



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

## **NEW HORIZONS IDR AWARDS SCHEME 2016**

### **IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

<b>Launch of Call</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
<b>Expressions of Interest deadline</b>	<b>4pm, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b>
<b>FAQ deadline</b>	4pm, 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016
<b>APPLICANT DEADLINE</b>	<b>4pm, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016</b>
<b>Research Office endorsement deadline</b>	4pm, 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
<b>Outcome of scheme</b>	End November 2016
<b>Project commencement date</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2016



**AN ROINN  
OIDEACHAIS  
AGUS SCILEANNA** | **DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
AND SKILLS**

## INTRODUCTION

The **mission** of the Irish Research Council is to enable and sustain a vibrant and creative research community in Ireland. The Council funds excellent researchers across all disciplines and encourages interdisciplinary research and engagement with enterprise.

The Council facilitates the career development of researchers, including by funding those at an early stage of their postdoctoral career to established researchers who have achieved international recognition for their work. The primary strategic objective of the Council centres on building an expertise-driven research system to enhance Ireland's creative innovation capacity and skills base in a rapidly changing global environment where knowledge is key to economic, social and cultural development. The Council is also committed to facilitating the integration of Irish researchers in all disciplines within the European Research Area.

### SECTION A: GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF NEW HORIZONS IDR AWARDS

The New Horizons programme has been designed with the objective of facilitating researchers and research teams to build capacity and track record in their research area by way of stimulus awards. The rationale for this scheme is to provide funding for researchers to enable them to expand their research activities and to become competitive in the context of international funding opportunities, in particular Horizon 2020. The focus of New Horizons 2016 will be placed on interdisciplinary approaches to European societal challenges. This will be facilitated through the funding of:

- Small-to-medium-sized projects such as exploratory investigations which may lead to larger and more sustainable research projects and programmes;
- Research staff;
- Knowledge transfer initiatives; and
- Networking and collaboration on national or international levels with Horizon 2020 in mind

It is also recognised that taking new directions in research may require the development of new research skills or methodological approaches. A challenge-based approach will bring together resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies and disciplines, including social sciences and the humanities.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF NEW HORIZONS IDR AWARD

The primary objective of the New Horizons Interdisciplinary Research (IDR) award is to enable AHSS researchers to incubate collaborative projects with STEM colleagues which will specifically target medium-term opportunities under Horizon 2020. While the majority of Horizon 2020 [Societal Challenges](#) calls are STEM led, the Irish Research Council New Horizons IDR scheme will allow AHSS researchers an opportunity to get involved in research design and methodology at the earliest possible stage with STEM researchers on topics of mutual interest. Applicants will be committed to developing and submitting a future proposal to Horizon2020 societal challenges and progress in this regard will be monitored by the Council.

Societal Challenge topics like competitiveness, climate change, energy, security or public health are complex and multi-faceted and need to be considered across disciplines. Indeed, the idea to focus Horizon 2020 around "Challenges" rather than disciplinary fields of research illustrates this new approach and represents an opportunity for the Arts, social sciences and humanities. The aim of embedding AHSS throughout the whole H2020 Societal Challenges programme will open up new areas of research. Applications cultivating new interdisciplinary approaches such as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) are welcomed where the link with medium term European societal challenges can be shown.

In light of considerations by the Commission of how to effectively embed AHSS in Horizon 2020, this programme has the potential to enable Ireland to gain 'first mover advantage' in a European context by supporting a national initiative which targets AHSS academics/researchers and enables them to take a leadership role in developing a project proposal. The target group includes AHSS researchers at an early stage in their career, as well as established/senior researchers. Participating lead researchers will be committed to forging links with the STEM research community and jointly developing interdisciplinary capacity and knowledge as a response to societal challenges. The programme complements other initiatives in train led by the Council, such as the *Creative Connections* series of funded IDR workshops.

Finally, the programme aims to encourage the research community in Ireland to build on existing national and international networks to develop pilot studies, prepare preliminary data and begin to establish consortia on upcoming topics across all societal challenges.

### Societal Challenges

New Horizons funding will support a range of interdisciplinary research projects designed to incubate future applications to Horizon 2020 Societal Challenges:

1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing
2. Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research, and the bio-economy
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy
4. Smart, green and integrated transport
5. Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
6. Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
7. Secure societies - protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizen

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Irish Research Council will consider applications for funding for excellent proposals that address each of the societal challenges. To this end, AHSS researchers are advised to make contact, in advance of submission, with National Delegates and National Contact Points to discuss upcoming topics under Societal Challenges. See Appendix 1 for details on anticipated themes in Societal Challenges for 2017 and 2018-20 and associated Contact Points.

## DESCRIPTION OF NEW HORIZONS IDR AWARDS

Award Type	Duration	Applicant	Funding	Type
<b>Irish Research Council New Horizons Interdisciplinary Award</b>	Between 15 & 24 months	<b>No less than two years post PhD</b>	€220 K  (Inclusive of Overhead at 25%)	AHSS led & STEM

### Aims:

- To encourage AHSS researchers to collaborate with STEM researchers on interdisciplinary projects that address medium-term Societal Challenges under Horizon 2020.
- To help AHSS researchers to form new connections and to build on existing national and international networks to establish consortia on upcoming topics across all societal challenges. In addition, to provide opportunities for early-stage researchers to gain experience as PIs and in leading and managing a research grant.

