



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL

An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

Indicative Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2020 Applicant Form for 2-Year Fellowship

Deadline for submission: 16:00 GMT Wednesday 27 November 2019

This Word document is provided solely for information purposes. All applicants must create and complete their submission through the [online system](#) by the deadline of **16:00 (Irish time) on Wednesday 27 November 2019**. Please see the **2020 Terms and Conditions** and **Guide for Applicants** on the [Irish Research Council website](#) for further information prior to submitting your application online. All sections must be completed in full.

Eligibility Quiz

Have you had two previous unsuccessful applications to the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme (including applications to the EMPOWER Scheme previously run by the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology, and the Government of Ireland Fellowship Scheme previously run by the Irish Council for Humanities and Social Sciences)?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Will you have been awarded your doctoral degree within the 5-year period before 31 May 2020? For the purposes of this condition, the date of graduation will be taken into account.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have answered 'No' above, will you have been certified as having fulfilled, within the 5-year period before 31 May 2020, all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected thesis, but have not yet graduated?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Project title:

Project abstract (min. 100 words/max. 300 words):

Primary area/discipline and other research areas:

Have you identified an academic mentor, **based in on an Irish HEI**, for the above project prior to your application? If so, have they **agreed** to act as a mentor for the duration of the research project under this application?

- Yes
 - Academic mentor name (to be typed):

Note: Name and email address **must be exactly** as mentor’s name and email address registered in the online system. This application will be deemed ineligible if the information in relation to academic mentor at Eligibility Quiz does not correspond to the information on the system. The Irish Research Council strongly advises applicants to contact their academic mentor and the research office before completing the Eligibility Quiz and submitting the application form.

- No – *All applications require an academic mentor who is willing to mentor the proposed research project. Prior to creating an application, you must contact and discuss your research project with your proposed mentor. Please do **NOT** add a mentor to your application without their prior approval.*

Does your proposed research deal with any of the following prohibited areas?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research activity aimed at human cloning for reproductive purposes; • Research activity intended to modify the genetics of human beings that could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be funded); • Research activities to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer. 	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Applicant Details

Duration of Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship for which you are applying:	
1-year fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/>
2-year fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/>

Application in Irish:	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

There is the option on the online system at this point to upload an English translation, should you wish to do so, which will accompany your research proposal. If you submit an application form in Irish without submitting your own English translation, the Irish Research Council will arrange for an English translation of the form. The online system will only accept documents in PDF format.

Title:	
Dr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name:

Please select the gender you identify with:	
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of birth:

What is your nationality, i.e. your passport-issuing country?

ORCID ID:

ORCID ID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher. If you do not currently have an ORCID ID, please register for one at www.orcid.org and provide us with your unique 16-digit identifier.

Area where you are ordinarily resident?	
EU	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-EU	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are you a national of a European Economic Area (EEA)* member state or Switzerland?	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

* The EEA comprises the EU member states together with Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

Do you currently hold or have you previously held an Irish Research Council award (including awards made under IRCSET and IRCHSS)?	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If answering 'Yes', please provide further details:

Applicants to the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme must not hold, nor have previously held, an Irish Research Council fellowship.

Mentor Details

All applications require a nominated 'mentor in Ireland' who is willing to mentor you for the proposed research project.

Once you have added and saved your 'mentor in Ireland' details to the online system, the mentor should receive an automatic confirmation email advising them that they have been nominated. At this point mentors can log in to the system and view the application details.

Applications must be submitted before the mentor can create and submit their online mentor reference form.

Mentor name:

Position:

Institution:

Department:

Telephone no:

Email address:

Referee Details

You must associate two referees with your application, neither of whom may be your named mentor. A suitable referee is an individual who knows you sufficiently well to provide you with a character reference, e.g. a principal investigator, a mentor from any time in your career or education, or a leader or member of a research team where you have worked.

Each referee will be required to provide an online reference as part of your application. Referees do not have sight of the application itself.

