

NEW FOUNDATIONS 2016 FAQ

Updated: 10th October 2016.

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

- Call deadline
- Submitting an application
- Eligibility criteria
- CVO queries
- Application form

CALL DEADLINE

Q: Regarding the 21st October deadline, does the online application have to be submitted by 4pm on the 21st?

As per the terms and conditions, the deadline for receipt of the application (both Part A and Part B) is **4pm on Friday 21st October 2016**. The online application system will not accept applications after 4pm.

Q. Regarding the Research Councils “New Foundations Scheme 2016” Engaging Civic Society, could you please tell me when the deadline for the expression of interest form is?

There is no specific deadline for completed expressions of interest forms from CVOs but we would advise that they should be submitted as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to prepare a proposal with a partnering researcher.

Submitting an application

Q: How do I submit an application to the 2016 scheme? Last year, applications comprised an online application process

For this year’s scheme, applications will be submitted via an online application portal similar to last year: [IRC New Foundations Scheme 2016](#). Essentially you are completing the application form and budget table as normal, you will upload a signed and stamped copy of the application in PDF* format and a budget table in Excel via the online application portal. Please note applicants are advised not to fill in their details until they are ready to upload their completed application form and budget table, as there is no ‘save draft’ facility. The fully-completed application can be submitted by the applicant. Submitted applications can no longer be changed and can only be submitted once. Further details can be found in the document, ‘*IRC Instructions for submitting New Foundations 2016 proposals*’. The deadline for submission is **4pm, Friday 21st October 2016**.

***Applicants are advised to check that their Adobe software is up-to-date to ensure that the file uploads correctly and is not corrupted.**

Re. requirement for original signature/stamp from VP/Dean of Research/Research Office for applications to the current scheme, can you confirm that potential applicants may sign their applications (original signatures), convert them to PDF and send them to VP/Dean of Research/Research Office by email; and that VP/Dean of Research/Research Office then provides required original signature/stamp, converts signed version back to PDF and returns it to applicant by email?

Once the application form is signed and stamped by the appropriate signatories and uploaded to the online application system, this is acceptable.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

NEW: I am writing to you with regard to the New Foundations open call. I am a current IRC postdoc fellow and I am co-organising a conference with an IRC PhD student in another department and we wish to apply for NF funding for this. I am not his supervisor of his PhD but will be mentoring him for the conference organisation. Could I be listed there as the PI for the project and he as the applicant? And if so would the award be in both our names (for example to count as a competitive award achieved for future such applications)? If a PhD student applies for the scheme, does the staff member listed have to be their PhD supervisor or a permanent member of staff?

As per the terms and conditions of the scheme, potential applicants must 'currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. This requirement does not apply to a named Mentor on a proposal.

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

An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply to Strands 2 and 4, but not Strands 1 and 3.

NEW: I have a questions from a PI regarding eligible expenditure. The equipment limit is €1,000, however does this include software/hardware that may be required, or can these be included under consumables?

Hardware costs should be included under Equipment and software costs should be included under Consumables, where relevant to the viability of the proposal. Equipment requests will require a strong rationale and an account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from elsewhere. A limit of €1,000 will apply to equipment items and these must be purchased within the first three months of the proposal.

NEW: I am contacting you from the Research Office. I was hoping you could clarify your definition of 'open competition' as per your FAQs – e.g. see example below:

“Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and your institution is happy to endorse the application”

Is a competition internal to an HEI eligible as per the terms of the scheme?

Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and the institution is happy to endorse the application. Competitively acquired research awards for the conduct of research from individual Irish HEIs are deemed to meet the requirements of competitively acquired research awards for the purpose of this scheme.

NEW: A new staff member was awarded a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Standard Postdoctoral Fellowship as part of a competitive process administered by the British Academy in March 2016.

Due to taking up their current position in this institution in September 2016 the individual had to decline their award. Notwithstanding the fact that the applicant was not able to accept the award, does this award in itself count towards a ‘competitively acquired research award’ for the purposes of this scheme?

Postdocs awarded by the IRC or other competitively awarded scholarships are eligible once the award was held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016. Considering your award was competitively acquired, this qualifies as an eligible award for this New Foundations scheme.