## SECTION B: ELIGIBILITY

Applicants can apply for funding in any AHSS discipline (Annex A) along with a named applicant from any STEM discipline (Annex B).

An interdisciplinary application shall, on the call deadline (**28<sup>th</sup> October 2016**), be submitted by:

- An AHSS PI who already holds a contract of sufficient duration with a HEI (as defined in 1.6 in Appendix 2) or an RPO (as defined in 1.11 in Appendix 2) to carry out the proposed research from the project start date (12<sup>th</sup> December 2016) until project end

### **WITH**

- A **mandatory and named** STEM Co-PI (co-applicant) who already holds a contract of sufficient duration with a HEI (as defined in 1.6 in Appendix 2) or an RPO (1.11 in Appendix 2) to carry out the proposed research

Both AHSS Lead PI and STEM Co-PI must:

- Have been awarded their doctoral degrees no later than 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014. For this condition, the date of graduation should be taken into account.
- Not be recipients of Irish Research Council Research Development Initiative, Collaborative Research Project or Research Project Grant funding in 2014 or 2015;
- Not be in receipt of any other Council funding at the proposed start date of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, with the exception of New Foundations and Ulysses grant awards.

### **General Application Conditions**

The lead applicant must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation of the project. The AHSS lead PI and STEM Co-PI are also advised that, by submitting applications in their own names, they personally undertake to develop the project, with due attention and viable commitments of time and without sub-contracting the project to another party or parties.

The min-max personnel costs for each of the two disciplinary categories is as follows:

Personnel Costs (Inc. Overhead 25%)	
AHSS	STEM
Min 30% - Max 70%	Min 30% - Max 70%

Only one application per AHSS lead applicant is permitted.

The STEM Co-PI may be named on a maximum of two applications. Should more than one such application be funded, s/he must provide a time-management strategy at the point of conditional award offers, in order to demonstrate his/her ability to meet both projects' objectives.

Applicants **may concurrently apply** for an Irish Research Council 'Research for Policy & Society' award. In the event of an applicant submitting a successful application to both schemes, s/he must clearly indicate a time-management strategy and must receive approval for same from the Irish Research Council in order to be permitted to accept both awards.

### Guidance Notes specific to Interdisciplinary Research

Interdisciplinary proposals should include the following:

1. A clear outline of the scope of disciplines, methods and researchers and a rationale for the suitability of the combination of disciplines.
2. A justification for the choice of disciplines based on the needs of the research questions.
3. A well-defined description of how the disciplines involved will be integrated (in the design and conduct of the research as well as in subsequent publications) and how this relates to the type of interdisciplinarity involved e.g. how the quality of integration will be assured.
4. A detailed framework of how the collaboration will be organised e.g. is there an understanding of the challenges of interdisciplinary integration, including methodological integration, leadership, management strategy and the 'human' side of fostering interactions and communication. Evidence of an effective strategy to achieve integration and deliver the desired outcomes.
5. A clear description of how the interdisciplinarity will be reflected in the project outputs and outcomes.

Additional guidance on interdisciplinary research can be found at [http://www.issti.ed.ac.uk/resources/briefing\\_notes](http://www.issti.ed.ac.uk/resources/briefing_notes)

## SECTION C: TYPES OF EXPENDITURE & ELIGIBLE COSTS

### Staff Costs & Staffing Requirements

Costs may include staff-replacement costs which facilitate participation in the project, but these must be clearly justified. All staff replacements ('buy-out' costs) must be accounted for according to approved Irish Research Council staff rates for academic replacements.

IRC Staff Costs	1 calendar year	1/2 calendar year
Academic Replacements	€20,443 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%)	€10,222 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%)
Research Assistant (can be pro-rata)	HEIs can use their own 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 10.75% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%. As part of the award acceptance process, the research office must confirm that the requested salary is line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.	
Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)		

The recruitment of staff (e.g. research assistants, postdoctoral researchers) must be done openly, through public advertisement. Staff must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only. The only exception to this is the STEM Co-PI in New Horizons applications; due to being a named participant on the project, this post need not be advertised publicly.

An Employment Control Framework for the higher education sector was issued to the sector on 11th March 2011. Discussions with the Department of Education and Skills in relation to a new Delegated Sanction Agreement to replace ECF for the period 2016 to 2019 will shortly be concluded. In the interim, institutions must continue to adhere to the principles of the ECF. The HEA will inform institutions of any new arrangements as soon as clarification is received from the DES.

All applications may include provision for team membership of researchers from institutions and organisations that fall outside the eligible institutions, including both national and international participation. However, only collaboration costs (not personnel costs) may be allocated to such institutions/organisations and the added value of such costs must be **strongly** demonstrated. Within a New Horizons IDR application, only the AHSS lead PI and STEM Co-PI are required to be named specifically.

### Other Eligible Research Expenses

Please note that all research expenses must be strongly justified. Should a particular expense be insufficiently justified within an otherwise successful application, the Council reserves the right to remove/reduce this particular expense item at award-offer stage.

