education institutions’?
- IRC GOIPG
- RIA Postdoctoral mobility grant

An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (i.e. the award holder) to be considered eligible.

Awards granted by higher education institutions are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and the institution is willing to endorse the application.

In the case of the Galway City Council award, not enough information has been provided to determine whether this is a research award. The other awards all appear to be eligible.

Can you please provide further guidance as to what type of award would meet this requirement?

For example, is there a minimum value/duration for these awards?

In addition, would an award facilitating a short-term PhD student placement in industry or an NGO be sufficient?

Can you also advise with the exception of Strand 2 if a previous New Foundations award would be sufficient to fulfil this requirement?

Can you please also confirm whether a competitively acquired research awards must have been awarded in the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2018, or is it also sufficient if the award has been active in the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2018?

Finally, can you please advise if there any mandatory details which must be outlined in the ‘Evidence of the relevant award’, such as award duration, award value etc.?

An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The award must have been acquired and/or held (i.e. active) within the three-year period before this date. The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (i.e. the award holder) to be considered eligible.

An award facilitating a short-term PhD student placement in industry or an NGO would be eligible if it meets these criteria. A previous New Foundations award would also fulfil this requirement. There is no minimum value/duration.

Evidence of the award can take the form of a letter of award from the relevant funding or award institution. The evidence provided should include sufficient information to ensure that the eligibility of the applicant is beyond doubt.

Can you confirm if a person is named as co-investigator or co-applicant on an awarded grant then this is acceptable under the eligibility criteria in terms of a competitively acquired research award?

Would a competitively acquired research award, where the applicant was a Co-PI suffice as an eligible Research Award for the purposes of their New Foundations proposal?

An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (i.e. the award holder) – or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint awards – to be considered eligible.

On p. 4, it is stated that the applicant cannot submit more than one application. Does that mean to the scheme as a whole or each individual strand? For instance, could an applicant submit one application to Strand 1 and a separate one to Strand 3?

An eligible applicant may make up to a maximum of one application to the scheme: applications can be made for any Strand, but no more than one application to the Scheme can be made in total.

Can an applicant on a fixed term contract with an HEI apply for strand 4a? If so, is there a requirement in terms of the end date of their current contract?

As per the Terms and Conditions, this scheme will offer research opportunities for academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution (HEI) in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities. All awards are up to a maximum of 9 months' duration. The applicant's affiliation with the HEI must be of sufficient duration to carry out the proposed project from the project start date until the project end date.

Can you please advise eligibility of this researcher? They were previously awarded a New Horizons grant from the IRC in 2015. The project was due to commence in November 2015 but was granted an extension from the IRC to commence the project in 2016. Would this extension mean that they now fall within the three-year time period for grant funding eligibility?

An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. As the applicant appears to have held a competitively acquired research award within this period, he/she appears to be eligible. Please note that the Council cannot fund the same research twice.

Eligibility of a potential applicant to the New Foundations scheme. Would a postdoctoral independent scholar who currently holds an eligible research award (as an independent scholar) be eligible to apply to the New Foundations scheme. If so, would a mentor based in an HEI be required as for a postgraduate applicant?

Researchers without a host institution are not eligible to apply.

I note that an applicant cannot submit more than one application. However, is it acceptable for someone to be named Lead Applicant on one application, and as a team member (not the main named applicant) on another application?

The scheme is aimed at individual applicants rather than joint proposals (even if the applicant is seeking to form a consortium). No more than one applicant can be named on an application.

I was a Co-Applicant for a HRB Applied Partnership Award which was granted earlier this year. The award letter only names the 'lead applicant' (another colleague) but the reports from the expert review panel (attached to the award letter) list me as one of the co-applicants. Would I be eligible to apply as a co-applicant for this competitive award?

Evidence of award provided as part of an application should clearly state that the applicant has received a competitive research award in their own name (either as a lead applicant or co-applicant).

The scheme is aimed at individual applicants rather than joint proposals. No more than one applicant can be named on an application.