*In order for your referees to be able to access the online system, you **MUST ensure that the email address you provide for each referee is correct.** If an incorrect email address is provided for one of your referees, they will be unable to access the system and will therefore be unable to upload a reference form and the application will be deemed ineligible.*

Once you have added and saved referee details to the online system, the referees should receive an automatic confirmation email advising them that they can log into the system and create the reference form from this point onwards. You should check with the referees as early as possible to ensure that they have received such an email and can access the online system.

Referee 1

Referee name:

Organisation/institution:

Position:

Email address:

Referee 2

Referee name:

Organisation/institution:

Position:

Email address:

Academic Qualifications

Examination results, qualification names and other information provided in this section must correspond exactly with that on relevant official transcripts. Successful applicants will be required to provide official transcripts/parchments before awards are confirmed. In case of discrepancies between results provided in the application form and those on official transcripts, offers of awards will be withdrawn.

If the language of a transcript/parchment is not English, the name of the degree and overall result if expressed verbally (such as 'mention très honorable avec félicitations du jury' or 'отлично/otlichno') must be provided in the language of the transcript/parchment as well as in English. It is not sufficient to provide only the English translation/equivalent of the name of the degree or result.

Bachelor's degree (or degree equivalent to the honours bachelor's degree level 8 on the Irish [National Framework of Qualifications](#)), if applicable:

Institution:

Country:

Graduation date:

dd/mm/yyyy

Qualification type and name:

Final grade or grade point average:

Any additional information relating to this degree can be included here, e.g. dissertation title, area of study:

[300 words]

Second bachelor's degree (or degree equivalent to the honour's bachelor's degree level 8 on the Irish [National Framework of Qualifications](#)), if applicable:

Institution:

Country:

Graduation date:
dd/mm/yyyy

Qualification type and name:

Final grade or grade point average:

Any additional information relating to this degree can be included here, e.g. dissertation title, area of study:
[300 words]

Master's degree (or degree equivalent to the honour's master's degree level 9 on the Irish [National Framework of Qualifications](#)), if applicable:

Type:

Taught

Research

Institution:

Country:

Graduation date:

dd/mm/yyyy

Qualification type and name:

Final grade or grade point average:

Any additional information relating to this degree can be included here, e.g. dissertation title, area of study:

[300 words]

Second master's degree (or degree equivalent to the honour's master's degree level 9 on the Irish [National Framework of Qualifications](#)), if applicable:

Type:

Taught

Research

Institution:

Country:

Graduation date:

dd/mm/yyyy

Qualification type and name:

Final grade or grade point average:

Any additional information relating to this degree can be included here, e.g. dissertation title, area of study:

[300 words]

Doctoral degree (or degree equivalent to the doctoral degree level 10 on the Irish [National Framework of Qualifications](#)) if applicable:

Qualification type and name:

Institution:

Country:

Name of your supervisor:

Title of your doctoral thesis:

Abstract:

[300 words]

Start date:

dd/mm/yyyy

Has your doctorate been awarded?

Yes

No

If you answered 'Yes' above, please specify your PhD graduation date. (Note: in order to be eligible this date must be after 31 May 2015 and no later than 31 May 2020.)

Date:

If you answered 'No' above, and you have not yet already graduated, **YOU MUST** have formally submitted the hardbound corrected version of your thesis by 31 May 2020 and be awaiting graduation.

Select 'Yes' if you comply with ALL of the above eligibility requirements. (Note: it is important to provide accurate information at this point. Should your application be recommended for funding, you will be asked to provide evidence that the final version of your thesis was submitted no later than 31 May 2020. Should it subsequently emerge that this criterion has not been fulfilled, the application will be withdrawn from the process.)