A table of other eligible research expenses are set out below:

Collaboration	Please provide details of expenditure to be incurred in terms of collaborative activities, where relevant. These will primarily consist of travel, networking and/or dissemination activities and must be strongly demonstrated. <b>Maximum of €10,000.</b>
Consultancy	Relevant and justifiable up to a <b>maximum of €5,000.</b>
Dissemination	Details of costs proposed and channels to be used.
Consumables	<b>Maximum of €1,000.</b>
Travel Costs	Travel and accommodation costs may be included as part of the proposal. Details on the number and duration of trips being proposed are required. Every effort must be made to ensure that travel expenses are minimised (e.g. economy fares only). Subsistence or <i>per diems</i> are not an eligible cost.
Overheads	These must NOT exceed maximum of <b>25% of modified direct costs</b> . Overhead does not apply to equipment costs.
Equipment	Please provide details and justification for any items of equipment being sought. Computer equipment, fieldwork, data collection, archival and digitisation costs may be included under this heading. The Council will pay particular attention to any equipment sought (e.g. laptops, tablets, scientific tools etc.). Any such requests will require a strong rationale and an account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from any other source.

## SECTION D: APPLICATION PROCESS

A **single application** will be submitted using the online IRC submission portal (Smart Simple) by the Principal Investigator. Intending applicants who do not already have a user profile will need to create one before submitting an application. Please refer to the online **Guide for Applicants** which is available on the Council website.

Applicants affiliated to a recognised higher education institution or recognised RPO must inform the research office (or other appropriate office) of their institution of their intent to submit an application to the scheme. Canvassing by or on behalf of applicants will render an application automatically ineligible. When this occurs, the application will not proceed to the competition proper.

Applications will be accepted in either the Irish or the English language only. In order to facilitate evaluation by the International Assessment Board in English, applicants submitting Irish language applications are invited to submit an English language translation of their application. If an English translation is not provided by an applicant, the Council will provide a translation to the International Assessment Board.

The Council strongly encourages applicants to submit through the online system well in advance of the closing date for the competition. On the day that the call closes there is likely to be heavy traffic on the server, which may slow down the submission of your proposal. To prevent problems with heavy server traffic, do not wait until the final day of the call to submit your application. If you need to upload your application on the closing day, please allow at least 6 hours before the 4pm (GMT) deadline on 28th October to allow the upload to fully complete.

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

All applicants must submit an Expression of Interest template (available on the Council's website) by **4pm, Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016** to [projects@research.ie](mailto:projects@research.ie). The Council will acknowledge receipt of all submitted Expression of Interest forms by email. Applicants are advised not to telephone the office to seek confirmation of receipt of their Expression of Interest form.

The purpose of the Expressions of Interest form is to facilitate the Council in selecting peer reviewers for the evaluation process. Applicants will be required to provide a short description (max. 50 words) and keywords. **It is mandatory to submit an Expression of Interest form: failure to submit an Expression of Interest form will render an application ineligible.**

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### FAQs

Any queries relating to these terms and conditions, or the operation of the scheme generally should be submitted to the relevant Research Office/Officer of the HEI or RPO in the first instance. In the interest of transparency and fairness to all applicants, the Council Executive will not discuss queries over the telephone.

A list of all queries, not resolved by the Research Office, should then be submitted as a batch to [projects@research.ie](mailto:projects@research.ie) by the designated Research Officer within eligible institutions. The FAQ page on the IRC website will be updated on a weekly basis (Friday) up until **21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**.

## SECTION E: EVALUATION

All applications to the Scheme will be evaluated on a competitive basis by an International Assessment Board (IAB), drawing on expertise of interdisciplinary research, on the basis of the evaluation criteria. The primary purpose of the IAB is to arrive at a *qualitative* ranking of the applications. The IAB will rank the applications on the basis of the materials supplied and will arrive at an overall judgement of standard. All IAB members will be subject to an agreed Code of Conduct.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following four-stage process:

1. Eligibility and adherence to terms and conditions
2. Pre-meeting evaluation by IAB members
3. IAB meeting to qualitatively rank each application and determine suitability for funding
4. Feedback to eligible applicants

New Horizons Interdisciplinary Awards Evaluation Criteria & Detail	
Quality of Proposal	60/100
<p>Suitability of the proposal's concept in relation to the intention of the scheme, to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significance and contribution of the proposed project to the specific field of research or research topic.</li> <li>• The approach and level of interdisciplinary research relevant to the societal challenge (and any predicted call topic) addressed by the proposal.</li> <li>• Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted including research methodologies and considerations of ethical, sex-gender issues and the limitations of the approach.</li> <li>• The experience and expertise of the applicant(s) relevant to the proposed project, including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.</li> </ul>	
Feasibility of the implementation and management of project	20/100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility of the project plan including timeline.</li> <li>• Proposed management of the project including an ability to deliver key outputs on time, clarity of description of milestones, feasibility and suitability of timescales.</li> </ul>	
Research and teaching and/or professional impact	10/100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for longer term sustainability and future plans.</li> <li>• Potential for further capacity building (for example, consortia building on interdisciplinary projects for Societal Challenges).</li> <li>• Interaction with the research and teaching strategy of their education institution(s)/enterprise organisation, (where relevant/appropriate).</li> </ul>	
Costs and value for money	10/100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money to include a full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources.</li> </ul>	

