



Irish Research Council Laureate Awards Programme 2017/18

Stage 2 Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

Version 5 [01/02/18]

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

1. General Queries.

1. GENERAL QUERIES

I gather that the format is going to be 5-10 minute presentation, followed by questions, for the overall duration of about half an hour. Have applicants been given any more precise instructions on the duration of the presentation? Is it expected to be closer to 10 minutes for example?

Applicants each receive guidelines for their presentation which have been created by their respective panels. Each panel has a degree of autonomy to decide how long they wish each presentation to be and how much time they want to devote to questioning the applicant.

This year, each of the panels opted for a 10-minute presentation and 15 minutes of questions and answers with the applicant.

Are applicants allowed slides?

Yes, applicants are allowed slides.

Is there is any limit to the number of slides allowed?

No, there is no limit, but the applicant should bear in mind the strict time limit.

Are you expecting them to send the final version of the presentation to you in advance, and if so what is the deadline, and do you have a required file format?

Yes, applicants should email their presentation to laureate@research.ie by 4pm at the latest by the Friday before the interview. No changes to the presentation will be accepted after this date, nor will it be possible to bring your presentation on a memory stick. Your presentation will be open when you enter the room for your interview.

PCs in the interview rooms run the Windows 7 operating system and have installed Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 and Acrobat Reader X (version 10). The presentation should be compatible with this software.

The Council accepts no responsibility if there are technical problems with presentations on the day as we cannot guarantee compatibility between different systems.

As a precautionary measure, applicants are requested to prepare a .pdf file of your presentation without any movie clips. Please also email this to laureate@research.ie accompanying your main presentation by 4pm the Friday before the meeting. In the event that the presentation does not work, this .pdf file will be ready for use as a back-up.

Are applicants permitted to bring anything to the interview?

Applicants are required to bring hard copies of their presentation (PowerPoint or otherwise) which are to be circulated to all panel members at the beginning of their interview; please note this is included in their 10 minutes presentation time. The number of copies required for each panel have been relayed to applicants.

No other documentation is permitted.

Do we have to bring in 24 copies of printouts?

We have asked the applicants to bring in a specific number of printouts of the presentation slides to be distributed to the panel members depending on the size of the respective panel.

If I understand things correctly, the interview panel for each of the 3 domains will be constituted by generalists within each domain. Will all applicants within the same domain panel be presenting before the same panel? In other words, am I right in thinking that it is possible that an applicant will not have an expert in their precise discipline in the panel? My understanding is that expertise more closely related to the topic of the application is provided by the remote peer reviewers, who will not be directly involved in the interview.

Each applicant will be interviewed by a panel of experts with a range of expertise within their broad discipline domain (Life Science, Physical Science, Humanities and Social Sciences). All applicants within the domain will be interviewed by the same panel. This panel has been designed to comprise of experts with a broad range of complementary academic backgrounds. These experts will be informed by the written comments of the subject-specific peer reviewers in advance of the interviews. It is therefore possible that there will not be a specific expert on the panel from the applicant's narrow field, and indeed most members of the panel will not have specific expertise in the applicant's precise field.

Will the interview panel ask questions about the applicant's future ERC plans, or will questions be restricted to the IRC Laureate project itself?

The interview panel have not been instructed to restrict their questioning to the IRC Laureate project itself. They have scope to inquire about future ERC plans if it is necessary to assess the Laureate project.

Will there be a whiteboard that applicants can write on during the interview?

Yes

Will applicants be able to use a laser pointer for the presentation? If so, will one be provided?

Applicants may use a laser pointer for the presentation. The clicker that will be provided to the applicant upon entry to the room which changes slides, also functions as a laser pointer. Applicants are welcome to bring their own laser pointer, but please note that it will not be able to change slides.

Will the applicant know who is on the panel prior to the interview?

The applicant will not know who is on the panel. The list of panel members will only be published after the funding has been awarded to successful applicants.

Are candidates allowed to have extra slides in their presentations? These slides would not be presented, but could be shown to the panel to answer specific questions. If this is allowed, can they be printed on the hard copies that will be distributed at the beginning of the interview?

No additional slides are permitted.



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL

An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

Will there be a clock in the room to assist applicants in ensuring they stick to the time allowed for the presentation.

A standard clock is present on the wall of the room. In addition, it is intended that a countdown timer will be in view of the candidate.

Would it be possible to get a sense of the number and names of the people who make up the 'Study of the Human Past' panel?

There is no specific panel for the 'Study of the Human Past'. This discipline falls under the remit of the Humanities and Social Sciences panel. The names of the panel will only be published after the funding has been awarded.

Would it be possible to get a sense of the number of other people who might be in the room during the presentation i.e. managers, administrators?

In addition to the panel, there will be a minimum of three and sometimes up to six administrative staff in the room at any given time.

Is there a lectern in the room where applicants can stand or what type of table/ surface is there in the room where the laptop is positioned and on which applicants can place notes during the presentation?

There is no lectern. There is a cabinet by the entrance to the door, but given that it is at waist height and poorly positioned, it may not be suitable to place notes on it.

It is recommended that applicants stand beside the main projector screen while they present. The keyboard and mouse for the main projector will be located on the boardroom table near the applicant, but this is also at waist height.

As mentioned previously, a clicker with a built-in laser pointer will be given to the applicant upon entering the room. This clicker is paired with our system and will allow the applicant to navigate through the presentation.

Will the set up on the day allow for the use of 'Presenter View' in PowerPoint as default? Presenter view is the mode on PowerPoint which allows presenters present with their speaker notes on one computer (the laptop, for example), while the audience views the 'notes-free' presentation on the larger screen

Presenter View will not be available.

What will the layout of the room be like?

For convenience, please find below an image of the interview room. The layout of the room will be similar to this (although the main table will be larger). Please note the entrance to the room in the back left of the image and the projector screen in the back middle of the image.



Figure 1. Interview room