Yes

No

Other Education

Please provide any additional information relevant to your academic background, which should include the name, location and dates for each relevant course listed. For major awards please also provide equivalency of the degree to the Irish [National Framework of Qualifications](#):

[300 words]

Research Achievements

Please describe your research achievements since beginning your career as a researcher (including PhD and post-PhD, if applicable). Please bear in mind this could be read by non-specialists, as well as peers, and should be written in order to communicate with them effectively:

[500 words]

Research award 1

Title:

Amount:

Source:

Award type (i.e. prize, research grant, travel grant, etc.):

Duration:

Research award 2

Title:

Amount:

Source:

Award type (i.e. prize, research grant, travel grant, etc.):

Duration:

Research award 3

Title:

Amount:

Source:

Award type (i.e. prize, research grant, travel grant, etc.):

Duration:

Proposed Research

This should be written by the applicant after consulting with the proposed mentor(s) and host organisation(s).

Project title:

Higher education institution:

Department:

Please refer to the [research categorisation document](#) available on the Irish Research Council website for the list of primary areas, disciplines and other research areas.

Primary area:

Discipline:

Other research area(s):

Second categorisation – if interdisciplinary:

(If your proposed research is interdisciplinary, please list second categorisation here, e.g. primary area, then discipline, then other research area if applicable).

Keywords describing proposed research:

Please provide a lay abstract for your proposed research. This will be used to inform a non-specialist audience:

[300 words]

Please provide details of your proposed research, to include aims, objectives and central research questions:

[750 words]

Please describe the research design and methodologies that will be used as part of your research project. These should be described in sufficient detail so as to demonstrate your understanding of the research topic:

[750 words]

Please provide a schedule to include (a) milestones and deliverables for completion of the proposed fellowship, (b) risks that might endanger achieving these deliverables and (c) the contingency plans to be put in place in order to mitigate these risks:

[500 words]

Please describe how the proposal relates to existing research in this area. Suggest how the project will make a new contribution to knowledge. Do not provide bibliographical lists or footnotes here. A few relevant references should be cited, however. Please provide DOI-IDs if applicable:

[750 words]

Please describe any specialist knowledge, data, access to specialist equipment/facilities and similar that are required for successful completion of the proposed fellowship including, but not limited to, language competencies, technical skills or use of specialist software. If the relevant knowledge, data or access to specialist equipment/facilities is not already in place, details should be provided as to how it will be acquired:

[500 words]

There is an option on the system at this point to upload any supplementary information (e.g. relevant diagrams) which will accompany your research proposal.

Please upload a GANTT chart to illustrate the project timelines, milestones and deliverables.

Please upload select bibliography and references to publications and other research outputs mentioned in the proposal.

The system will only accept PDF files for upload.

Please outline your plans for the dissemination and knowledge exchange of your research including, but not limited to, publications, conference papers, poster presentations, reports and outreach activities:

[500 words]

Please outline how the proposed research is a significant development from the research conducted as part of your doctoral thesis:

[500 words]

Please provide details of any proposed research trips of more than four weeks' duration which you believe will be necessary for the successful completion of your fellowship:

[300 words]

Please outline your reasons for choosing your proposed higher education institution. Describe the relevant research infrastructure, facilities and resources that will be available to you at this institution:

[400 words]

Please outline your reasons for choosing your proposed mentor. Include information about the proposed mentor's relevant research achievements, their involvement in research and training programmes, and their experience mentoring early-career researchers to date:

[400 words]

Have you previously submitted all or part of this proposal to an Irish Research Council Scheme and been unsuccessful?

Yes

No

If 'Yes', please clearly describe the modifications to your research proposal since it was previously submitted:

[400 words]

Please note that unsuccessful applicants may only re-apply to the scheme on one subsequent occasion (with effect from 21 October 2009).

Career Training and Development Plan

The Irish Research Council places great importance on the education and skills development of early-stage researchers. Successful researchers demonstrate strategic thinking, not only in research project design but also in career planning and professional development. On that basis, every applicant is required to upload a Career Training and Development Plan as part of their application.