**Please note:** The Council's decision on whether to award a grant under this scheme shall be final. Applicants will be informed of the outcome in writing and anonymised feedback will be provided to all eligible applicants. **The Council Executive are precluded from discussing the results of the competition over the telephone.**

## **SECTION F: INFORMATION FOR SUCCESSFUL AWARD HOLDERS**

### **General responsibilities of Principal Investigators**

Award holders are bound by the Council's Terms and Conditions, letter of offer and acceptance form, grant monitoring and recruitment procedures, and financial controls. Should an award holder be in breach of the Scheme's Terms and Conditions, conditions of the letter of offer, acceptance form, grant monitoring or financial control procedures, then the named grantee may be prohibited from applying for further Irish Research Council funding awards in the future. The Council will work with the named single Principal Investigator both in terms of project management and reporting.

### **Financial Accountability**

The Irish HEI/RPO is responsible for and accountable for the proper use of the Award Fund.

The Council reserves the right to ask for confirmation from External Auditors of the HEI/RPO of the following:

- that the annual accounts of the HEI/RPO are up to date and have been approved by the Auditors without qualification.
- that the management letter from the Auditors raised no matters that did or could significantly affect the administration of Awards awarded by the Council.
- that the monies received under the award have been used for the purpose for which they were awarded.

The Council also reserves the right to commission audits of the participating Irish HEI/RPO for financial or other compliance. The Irish HEI/RPO undertakes to fully facilitate these reviews.

The Council accepts no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or liabilities arising out of work carried out under the Award, and the Irish HEI/RPO must fully indemnify the Council against all such expenditure or liabilities and against any actions, proceedings, costs, damages, expenses claims and demands arising from them including, in particular, but without limitation, any claims for compensation for which the Irish HEI/RPO may be liable as an employer or otherwise, or any claims by any person in relation to any intellectual property.

The Irish HEI/RPO will return all unspent funds to the Council at the end of the funding term.

All awards under this scheme are subject to receipt of funding by the Irish Research Council from the Department of Education and Skills. In the event of such funding being reduced or discontinued, neither the Department nor the Irish Research Council will be under any liability to provide funding or to compensate an awardee or their host institution for any reduction or cessation of such funding. All amounts payable in respect of the award are paid directly to the host institution which co-ordinates the payments under the award. Any disbursements by a host institution of this scheme may only be made in accordance with usual institutional practice and Department of Finance guidelines.

### **Review of Progress**

The Council attaches considerable importance to procedures for monitoring this scheme. Funding will be dependent on the demonstration of sufficient progress through regular written reports. It is the sole responsibility of the principal investigator to ensure that such reports are filed by the due dates. Failure to file these reports by the required dates or submission of an unsatisfactory report may result in the Council suspending and/or cancelling a grant. Where a grant is cancelled, the Council will have leave to seek recovery of monies which have been awarded under this Scheme. In any event, a certain percentage of the award will be held back to ensure satisfactory completion of the project.

All projects may be subject to external research and financial audit. The key aim of this audit is to verify the original aims of the project and determine progress as specified. The research audit may include independent peer review, site visit and project presentation during and post-completion of the project. The principal investigator will be required to maintain a complete research record and vouched expenditure receipts.

### **Indicative reporting requirements:**

<b>Award Type</b>	<b>Reporting requirements</b>
<b>Irish Research Council New Horizons Interdisciplinary Award</b>	Progress Reporting: First report 6 months after commencement & bi-annually thereafter.  Final Report on completion.

### **Deferral of an Award**

Awards may not be deferred, other than for eligible career breaks (e.g. maternity or parental leave) or in exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness). The decision is at the discretion of the Council whose decision on the matter will be final. Where there is an agreed suspension of the award, the Council can consider awardees' requests for no-cost extensions beyond the Funding Term.

## **Termination of Award**

Should an awardee be unable for any reason (including medical reasons) to pursue his/her project in accordance with these Terms and Conditions, s/he must, as soon as possible, inform the Council and the research office or its equivalent in the Irish HEI/RPO. The awardee must do this within no later than two weeks of such a situation coming to her/his attention. In such situations, Council will have regard to the usual conventions of the awardee's Irish HEI/RPO. However, given the basis on which Awards are awarded, the Council reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the award.

The Council reserves the right to suspend or terminate the award and/or require reimbursement by the Irish HEI/RPO, as the recipient of the award fund, of some or all payments as have already been made to the awardee, if in the opinion of the Council there has been a material breach of the Terms and Conditions as outlined in this document.

## **Acknowledgement of the Council**

It is an explicit requirement for successful awardees to acknowledge funding received from the Irish Research Council. All publicity, including public lectures, interviews, email signatures, letterheads, office signs, publications, monographs, print materials, online materials, press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, film, video and audio recordings associated with or arising from the research undertaken by the awardee while in receipt of a Council award must contain acknowledgement of funding received from the '**Irish Research Council**'. In this instance the awardee will utilize the Irish Research Council New Horizons IDR award title when communicating in any format on the project. Where possible the Council logo should always be included in any such acknowledgement (the logo is available to download from the Council website).

