



Irish Research Council Laureate Awards Programme 2017/18

Webinar 25th April 2017
Dr Maria O'Brien – Programme Manager



Welcome!

- The webinar will consist of a short PowerPoint presentation with a voiceover.
- You may use the dashboard facility to submit questions. These questions will feed into the FAQ document which will be published as soon as possible on the IRC website.
- In addition, the webinar and the slides will be made available on the IRC website.

Innovation 2020

	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
3.8	Institute a new programme of funding for frontier research across all disciplines	Establish a new competitive fund to enable the next generation of researchers transition to Principal Investigator status and enable the research community in Ireland to be competitive internationally.	IRC	2017

Definition of frontier research

- “...frontier research is *research at and beyond the frontiers of current understanding*. It is intrinsically risky, and is characterised by the absence of disciplinary boundaries.” (Innovation 2020, p.40)

Aims of Laureate Awards Programme 2017/18


- To enhance frontier basic research in Irish research-performing organisations, across all disciplines.
- To support exceptional researchers to develop their track record, appropriate to their discipline and career stage.
- To build the international competitiveness of awardees and Ireland as a whole.
- To leverage greater success for the Irish research system in European Research Council awards.
- To retain excellent researchers in the Irish system and to catalyse opportunities for talented researchers working outside Ireland, to relocate to Ireland.

Laureate Awards Programme 2017/18


- The Council intends to make in the region of 24 awards valued between €400k and €600k in the first round of awards through the Laureate Programme. The funding mentioned in the press release reflects the funding available in the 2017 Budget (€2.5m) and does not reflect the totality of funding projected in subsequent years.

Who can apply?

- Researchers of any nationality based in Ireland or anywhere in the world may apply.
- Awards are portable within the Republic of Ireland.
- Successful applicants must submit an application to the ERC, ideally prior to the end of the award but no later than within one year of the end date or the next available ERC call deadline where this does not occur within one year of the end of the Laureate award.



Two types of award available for the Laureate Awards Programme 2017/18

- Starting Laureate Award: aim to enable excellent early-career researchers transition to Principal Investigator Status.
 - Consolidator Laureate Award: aim to enable excellent mid-career researchers consolidate their own independent research programme or team.
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Funding & Duration

Award Type	PhD eligibility – applicant should have been awarded their first PhD	Duration	Value	Discipline coverage
Starting	<p>>3 years and < 8 years prior to 1 January 2018</p> <p>Cut-off dates: 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2015 (inclusive)</p>	Up to four years	Max of €400,000 (inclusive of 25% overhead)	<u>ALL</u> disciplines
Consolidator	<p>>8 years and < 15 years prior to 1 January 2018</p> <p>Cut-off dates: 1 January 2003 to 1 January 2010 (inclusive)</p>	Up to four years	Max of €600,000 (inclusive of 25% overhead)	

Eligibility Criteria (Section 3.1 T&Cs)

PhD eligibility + eligible career breaks

Track record

Employment status

Funding history

Resubmissions

- In order to be eligible to apply for a Starting Laureate or Consolidator Laureate award, applicants must have been awarded his or her first PhD (or equivalent doctoral degree).
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate a promising track record of early achievements, appropriate to their research field and career stage, such as but not limited to: publications; research monographs; granted patents; invited presentations; other forms of peer-reviewed recognition of achievement.
- Applicants must either:
 - Hold an academic post (permanent, or a contract that covers the duration of the award) in the proposed host institution, or
 - Be an individual who, upon receipt of a Laureate award, will be conferred by the proposed host institution with a contract of employment of sufficient duration to cover the term of the award.
- For Starting Laureate, applicants cannot have held or hold an ERC StG, CoG or Adv Grant. For Consolidator Laureate, applicants cannot have held or hold an ERC CoG or Adv Grant.
- Applicants may apply for each of the Laureate awards a maximum of twice.

Eligible career breaks (Section 3.1 (ii) T&CS)

- An applicant may extend the period of eligibility in the following properly documented circumstances provided the grounds for the extension started before the call deadline.
- Eligible career breaks include the following:
 - Maternity leave;
 - Paternity leave;
 - Adoptive leave;
 - Parental leave;
 - Long—term illness leave;
 - Carer's leave;
 - Military service;
 - Clinical qualifications.