The Career Training and Development Plan document should be uploaded to the online system as a PDF file [maximum two pages] and should outline the following:

- In this plan, you should outline both your immediate (1–2 years) and long-term goals (5 years plus) and career objectives;
- Provide a description of plans for the acquisition of new knowledge and skills, e.g. gaining research skills and techniques, communication skills, research management, networking, and other transferable skills during the period of this fellowship. Where appropriate include a reference to the description of specialist knowledge section above;
- Please outline your reasons for choosing this fellowship and how you feel this fellowship programme will contribute to these goals;
- Detail how the fellowship will enable you to gain skills relevant to employment outside the traditional academic sector;
- Detail how the fellowship will enable you to acquire competencies that improve the prospects of reaching and/or reinforcing a position of professional maturity, diversity and independence.

The [Vitae website and Researcher Development Framework](#) are an excellent career development resources that you may find useful when preparing your Career Training and Development Plan.

Relevant Work Experience

Please provide details of your relevant work experience in reverse chronological order, starting with your most recent post. Include details such as any postdoctoral research, research assistant posts, relevant teaching posts and/or enterprise employment.

DO NOT INCLUDE EDUCATIONAL DETAILS IN THIS SECTION, i.e. undergraduate or postdoctoral (MSc or PhD) research. These should be detailed only in the section Academic Qualifications. If you do not have relevant work experience you can leave this section empty.

Current Position

Place of employment:

Date employed from:

Date employed to:

Department/organisational unit:

Research mentor (if applicable):

Brief description of work experience, duties and responsibilities:

[300 words]

Research project title and abstract (if applicable):

[300 words]

Previous Position

Place of employment:

Date employed from:

Date employed to:

Department/organisational unit:

Research mentor (if applicable):

Brief description of work experience, duties and responsibilities:

[300 words]

Research project title and abstract (if applicable):

[300 words]

Other Relevant Work Experience

Job title:

Company:

Address:

Dates employed:

Please include details of any other relevant work experience (including voluntary work, organising conferences, etc.) to date. This should include employer names, job titles, nature of duties and responsibilities, as well as duration of employment:

[300 words]

Please explain why such work is relevant to your research proposal:

[300 words]

Breaks in Research Career Path

As per the Terms and Conditions, applicants must have been awarded their doctoral degree or have been certified as having fulfilled all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree within the 5-year period before 31 May 2020. Extension to this 5-year period can be considered on provision of documented evidence of an eligible career break. Career breaks of up to 5 years are taken into account. Eligible career breaks include: maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, prolonged sick leave, and carer’s leave.

Do you require an extension to this 5-year period on grounds of a career break?

Yes

No

If ‘Yes’, please indicate which of the following types of career break apply to you:

Maternity leave

Paternity leave

Adoptive leave

Parental leave

Prolonged sick leave

Carer's leave

Have you at any time taken a prolonged break (> 3 months) from your research career (e.g. any periods spent working in an enterprise setting where you were unable to publish)?

[300 words]

Publications and Other Research Outputs

Please provide details of your top five peer-reviewed publications (including peer-reviewed journals, articles, books/book chapters, etc.). Specify your contribution to the publication. Please explain why each publication is significant. Publications **in press** can be included in this section but submitted or in preparation publications strictly cannot. If you have no peer-reviewed publications, please leave this section blank and continue down to the **Other Publications and Research Outputs** section of this page.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Publication date:

Title:

Author role:

Journal name, year, volume and page numbers:

Please explain why this publication is significant, focusing particularly on research content. Please specify your contribution to this publication:

[300 words]

Please provide details of up to 15 publications or research outputs, e.g. publications to date; research awards achieved; creation of data sets, databases and software; conference papers presented; patents granted; excavations; public broadcasts; stage performances; creative writing (such as novels, poetry); creative productions; exhibitions, etc.

Publications in press can be included in this section. Publications submitted and in preparation strictly cannot be included in this section. If such publications are included, they will not be considered as part of your research track record. Information supplied here will be considered as part of your research track record in recognition of the value and impact of all types of research outputs.

If you have no publications or other research outputs, please leave this section blank.