Awardees are also required to notify the Council ([communications@research.ie](mailto:communications@research.ie)) in advance of their participation in any significant events, for example, attaining an award of significant merit or substantial participation in events of national interest or impact that is connected to their IRC-funded research.

## **Ethical Approval**

The Council is committed to the maintenance of high ethical standards in the research that it funds through this Award.

The Host Organisation must have in place clear ethical guidelines and assurance procedures designed to manage research under its direction.

All awardees are required to give careful consideration to ethical issues which may arise in the course of their research.

If ethical issues arise in their research, awardees are required to submit a written statement to the Council to the effect that full consideration has been given to the ethical implications of the research proposal.

This statement must further demonstrate the awardee's proposed resolution of the ethical issues arising. Where an awardee's research proposal requires approval by the University Ethics Committee, or the equivalent body in her/his Host Organisation,

written evidence of such ethical approval is required by the Council before the award can commence.

Awardees should adhere to the recognised ethical practices and fundamental ethical principles appropriate to their discipline(s) as well as to ethical standards as documented in the different national, sectoral or institutional Codes of Ethics.

The Host Organisation and awardee must ensure that the research complies with all national and international regulation requirements governing the use of sensitive materials or processes, for example (and not intended to be a complete list): radioactive isotopes, ionising radiation, laboratory animals or other animals, pathogenic organisms, genetically manipulated organisms, toxic and hazardous substances, and research on human subjects and human embryos.

If access to archival material in private custodianship, or archival material with restricted access is required for the project, written evidence of appropriate permission to consult such material must be furnished to the Council.

### **Research Integrity**

The Host Organisation must ensure that the highest quality of research conduct is maintained. The Host Organisation must ensure that systems are in place to manage research misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, falsification of data, improper data selection). The systems in place to manage research misconduct should align with the basic principles that underpin all research integrity and good practice as outlined in the national policy statement on [‘Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland’](#) and the [‘European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity’](#). The HEI is required to report to the Council all findings of any proven case of research misconduct arising from a Council-funded research project.

### **Sex/Gender Dimension**

All awardees are required to give careful consideration as to whether there is a potential sex/gender dimension that may arise in the course of their project. Where the awardee is involved in the organisation of conference, networking or dissemination panels connected with IRC-funded research, due regard should be given to gender balance within any such panel. The Council’s Gender Strategy & Action Plan 2013-2020 is available on the Council’s website.

### **Intellectual Property/Knowledge Transfer**

The Council does not make any claim to intellectual property arising from the award.

Where appropriate, the Council encourages the commercialisation of research output as outlined in [‘Inspiring Partnership – the national IP Protocol 2016’](#) and [‘Putting public research to work for Ireland: Policies and procedures to help industry make good use of Ireland’s public research institutions \(2012\)’](#). On that basis, for projects funded under this scheme, foreground intellectual property generated will be owned by the HEI. The Council requires that background IP is captured clearly prior to the initiation of the project, that there is clarity on who has access to background IP and declarations made on the basis of the same. Good practice through the maintenance of notebooks and records must be adhered to. Preferential terms may be negotiated if the HEI is of the view that the best interests of the State are advanced. The Host Organisation(s) must establish rules and procedures for protecting and managing any intellectual property

arising during the award. These rules and procedures must be in accordance with national guidelines.

In the case of collaborative research where more than one Host Organisation is involved, a research agreement (including reference to intellectual property rights and confidentiality) must be in place before the award can commence. The terms of any such agreement must not conflict with those outlined in this document. A copy of any research agreements established in relation to awarded projects under this scheme must be made available to the Council.

### **Open Access Policy**

The Council has established and will promote the following policy relating to the placement of research publications and outputs in Open Access Repositories. (It is accepted that there will be recognised instances in which the following might not be feasible; in such circumstances, the PI should contact his/her Research Office or equivalent, where relevant, for advice):

- All PIs must lodge their publications and other research outputs, resulting in whole or in part from Council-funded research, in an Open Access repository and should make such publications publicly discoverable, openly accessible and re-usable as soon as is possible.
- All peer-reviewed journal articles and conference publications should be deposited as soon as possible: ideally, at the time of acceptance by the journal/conference and no later than the date of formal publication.
- Other research outputs such as monographs, books, book chapters, research theses and reports should be deposited where possible.
- The repository should ideally be a local institutional repository to which the appropriate rights must be granted to replicate to other repositories. However, suitable repositories are those, both local and other, that provide free public access to, and make provision for long-term preservation of, published research findings.

Repositories should release the metadata immediately upon deposit. Open access to the full text paper should be made immediately upon deposit or once access restrictions, as required by certain publishers, have expired.

Researchers should agree terms of deposit with publishers. Clarity should be sought on copyright, licensing and embargo policies, and agreed policies with publishers must be respected. Access restrictions to full text articles may be applied as required by certain publishers, however these restrictions should not normally exceed 6 months after publication for scientific, technical and health science research publications and 12 months for arts, humanities and social sciences research outputs. However, the Council recognises that this may not be a feasible option in all cases, and in such a case, an expected embargo of up to 24 months may be facilitated in the arts, humanities and social sciences, but this will be subject to on-going review.