NEW: The application documents clearly state that an applicant can submit only one application. But for Strand 3a applications (Encouraging Knowledge Exchange and collaboration between research institutions north and south), can a partner in Northern Ireland be part of two different applications from different PIs in the Republic of Ireland?

Yes. Partners in Northern Ireland can be part of numerous applications in collaboration with an academic partner based in an eligible HEI in the Republic of Ireland. An applicant may make only one application to the scheme: The strand is designed to build collaborations between research institutions in the Republic of Ireland and Queen’s University and Ulster University in Northern Ireland

NEW: I am hoping to apply for Strand 3a: Encouraging knowledge exchange and collaboration between research institutions north and south.

1. Can you please clarify (and give some examples) as to what an eligible Northern Irish research institution is? Does an institution have to be a University for example? Does working with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in Northern Ireland count as a research institution? Does working with the Royal Life Saving Society (Northern Ireland branch) count?

The strand is designed to build collaborations between research institutions in the Republic of Ireland and Queen’s University and Ulster University in Northern Ireland.

NEW: As part of the grant, we would like to send a member to the International Life Saving Federation World Conference on Drowning Prevention in October 2017 to network with experts in water safety and drowning prevention present, and publicise our project. Ideally, they will also present on the project at the conference, but abstract submission does not open until after the New Foundations grant call closes, so we cannot guarantee this at present. As such, is it ok to include attendance and networking at this conference under this grant?

No, you cannot apply to the New Foundations scheme without confirmation of participation in the conference proceedings.

NEW: Can an Irish not for profit organisation (with a charity number) that is not a member of the Wheel or Dochas participate as an NGO or CVO partner in a proposal being led by an Irish RPO to either strand 1a or 1b of new foundations ?

This strand will support small, discrete collaborative projects between postdoctoral or senior researchers (acting as the applicant to the Council) and a community/voluntary organisation (CVO) or NGO. The Civic society partner must be a registered charity. Although the Wheel and Dochas are partners in Strand 1, there is no requirement to be a member. The award is open to all organisations that satisfy the terms and conditions of the scheme. CVOs or NGOs interested in participating in this strand must collaborate with an Academic Partner based in a higher education institution (HEI) or other eligible research-performing organisation (see www.research.ie for details).

NEW: I was a proposal participant in a successful EU COST Action funded application.

The main grant holder who administers the funding is based at another university in the UK.

As I am named in the successful proposal as a proposal participant and currently receive funding to participate in the COST network activities, does this render me eligible to apply for a New Foundations award?

Potential applicants must currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. An applicant is eligible if they have a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder and must be named as the award holder to be considered eligible. Evidence of the relevant award can take the form of a letter of award from the relevant funding or award institution which must be uploaded via the online application system. Link: [IRC New Foundations Scheme 2016](#)

I was awarded an IRC postdoc award in 2014. While this would classify as an eligible award, I did not take up this postdoc as I received a lecturing contract. So my question is whether a competitive IRC award which I was granted in 2014, but did not take up, qualifies as an eligible award for this New Foundations scheme.”

<p>Postdocs awarded by the IRC or other competitively awarded scholarships are eligible once the award was held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016. Considering your award was competitively acquired, this qualifies as an eligible award for this New Foundations scheme.</p>
<p>I am currently an IRC funded postgraduate student (2015-2018) at the Department of Media Studies at X University. I have identified an appropriate civic partner/voluntary organisation and have also got a PI/Mentor on board.</p> <p>I was wondering if we would be eligible to apply to Strand 1. I am aware that we can apply to strand 3 and 4, but am unclear as to how this would work with Strand 1. Am I still able to apply as long as I have a PI/Mentor on board?</p>
<p>An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply to Strands 2 and 4, but not Strands 1 and 3.</p>
<p>Over the past three years, I have received three competitively acquired research funding awards from the St Patrick's College Research Committee. St Patrick's College has now been incorporated into DCU. Am I eligible to apply for funding under the 2016 New Foundations Scheme?</p>
<p>Potential applicants must currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and your institution is happy to endorse the application.</p>
<p>Would you be so kind to let me know, is it necessary to live in Ireland while the research is made?</p>
<p>This scheme will offer research opportunities for academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities. See www.research.ie for a list of eligible institutions. In this instance the researcher can be from another country however researchers must be affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities</p>
<p>Does a British and Irish Law Education and Technology Association Research Award count as a qualifying award? It's competitively funded, but applications are open to members only. Yet membership is very common among law schools in the UK and Ireland.</p>
<p>An applicant is eligible if they have a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder. The award above would be considered eligible under this scheme.</p>