Type:

Publication date:

Title:

More details:

Role:

Please explain why this publication is significant, focusing particularly on research content. Please specify your contribution to this publication:

[300 words]

Samples of written work

If you have no significant peer-reviewed publications or other publications and research outputs, please upload samples of your written work as follows:

- Doctoral thesis table of contents
- One chapter from your doctoral thesis

Personal Statement

Please outline your reasons for choosing this fellowship and your suitability for the fellowship. Explain why the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship is the appropriate next step at the current stage of your career.

Please highlight any additional information which has not been included elsewhere in this application, e.g.:

- Why have you proposed this research topic?
- Why are you particularly suited to this topic?
- Which of your attributes, experience and achievements to date demonstrate your capability to successfully implement the fellowship?

[500 words]

Ethical Statement

All Irish Research Council funded projects must be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles. Research in any discipline can raise ethical issues. When conducting research, it is essential to carry out a detailed ethical evaluation and considering the research ethics at the early conceptual stage of any proposal greatly enhances the research project. If necessary, seek advice from the appropriate office in your organisation to ensure that you complete this section correctly.

Does the research proposal outlined in this submission require approval by the relevant university/institutional ethics committee?

Yes

No

Have you received confirmation from the head of department that the above statement is true?

Yes

No

Where ethical issues may arise in the research, applicants are required to submit to the Irish Research Council a written statement to the effect that full consideration has been given to the ethical implications of the research proposal. A full ethical report and approval from an ethical review committee will need to be received by the Irish Research Council prior to the commencement of the fellowship or within three months of the start date. If ethical issues do not arise, please enter 'N/A' below:

[500 words]

Does your proposed research programme relate to cancer treatment of the gonads?

Yes

No

Does your research involve any of the following ethical issues of special relevance?

Informed consent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human embryonic stem cells	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privacy and data protection	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of human biological samples and data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research on animals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research in developing countries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dual use (possible military/terrorist application)	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

Understand that if funded, any ethical issues relating to your proposed research programme will be subject to the rules and regulations of your Irish host organisation. You must agree to abide by these rules and regulations, including any full ethical review which it requests prior to embarking on your research programme:

Yes

No

Sex/Gender Dimension

Please read carefully the section on 'Biological Sex/Gender Dimension' in the Guide for Applicants and Terms and Conditions for help in completing this section.

Sex/gender dimension statement

Does your research involve any of the following?	
Humans as the research focus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals as the research focus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human samples and/or data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humans involved as consumers, users, patients or in trials	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research on animals, animal samples and/or data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research outputs with implications for both men and women	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research outputs with implications for end users or consumers	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide a statement detailing whether there is a potential sex and/or gender dimension to be considered in carrying out your research. If your research involves any of the above, please indicate how potential sex and/or gender issues will be handled.

If you have answered 'No' to the questions above, please explain why there is no potential biological sex and/or gender dimension to be considered in your proposed research. In particular, you are asked to reference the points mentioned in the 'Checklist for sex/gender in research content' in the Guide for Applicants:

[500 words]

Data Management Plan

Data management

Please provide a data management plan which addresses the following:

- How will data be exploited and/or shared/made accessible for verification and reuse?
- How will data be curated and preserved?
- If applicable, how do you plan to make data FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable)?
- If data cannot be made available, why?

[300 words]

Applicant Declaration

I hereby declare that I have read and accept the applicant requirements as set out in the 2020 Terms and Conditions and Guide for Applicants on the [Irish Research Council website](#):

I agree

I confirm that the information supplied in this application is correct and recognise that should it become apparent that any of the information provided is inaccurate or unverifiable with appropriate documentation, it will result in the application automatically being deemed ineligible:

I agree

I hereby declare that this application is my own work and understand that it will be subject to plagiarism checks. Random sampling will be carried out during the assessment period for evidence of plagiarism. Applicants who have been found to plagiarise will be prohibited from applying for Irish Research Council funding in the future. Proven instances of plagiarism will be brought to the attention of the research office.

I agree

Would you like the Irish Research Council to make your application available to other funding agencies and/or enterprise partners for funding consideration?

Yes

No