More information on the Open Access Policy is available on the Council's website ([www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)).

Whenever data is to be collected with the support of a grant awarded by the Council and/or partners, applicants must specify the means by which that data will be made available as a public good for use by other researchers, via the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) or other appropriate channels.

## **Additional Awards**

New Horizons is not intended to substitute for or to augment funds available under programmatic research actions. It may be held in conjunction with other externally funded travel bursaries, equipment grants or awards provided that:

- should the awardee apply for further funding to another source, they will state as part of that application (whether or not they are required to do so) that they hold a Council New Horizons award and will notify the Council prior to submitting the application.
- the value of other funding is not more than €100,000 in any given year during the life of award. However, the Council recognises that, from time to time, awards which exceed this limit may independently recognise the outstanding merit of an awardee during the term of the award. In such circumstances, awardees are advised that in exceptional cases, and then only on a case-by-case basis, they may hold such major personal awards in conjunction with the funding provided by Council. The acceptance of such further awards is subject to the prior approval of Council.
- awardees who have other sources of funding (other than through paid employment) such as travel grants etc., must inform the appropriate offices in their Irish HEI/RPO, and the Council about the amount and source of the funding in writing. This information must also be recorded in the required progress reports. This applies to research funding received before or during the life of the Fellowship.
- the other funder(s) agree that the Council New Horizons award can be held alongside their award. The Council will not involve itself in the decisions of other funding agencies/local authorities in this regard.

Tax issues which may arise from such bursaries or awards are of concern to the individual awardee and not the Council or the Irish HEI/RPO.

## **Responsibilities of the Host Organisation (HEIs/RPOs)**

The Host Organisation must obtain and comply with all necessary and statutory permissions laid down by local and national authorities in relation to protecting the environment, preventing pollution and ensuring wider societal health and safety protection.

Applications will need to be endorsed via the online Smart Simple application portal by the Host Organisation within a week of the deadline of the call.

The HEI/RPO is responsible for providing the facilities and access to the equipment needed for the awardee to carry out the research, ensuring that all items of equipment and materials provided for the award are adequately maintained.

### **Dignity in the Conduct of Research**

The Council supports a research system in which individual researchers are enabled to reach their full potential at all stages of their career. Scholars and their supervisors are entitled to carry out their research free from any form of harassment, victimisation, or bullying. HEIs have the responsibility to ensure an appropriate work environment and to deal with any complaints or issues speedily, in line with agreed grievance procedures. The Council's full statement on dignity in the conduct of research is available [here](#).

All Council staff are entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times and, accordingly, are encouraged to report any instances of infractions to management. In cases where staff experience abusive or inappropriate behaviour, the Council reserves the right to report any such behaviour to the relevant personnel in the HEI or other organisation connected with the individual.

### **General Award Conditions**

These Terms and Conditions will be governed by and construed in accordance with the Laws of Ireland and all parties will expressly and irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the Irish Courts.

Following the policies of the Irish Government in relation to the development of the Information Society, properly authenticated electronic communications will be treated as legally equivalent to paper submissions. The Council and the HEI/RPO must follow good practice on data protection, management and security. The Council cannot be held legally liable for interference by any third party.

It is a condition of acceptance of an award that awardees grant permission to the Council to share data about the application with government departments and other national funding agencies for statistical and policy formation purposes.

The Council reserves the right to revise the Terms and Conditions of this award at any time. Any such revisions will be notified to participating HEI/RPOs and will also be posted on the Council's website.

## Appendix 1

### **Societal Challenges – Anticipated Themes for 2017 and 2018-2020**

The overarching agenda for Societal Challenges is set out in the Commission document [COUNCIL DECISION of 3 December 2013 establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation \(2014-2020\)](#). Applicants submitting a proposal to New Horizons should familiarise themselves with the context for the Societal Challenges pillar as set out in this document.

**Please note:** The lists below are themes that describe in the Horizon 2020 work programme for 2017 and in some instances, anticipated topics in the 2018-20 Work Programmes. As the 2018-20 programmes are still in development and subject to change, all applicants for a “New Horizons” interdisciplinary grant application should consult with either the National Delegate (ND) or the National Contact Point (NCP) (detailed below) for each Societal Challenge on specific topics and expert advice.

#### **SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 1: Health, demographic change and wellbeing**

The anticipated themes for the [2018-20 Work Programmes](#) are currently being developed.