I was wondering also when I've looked through the terms and conditions, does the fund pay for contribution to a salary for a researcher from a HEI? It appears that it doesn't but I want to clarify.

Yes, staff costs for a research assistant are eligible under Other Costs in the budget table. These costs must be relevant to the viability of the proposal. All costs must be specified and fully justified. Irish Research Council/Institutional rates should be used for all research staff costs sought (see below, pp.19-20 of FAQs). Recruitment to these posts should be in accordance with the scheme's Terms and Conditions and institutional norms (contact your institution's research office or equivalent for advice in this regard).

One potential application was a Co-PI on a competitively awarded grant in Finland, from the Finnish equivalent of the SFI. A letter of offer can be supplied, but this is in Finnish. A letter from the Mentor (applicant was Post Doc) outlining in English the details of the award can also be supplied. Should either letters or just the Finnish letter of offer be uploaded with the application?

Evidence of the relevant award can take the form of a letter of award from the relevant funding or award institution. A letter of award will suffice in this case which must be uploaded via the online application system. Link: [IRC New Foundations Scheme 2016](#) . In this instance, as the original letter of award is in Finnish, the letter from the Mentor can be uploaded to the online system.

Q1: Would a PI or a participant of a successful PRTL award qualify as having *held a competitively acquired research award*.

Q2. Is an applicant eligible if he/she was a **Joint P.I.** on a World Bank funded project which was competitively acquired?

1. An applicant who was a named participant under a PRTL award, and as such could be verified through Higher Education Authority mechanisms, would be eligible for the purposes of applying to the scheme. In endorsing the application, a HEI is verifying that this is the case.
2. As the World Bank is an intergovernmental organisation with specific competitive research funding programmes, the award would be considered an eligible research award.

Q. Do mentors as well as applicants need to have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period before 21st October 2016 in order to be eligible to apply?

As per the terms and conditions of the scheme, potential applicants must 'currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. This requirement does not apply to a named Mentor on a proposal.

Q: Can postgraduates who have held or currently hold IRC or other competitively awarded scholarships apply?

Postgraduate scholarships awarded by the IRC or other competitively awarded scholarships are eligible once the award was held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016. However, please note the condition: "An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply to Strands 2 and 4, but not Strands 1 and 3.

Q. For the purposes of the New Foundations scheme, can an award acquired from an HEI be considered a competitively acquired award?

Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and your institution is happy to endorse your application.

Q. I have two queries from one of our researchers who is interested in submitting a proposal under this call:

1. Is a Royal Irish Academy Mobility Grant (valued at €976) considered a competitively acquired research award?
2. If the person were eligible to apply, could he submit a proposal to this Scheme and then submit an extension of this proposal to the Research Grants Scheme in 2016?

1. Awards from other national or research funders are eligible once the award was competitively acquired, was held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016, and the applicant is the named recipient of the award
2. Applicants to the New Foundations scheme will not be precluded from applying to the Research Grants scheme but the Council cannot fund the same research twice.

Q. Does the supervision of IRC scholar funding count for eligibility? A researcher is enquiring as they are co-supervising two IRC EPS students.

Postgraduate scholarships awarded by the IRC or other competitively awarded scholarships are eligible once the award was held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016. Supervisors of scholars or mentors of fellows are not eligible to apply using the award of their scholar or fellow but may be eligible to apply if they are in receipt of a competitively acquired research award in their own name.

Q. Does funding awarded by Enterprise Ireland under the Commercialisation Fund programme for 3rd Level Researchers meet the criteria?

For the purposes of this scheme, a competitively acquired research award could be an individual or PI type award. Awards such as previously held EI awards, are considered eligible once the award was a competitively acquired research award held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016.