**NEW:** I am hoping to make an application to the IRC New Foundations Grant Call. I have read your very detailed FAQ's but I'm still a little unsure about the eligibility criteria. I was the successful co-investigator to a HRB APA Award in 2016 however my understanding of the clarification provided below from your FAQ's is that I can only use the HRB Grant as eligibility criteria if I am formally named on the grant award letter as a co-investigator? Any clarification would be greatly appreciated.

The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint/co-investigator awards).

Would an hourly-paid research assistant be eligible to apply for this call? If not, can they still apply if they have a willing mentor/supervisor?

An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate, named individual who is willing to act as a supervisor/mentor for the purposes of an award under

this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply to Strands 2 and 3, but not Strands 1 and 4. The applicant must meet all other eligibility criteria, including the competitive-award requirement.

A researcher is asking if her project below renders her eligible to submit a New Foundations application:

*Contract for Services Agreement Kildare County Council and Dance Ireland [Dance and Health Research Agreement 2017 - 2018]*

The project was awarded following a competitive research tender for €10000 from Arts Council of Ireland to research training for dancers working in health sector. Is this valid?

Potential applicants can be considered as having held a competitively acquired research award for the purposes of application to this scheme, once they are the named recipient of the award (or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint awards). Based on the information provided, this project meets the criteria of a 'competitively-acquired' award for the purposes of this scheme.

Can you please advise if a National Forum funded project can be classed as a research award for the purposes of eligibility for this call? The project includes a training/CPD and a research dimension that is relevant to the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Potential applicants can be considered as having held a competitively acquired research award for the purposes of application to this scheme, once they are the named recipient of the award (or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint awards). In this case, not enough information has been provided to determine whether this is a research award or whether it meets the criterion of the applicant being a named recipient.

According to the IRC Statement on STEAM Research, social sciences are classed under the letter 'A' of 'STEAM', which stands for Arts – therefore, social science falls under AHSS. However, on the New Foundations Homepage, social science is classed as Science, and therefore falls under STEM. Thus, would you mind confirming if (for the purposes of this call) Social Sciences are classed as STEM or AHSS?

As stated in the scheme's Terms and Conditions, the purpose of Strand 3 is to bring science (including social science) and Art/Design/Humanities together to work on new ways of communicating scientific concepts and/or complex societal challenges for a lay audience. So, for the purpose of this Call, social science is classified as 'STEM'.

**NEW:** Is it possible for a Funded Investigator on an SFI centre award to be an eligible lead applicant on a New Foundations submission?

An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6th December 2018. The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (i.e. the award holder) to be considered eligible. As the applicant appears to have held a competitively acquired research award within this period, he/she appears to be eligible.

**NEW:** Is an award eligible if it has recently been awarded but will start after the 6th of December 2018?



An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (i.e. the award holder) to be considered eligible.

To be eligible the applicant should be able to demonstrate that the award offer has been made prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (even if award has yet to commence).

**NEW:** Can you confirm that for all New Foundations streams, applicants are only eligible if they have a contract of employment with an HEI that covers the duration of the award, with the sole exception of current postgraduate students (under strands 2 and 3 only) who have identified a mentor based in the HEI for the duration of the award?

If an applicant, who is a permanent member of staff in an HEI, is not usually in receipt of salary outside of term time, can they budget for their own salary outside of term time? What rate should apply in this instance?

We confirm that the first statement is correct.

Academic replacements are eligible costs but the applicant cannot apply to cover his/her salary where he/she not ordinarily employed by the host institution.

**NEW:** Do applicants have to be affiliated with the HEI i.e. do they have to be current staff members when applying?

Researchers without a host institution are not eligible to apply.

An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate, named individual who is willing to act as a supervisor/mentor for the purposes of an award under this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply to Strands 2 and 3, but not Strands 1 and 4. The applicant must meet all other eligibility criteria, including the competitive-award requirement.

**NEW:** In the terms and conditions, it states that applicants must provide “Evidence of a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018”. Can you please advise if this means that the award should have been awarded within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018, or if the award should have been active within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018?

An applicant is eligible if they currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder within the three-year period prior to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The applicant must be the named recipient of the award (i.e. the award holder) to be considered eligible.

The award must have been acquired and/or held (i.e. active) within the three-year period before this date: either option is acceptable.