Themes which may have relevance to SSH researchers engaging with STEM health researchers:

- Understanding health and well-being in both young and old
- Comparing effectiveness of healthcare interventions in the adult population
- ICT solutions for Active and Healthy Ageing
- Use of Big Data in Health and Care
- Digital health literacy

National Delegate: [Dr. Patricia Clarke](#), Health Research Board

National Contact Point: [Ms. Kay Duggan Walls](#), Health Research Board

National Contact Point: [Dr. Ciaran Duffy](#), Enterprise Ireland

#### **SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 2: Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy**

Themes which may have relevance to SSH researchers engaging with STEM researchers:

- Sustainable food security
- Blue growth
- Rural renaissance
- Bio-economy innovation for sustainable goods & services

National Delegate: [Mr. Richard Howell](#), Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

National Delegate: [Mr. John Evans](#), Marine Institute

National Delegate: [Ms. Fiona Grant](#), Marine Institute

National Contact Point: [Mr. Patrick Barrett](#), Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

### **SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 3: Secure, clean and efficient energy**

Indicative topics that would be of relevance to SSH researchers engaging with STEM researchers:

- Energy efficiency and human behaviour
- Competitive low carbon energy/Near to market solutions
- Smart cities and communities
- Innovation in low carbon energy technologies

National Delegate: [Ms. Joanne Sheahan](#), Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

National Contact Point: [Mr. Philip Cheasty](#), Enterprise Ireland

### **SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 4: Smart, green and integrated transport**

Indicative topics that would be of relevance to SSH researchers engaging with STEM researchers:

- Transport safety
- Mobility for growth
- Automated road transport
- Green vehicles
- Socio-economic and behavioural research in transport systems

National Delegate & Contact Point: [Dr. Bob Flynn](#), Enterprise Ireland

### **SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 5: Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials**

Indicative topics that would be of relevance to SSH researchers engaging with STEM researchers:

- Climate action
- Circular economy
- Water
- Innovating cities
- Raw materials
- Greening the economy
  - Earth observation
  - Nature based solutions, disaster risk reduction and natural capital accounting
  - Heritage alive

National Delegate: [Dr. Brian Donlon](#), Environmental Protection Agency National

Contact Point: [Dr. Alice Wemaere](#), Environmental Protection Agency National

Contact Point: [Mr. Mark Sweeney](#), Enterprise Ireland

## **SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 6: Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies**

Indicative topics that would be of relevance to SSH researchers engaging with STEM researchers:

- Migration and the refugee crisis: are key challenges for Europe. Research and innovation need to provide a solid evidence base and propose concrete options to serve as a building block for effective migration policies and sustainable actions.
- Society-economy-culture 4.0: the changing nature of interactions between humans and technologies are global trends that increasingly appear at the top of the EU political agenda.
- Governance for the future: the 'de-legitimacy' of traditional institutions, the rise of non-state actors and the 'mistrust in the system' are key issues that will have to be addressed by researchers and decision-makers.

The Council particularly welcomes applications from AHSS researchers collaborating with ICT researchers to address topics in this challenge.

*Due to a conflict of interest, the National Contact Point and Delegate for Challenge 6 will not be available to provide advice. Please contact [Dr Justin Sinnott](#), Programme Manager, Irish Research Council.*

## **SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 7: Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens**

Indicative topics that would be of relevance to SSH researchers engaging with STEM researchers:

- Cyber Security including the Economics of Cyber Security
- Terrorism prevention
- Data Protection
- Privacy
- Human Factors

National Delegate & Contact Point: [Mr. Michael Murphy](#), Enterprise Ireland

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1. **The Council** shall mean the Irish Research Council.
- 1.2. **AHSS** Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences disciplines as set out in the list of eligible subject areas (Annex A). The term SSH (Social Science & Humanities) is the preferred acronym used more frequently by the European Commission and has the same meaning as AHSS in the context of this funding scheme. The two terms are used interchangeably in this document.
- 1.3. **Awardees** shall mean the New Horizons Awardees (Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator). For reporting purposes, the Council will liaise directly with the Principal (Lead) Investigator.
- 1.4. **Award Fund** shall mean the funding for the Award.
- 1.5. **Funding Term** shall mean the period between the official start date and agreed end date of the Award.
- 1.6. **Higher Education Institution (HEI)** For the purposes of these Awards, a higher education institution in Ireland (as defined in 1.11) must be: within the meaning of Section One of the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971; and/or approved for the purposes of the Free Fees initiative; and/or in receipt of some other form of public funding from the Department of Education and Skills. A list of eligible Irish HEIs is provided on [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie).<sup>1</sup>
- 1.7. **Interdisciplinary Research:** Interdisciplinary research (IDR) is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or field of research practice.
- 1.8. **Ireland** shall for the purposes of these Terms & Conditions mean the Republic of Ireland.
- 1.9. **Principal Investigator (Lead PI):** For IDR awards, the leading investigator or “lead applicant”.
- 1.10. **Principal Investigator (Co PI):** For IDR awards, the named STEM co- principal investigator or “co-applicant”.
- 1.11. **Research Performing Organisation (RPO)** For the purposes of these Awards, an eligible RPO is one that possesses an existing in-house capacity to carry out research that materially extends and enhances the Irish research base and is in a position to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake and lead research projects/programmes, as approved by the Council.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.12. **Research Project** shall mean the research work proposed by the applicant and approved by the Irish Research Council.
- 1.13. **Societal Challenge** shall mean any such challenge identified by the European Commission Framework Programme for Research & Innovation and specifically associated with Horizon 2020. Details on upcoming themes for [Societal Challenges](#) are available in Appendix 1.

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<sup>1</sup>See <http://research.ie/aboutus/irish-research-council-policies> for details.