I was awarded €2,200 in research funding from CPA Ireland, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland. Full details on their competitive process are here <http://www.cpaireland.ie/students/cpa-ireland-research>

As you'll see, they issued a public call for research submissions in the field of

accountancy. Proposals were considered by their research board, and three projects were funded. This is pretty common in other jurisdictions in the discipline, with ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales) in particular being a very significant funder of accounting research.

So does this count as competitive funding for the purposes of the New Foundations scheme?

As this was an open competition for a competitively acquired research award, it would be considered eligible under the scheme.

I have a query concerning scholarships such as institution-funded PhD scholarships and IOTI Postgraduate Scholarships where a staff member applies and then recruits a student, unlike the IRC scholarships where the student applies. In cases such as this who is deemed the award holder, the staff member/student/both? The staff member applies through a competitive process in making an application for a project and afterwards the student applies through a competitive recruitment process to get the studentship.

If the staff member held a competitively acquired research award within the three year period by 21st October 2016, he/she would be eligible to apply for an award.

An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply and must hold or have held a competitively acquired research award from a national or research funder.

In 2013 I obtained an international travel award, through a competitive process, from the Biophysical Society. Is this award sufficient to satisfy the eligibility conditions for the New Foundations 2016 call?

An applicant is eligible if they have a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder. The award above would be considered eligible under this scheme.

A staff member has asked to clarify whether a research grant received from CARDI (<http://www.cardi.ie/> see below) in which she has been PI conforms with the requirements for eligibility.

Yes, this would be an eligible award for the purpose of this scheme.

I am enquiring about the Irish Research Council 'New Foundations' scheme (Strand 1 – Civic Society) and was wondering if Queen's University, Belfast would be considered as an eligible academic partner?

No. Community/Voluntary groups interested in participating in Strand 1 must collaborate with a research partner in a designated higher education institutions as per the criteria outlined on our website <http://research.ie/aboutus/host-institution-eligibility>

- I am considering applying for the New Foundations call this year. I am contacting you as regards the term "competitively acquired research award". I have won two postgraduate scholarship bursaries in the past few months, am just wondering if these would meet this criteria?
- I was recently awarded an international travel grant under the Enterprise Ireland Scheme. Does this qualify me as an applicant for the Strand one New Foundations Scheme?
- I am in receipt of a departmental PhD scholarship from Maynooth University Faculty of Law, one for which I applied and was interviewed in a formal manner. Does this meet the eligibility requirement of the New Foundations Scheme for 2016?

Potential applicants must currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. For the purposes of this scheme, a competitively acquired research award could be an individual or PI type award from, for example, either of the former research councils (IRCHSS/IRCSET, www.research.ie), the Health Research Board (www.hrb.ie), Science Foundation Ireland (www.sfi.ie), Teagasc (www.teagasc.ie), the Marine Institute (www.marine.ie) or any other such national or international research funder.

The Enterprise Ireland Travel Grant is not a competitively acquired research award and are not considered an eligible award for the purposes of applying to the scheme.

Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and your institution is happy to endorse the application.

Can you have more than one application and more than one mentor on a strand one application for the New Foundations Scheme? Can more than one applicant be listed on the same application? Can more than one mentor be listed in Strand 1 on the same application?

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

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

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

The criteria spell out that the applicant must hold or have held in the last three years a competitively acquired research award from a national or international funder. In the last 3 years I have been worked on different EU funded project. Each time I was selected as a research through a competitive procedure due to my expertise, but I was not awarded directly the funding. It is not clear to me whether I can actually apply for this scheme. Would you kindly provide me some guidance on this aspect?

Potential applicants can be considered as having “held a competitively acquired research award” for the purposes of application to this scheme, once they are the named recipient of the award (or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint awards).

- I have not been PI on a research application in the past 3 years, although I was awarded an Enterprise Ireland travel grant last month for travel to a Horizon2020 ICT proposers networking event, does this make me eligible as an applicant? Also, I was wondering, how many applicants can you have on each application? Ideally I would collaborate with colleagues who are eligible, although for strand 1, the research is mainly led by me?
- Can applications be made to the New Foundations Scheme by two eligible PIs jointly (e.g. by co-PIs within the same institution, or by two PIs in different institutions)?