Eligible costs (Section 3.2 – 3.4 T&Cs)

PI – replacement costs

PI – contribution to
employment costs

PhD students/research
masters students

Postdoctoral Fellows
Research Assistants
Other staff

Eligible research expenses

- Costs may be requested to facilitate the re-allocation of existing commitments of the Laureate (e.g. teaching, admin responsibilities) in order to allow them to devote time and effort to the Laureate award. Up to €46,401 (1st point on IUA PDF scale) can be charged to the project.
- Where hosting of the Laureate gives rise to a new research contract of employment, up to 50% of the laureate's employment costs may be charged to the award for the duration of the award. If a contribution to the Laureate's employment costs is being requested, the host institution must guarantee to fund the balance of the employment costs for the duration of the award.
- Stipend €16k plus fees of up to €5,750 (both EU & non-EU) may be requested. Stipends can be supplemented from other funding sources.
- For postdoctoral fellows and research assistants, applicants can use the IUA researcher salary scale (must include PRSI and Employer Pension Contribution). Other personnel costs may be considered and institutional salary scales can be used.
- Eligible research expenses include travel costs; materials and consumables; publication costs; dissemination and knowledge exchange costs; access to research infrastructures; relocation expenses; overheads; equipment.

Application Process (Section 4 T&Cs)

- A full application will be submitted using the IRC [online submission system](#) by the applicant on or before **4pm, THURSDAY 29th June 2017**.
- Applicants are strongly advised to submit applications well in advance of the deadline.
- 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](#) for a step-by-step guide to submitting an application via the online submission system.

Preparing your application

- **Sex/Gender dimension:** all applicants have to demonstrate that they have given full consideration to whether there is a potential sex and/or gender dimension in their proposed research. Even if you answer 'no' to any of the questions, you still have to explain why there is no potential biological sex and/or gender dimension to be considered in your proposed research. Applicants should consult Appendix 1 *Guidance on the Sex-Gender Dimension in Research Content* of the Terms and Conditions for further information. The sex/gender questions are to be completed via the online system.
- **Data Management Plan (DMP):** applicants are required to address the data management needs of their research project. As part of the application, applicants will furnish an outline DMP and **if successful, a detailed DMP will be submitted to the Council within six months of project commencement date.** If a DMP is not required, applicants must justify why this is so. A list of resources about DMPs is provided in Appendix 2 of the Terms and Conditions.
- **Ethics Self-Assessment:** the ethics self-assessment table is drawn from Horizon 2020. **Ethical approval from the proposed host institution is NOT required at application stage.** If an applicant answers 'yes' to any of the questions in the self-assessment table, they are required to provide a statement on the ethical issues to be addressed. **Written evidence of ethical approval will be required within six months of the project commencement date.** Applicants are advised to consult the H2020 guidance document, [How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#). The ethics self-assessment table is completed via the online system.

Endorsement from proposed Host Institution

- For the Laureate Awards Programme, two letters of support are required:
 - Letter of support from the Head of School/Faculty in which the applicant is or will be based (use template provided).
 - Letter of support from the proposed Host Institution, signed by the Vice-President/Dean for Research. Authorised signatories or pro-persona signatories will not be accepted (use the template provided).
- Applications not accompanied by completed and signed letters of endorsement will be deemed ineligible and will not go forward for assessment.
- Host institutions will not be required to endorse applications via the online system.

Peer Reviewers

- Applicants can nominate up to five international academics/renowned experts in their discipline to remotely peer review their proposal.
- The role of the peer reviewer is to provide an expert academic review of proposals, not to provide personal testimonies.
- List of potential conflict of interests can be found in section 4.2.5 of the Terms and Conditions.
- Council reserves the right to appoint a peer reviewer which is not a nominated peer reviewer of the applicant.
- Applicants can also specify up to three individuals who they wish to exclude as an international peer reviewer in the evaluation of their proposal. The persons identified will be excluded from the evaluation of the proposal concerned as long as it does not compromise the Council's ability to have the proposal evaluated in line with the evaluation process as set out.