- 1.14. SSH** shall mean Social Science and Arts & Humanities (see 1.2).
- 1.15. IDR Award** shall mean an award to an AHSS PI to undertake and to lead interdisciplinary research with a named STEM researcher (Co. PI) that seeks to address a named Horizon 2020 [Societal Challenge](#).
- 1.16. STEM** shall mean Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics research as set out in the list of eligible subject areas (Annex B).

### **GUIDANCE ON THE SEX-GENDER DIMENSION IN RESEARCH CONTENT**

#### **Introduction**

Excellent research fully considers the potential biological sex and social gender dimensions as key analytical and explanatory variables. If relevant sex-gender issues are missed or poorly addressed, research results will be partial and potentially biased. Full consideration of the sex-gender dimension in research content is a requirement for all Irish Research Council awards and will also be a requirement for Horizon 2020 funding.

The following is provided to help applicants complete the Sex-Gender dimension statement in the application. This taken from the Toolkit Gender in EU-funded research<sup>1</sup> which aims to give the research community practical tools to integrate gender aspects into their research, including equal opportunities for women and men and the sex-gender dimension of research, thereby contributing to excellence in research. Please also refer to <http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/> for examples of case studies in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering and Environment.

#### **A summary from the ‘Toolkit Gender in EU-funded research’**

**The best possible research validity:** Investing in a sex-gender-sensitive approach to the research content makes for higher quality and validity. If research takes into account the differences between men and women in the research population, the results will be more representative. General categories such as ‘people’, ‘patients’ or ‘users’ do not distinguish between men and women.

Research based on such categories may well draw partial conclusions based on partial data. For example, research on a new breast cancer treatment should include male patients, so as to draw a complete picture. Most basic research with animal models focuses on males to the exclusion of females (Zucker et al., 2010; Marts et al., 2004). Research on economic migrants cannot limit itself to male points of view if it wants to understand the whole migrant population.

#### **How to consider the potential gender dimension and implications for your research**

**Research ideas and hypotheses:** The relevance of sex-gender for and within the subject matter needs to be analysed and an assessment made of the state of knowledge in this respect. The formulation of hypotheses can draw upon previous research and existing literature. Indeed, the body of knowledge on sex-gender issues has been steadily growing over recent decades, and can serve as interesting reference material to build new hypotheses for future research.

**Project design and research methodology:** While research methodologies may vary, they all strive to represent (aspects of) reality. Whenever this reality concerns humans, any sound methodology should differentiate between the sexes and take into account the men’s and women’s situations equally. Groups such as ‘citizens’, ‘patients’, ‘consumers’, ‘victims’ or ‘children’ are therefore too general as categories.

#### **Research implementation**

*Data collection tools* (such as questionnaires and interview checklists) need to be gender-

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009\\_GenderToolKit\\_Module1.pdf](http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009_GenderToolKit_Module1.pdf)

sensitive, use gender neutral language, and should make it possible to detect the different realities of men and women. This will help to avoid gender bias. For example, answers to be provided by the 'head of household' are not necessarily valid for all household members.

*Data analysis:* In most research concerning human subjects, data are routinely disaggregated by sex, which would logically lead to analyses according to sex. However to date this is still not common practice. Systematically taking sex as a central variable and analysing other variables with respect to it (e.g. sex and age, sex and income, sex and mobility, sex and labour) will provide significant and useful insights. Involving gender-balanced end-user groups in the course of the research is also a good way of guaranteeing the highest impact.

**Dissemination phase – reporting of data:** Collecting and analysing sex-gender-specific data is not enough if they are omitted from the published results. Sex-gender should be included in 'mainstream' publications as it is as much part of daily reality as any other variable studied. Specific dissemination actions (publications or events) for sex-gender findings can be considered. Institutions and departments that focus on gender should be included in the target groups for dissemination. Publications should use gender-neutral language.

## CHECKLIST FOR SEX-GENDER IN RESEARCH CONTENT

### Research ideas phase:

- If the research involves humans as research objects, has the relevance of sex-gender to the research topic been analysed?
- If the research does not directly involve humans, are the possibly differentiated relations of men and women to the research subject sufficiently clear?
- Have you reviewed literature and other sources relating to sex-gender differences in the research field?

### Proposal phase:

- Does the methodology ensure that (possible) sex-gender differences will be investigated: that sex-gender differentiated data will be collected and analysed throughout the research cycle and will be part of the final publication?
- Does the proposal explicitly and comprehensively explain how sex-gender issues will be handled (e.g. in a specific work package)?
- Have possibly differentiated outcomes and impacts of the research on women and men been considered?

### Research phase:

- Are questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, etc. designed to unravel potentially relevant sex and/or gender differences in your data?
- Are the groups involved in the project (e.g. samples, testing groups) gender-balanced? Is data analysed according to the sex variable? Are other relevant variables analysed with respect to sex?

### Dissemination phase:

- Do analyses present statistics, tables, figures and descriptions that focus on the relevant sex-gender differences that came up in the course of the project?
- Are institutions, departments and journals that focus on gender included among the target groups for dissemination, along with mainstream research magazines?
- Have you considered a specific publication or event on sex-gender-related findings?