Potential applicants must currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. For the purposes of this scheme, a competitively acquired research award could be an individual or PI type award from, for example, either of the former research councils (IRCHSS/IRCSET, www.research.ie), the Health Research Board (www.hrb.ie), Science Foundation Ireland (www.sfi.ie), Teagasc (www.teagasc.ie), the Marine Institute (www.marine.ie) or any other such national or international research funder. The Enterprise Ireland Travel Grant is not a competitively acquired research award and are not considered an eligible award for the purposes of applying to the scheme. The scheme is aimed at individual applicants rather than joint proposals. No more than one applicant can be named on an application.

For the purposes of the IRC New Foundations scheme, if the applicant holds an award competitively acquired from his/her university - specifically, an award won from a research support scheme run by one college in the university - is the candidate eligible to apply?

Similarly, if the applicant had won funding to present a research paper at international conference from the conference organisers, would this render the candidate eligible?

Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition and your institution is happy to endorse your application.

Not enough information has been provided to determine the eligibility in the case of the second example, however normally funding from conference organisers to present is not viewed as a competitive research award for the purposes of this Scheme.

Can a previous New Foundations awardee apply this year?

Can a current postdoc holder apply? If successful, can they hold the two awards at the same time?

- Previous New Foundations awards cannot apply to Strand 4 only – All other strands are open to previous NF awardees
- Yes a current Postdoc can apply and can hold the two awards at the same time.

I am a Principal Investigator on a HRB ICE Award. The terminology used by the HRB is 'Lead Principal Investigator and Principal Investigators'.

As I am not the Lead PI but a PI on this award am I eligible to apply?

Potential applicants can be considered as having “held a competitively acquired research award” for the purposes of application to this scheme, once they are the named recipient of the award (or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint awards).

Does Ulysses IRC grant qualify for New Foundations application?

Yes, a Ulysses grant would be an eligible award for the purpose of this scheme provided that it was held within the 3 years to 21st October 2016.

I'm a permanent member of UCD staff and have two competitively funded awards in the last 3 years. They are:

- Environmental Protection Agency. STRIVE Programme Doctoral Scholarship.
- Enterprise Ireland - Innovation Partnership

EPA STRIVE and EI Innovation Partnership awards are competitive and would be eligible for the purpose of this scheme.

<p>I am interested in applying to the IRC New Foundations scheme.</p> <p>Is the CFF (Commercial fund feasibility) from Enterprise Ireland considered a competitive award?</p>
<p>An Enterprise Ireland Commercial Fund Feasibility is a competitive award and would be eligible for the purpose of this scheme.</p>
<p>I was just wondering I received funding under the Bernal Energy at the University of Limerick. I was just wondering does this qualify for the New Foundation funding?</p>
<p>Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired research awards operated via open competition and your institution is happy to endorse your application.</p>
<p>My question is just <i>what</i> does the IRC consider a 'research' award? Specifically, I have recently received a competitively acquired Arts Council Project Award for a multimedia interdisciplinary project that incorporates research. Does this make mean I am eligible to apply?</p>
<p>As per the terms and conditions, a competitively acquired research award could be an individual or PI type award from, for example, either of the former research councils (IRCHSS/IRCSET, www.research.ie), the Health Research Board (www.hrb.ie), Science Foundation Ireland (www.sfi.ie), Teagasc (www.teagasc.ie), the Marine Institute (www.marine.ie) or any other such national or international research funder. An Arts Council Project Award is a competitive award and would be eligible for the purpose of this scheme.</p>
<p>I'm also applying for funding for a Network I am involved in. We are proposing to hold a meeting of the Network in England next year – is it possible to fund this through the IRC, or does the event have to take place in Ireland?</p>
<p>Awards may not be held or continued at an institution other than the host institution(s) specified in the application form, except with the prior agreement of the Irish Research Council. However, the award may be used for events held elsewhere, including international locations, provided all costs are fully justified.</p>
<p>I am applying for the New Foundations scheme. I would like to apply with a colleague from another country as part of a larger project. The New Foundations funding would be for the Irish part of the project.</p> <p>Can two people be named 'applicants' if one of them is not resident in Ireland but if the project is supported by an Irish HEI?</p>
<p>The scheme is aimed at individual applicants rather than joint proposals. No more than one applicant can be named on an application and this applicant must fulfil the eligibility criteria of the Scheme outlined in Section B of the Terms & Conditions.</p>