Application Documents

- A **complete proposal** will comprise the following documents, to be uploaded via the IRC online submission system:
 - Extended Synopsis - 5 pages max. References do not count towards the page limit.
 - CV - 2 pages max.
 - Track Record – 2 pages max.
 - Data Management Plan – 2 pages max.
 - Statement on ethical issues to be addressed – 2 pages max.
 - Two letters of support from the Host Institution as specified below.
 - PhD certificate (and supporting documentation if applicable).
 - Detailed Research Proposal – 15 pages max. References do not count towards the page limit. The research proposal should include the following:
 - State-of-the-art and objectives
 - Methodology
 - Resources (including project costs)

Eligibility Checks and Evaluation Process (Section 5 T&Cs)

Eligibility Check

3 Panel domains

Two-stage evaluation

Evaluation criteria

Outcome of the evaluation steps

Feedback

- The following eligibility checks will be undertaken:
 - PhD eligibility including PhD equivalence; requests to take account of career break(s); funding awards (ERC); submission of all required elements of the proposal and completeness of the same; supporting documentation as appropriate.
- Humanities and Social Sciences; Life Sciences; Physical Sciences and Engineering.
- Step 1: evaluation by remote peer reviewers and panel members.
- Step 2: evaluation by remote peer reviewers and panel members. Applicants invited to Step 2 will be required to attend an interview in Dublin.
- Excellence is the sole criterion and it will be applied to both the research project and the applicant.
 - Applicant: intellectual capacity and creativity & commitment
 - Research Project: Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research impact & Scientific Approach.
- Outcome Step 1:
 - 'A' rating – will pass to Step 2
 - 'B' and 'C' rating – will not pass to Step 2. Applicants may apply for the same award on one subsequent occasion.
- Outcome Step 2:
 - 'A' rating – proposal recommended for funding subject to available budget.
 - 'B' rating - proposal not recommended for funding. Applicants may apply for the same award on one subsequent occasion.
- Applicants will receive a feedback report, comprising a panel consensus statement and individual reports.

Online submission system – key points to note

- Please consult the Guide for Applicants for practical information in creating and submitting an application.
- The Council strongly encourages the submission of applications well in advance of the closing date for the competition, as on the day that the call closes there will be heavy traffic on the server, which may slow down the submission of your application.
- Applicants should not log into their profile or application form in different browsers at the same time. This may cause the system to invalidate your login session and any information you have entered will be lost.
- If you enter information and do not click the 'save' button before navigating away from the page, this information will be lost.
- No alterations can be made to an application once it has been submitted. It is therefore important that you check and re-check the application form until you are fully satisfied with all sections before clicking 'submit application'.
- To complete the application form, applicants will need to complete the following tabs:
 - Project Overview
 - Research funding and commitments
 - Project Details
 - Ethical/Sex-Gender Statements
 - Indicative Budget
 - Uploads
 - Applicant Declaration

Terms and Conditions

Guide for Applicants

FAQs

Important deadlines

- Applicants must read the Terms and Conditions before submitting an application. The Irish Research Council Laureate Awards programme is governed by the Terms and Conditions and the Award Acceptance Form.
- This [guide](#) provides practical information to potential applicants in creating and submitting an application for the Irish Research Council Laureate Awards programme.
- FAQs should be submitted as a batch to laureate@research.ie by the designated Research Officer. In the interest of fairness and transparency, the Council Executive will not discuss queries over the phone. **FAQ deadline is Friday, 2nd June 2017.** Queries submitted after this deadline will not be dealt with.
- FAQ deadline: Friday, 2nd June 2017
- **Applicant deadline: 4pm, Thursday, 29th June 2017**
- Outcome Step 1: Quarter 4 2017
- Panel Interviews: Quarter 1 2018
- Outcome of Step 2: Quarter 1 2018
- Award commencement date: By 31 May 2018

IRC Laureate Awards Programme 2017/18

- All questions submitted will be answered in the FAQ document.
- Good luck with your application!