What constitutes a senior researcher? A colleague of mine would like to apply but is unsure of eligibility. He is an experienced researcher currently working with a non-profit organisation, has been the recipient of a competitive research award within the past 3 years and hopes to submit his doctoral thesis quite soon. Can you let me know if he is eligible as a senior researcher?

Applicants to the scheme must fulfil the eligibility criteria of the Scheme outlined in Section B of the Terms & Conditions. This includes the stipulation that applicants must be affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities.

1. Could you please clarify the types of activities that can be funded under strand 1? As the goals of this strand are encouraging networking, knowledge exchange etc., can the funding be used to devise, plan and run, for example, a networking event, or does the proposal have to focus specifically on conducting a research project?

2. Could you also please clarify whether this funding is open to administrative staff in HEIs who have a PhD, are active in research, and have attracted competitive research funding, but don't have a specific research role in the HEI?

3. Finally, are FP7 projects funded under coordination and support action calls considered eligible as competitive research funding for this IRC call?

1. The objectives of Strand 1 are to:

- Encourage knowledge exchange between academics and CVOs/NGOs;
- Develop dissemination activities to ensure the effective transmission of research outcomes to policy-makers, including governments in developing countries, if applicable;
- Develop expertise to support civil society within the higher education community;
- Develop capacity and routes for engagement with CVOs on a longer term basis.

Applications to this Strand should develop a research idea or project, test a concept or theory and/or develop partnerships through activities.

2. The scheme is open to academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities.

3. FP7 projects funded under coordination and support action calls are considered eligible awards for the purposes of this scheme once they were acquired or held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016. However, the applicant is the named recipient of the award (or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint awards).

Is it possible to apply for New Foundations Funding to present the results of IRC funded Ph.D. research at a conference in October 2017?

Under the Scheme, knowledge exchange, networking and/or dissemination activities can be supported. This strand provides support for the development of networks, conference development, conference participation or attendance, workshops and/or more knowledge exchange and general dissemination activities designed to better communicate the potential of research and/or the outcomes and value of research in Ireland and beyond.

I was awarded a NUI Travelling Studentship (Postgraduate) is this considered an eligible award?

Awards acquired from HEIs are eligible so long as they are competitively acquired through an open competition within the three year prior to 21st October 2016 and your institution is happy to endorse your application.

For the New Foundations call does the result of a competitive award have to include a direct financial return? I have been awarded a number of nights of ground based telescope time over the past three years and orbits of the Hubble Space Telescope. These are highly competitive and the result of peer review. However all that is awarded is access to infrastructure which is worth for large telescopes about €20,000 / night and for the HST about €100,000 / orbit. Does this type of award count as a research award? For the ground based telescope award this comes with attached travel and accommodation expenses.

An applicant is eligible if they have a competitively acquired research award from a national or international research funder. The award above would be considered eligible under this scheme.

I have a question about eligibility for the PI for the New Foundations Call. I received an Enterprise Ireland grant to assist me in applying as coordinator for a H2020 call (the proposal went in in August) earlier this year. Does this count as a competitive grant to fulfil the requirement to have received a competitive grant in the last 3 years?

Potential applicants must currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. For the purposes of this scheme, a competitively acquired research award could be an individual or PI type award from, for example, either of the former research councils (IRCHSS/IRCSET, www.research.ie), the Health Research Board (www.hrb.ie), Science Foundation Ireland (www.sfi.ie), Teagasc (www.teagasc.ie), the Marine Institute (www.marine.ie) or any other such national or international research funder. **The Enterprise Ireland Travel Grant is not a competitively acquired research award and are not considered an eligible award for the purposes of applying to the scheme.**

Can you please let me know if staff costs for a research assistant are eligible

Yes, staff costs for a research assistant are eligible under other costs in the budget table. These costs must be relevant to the viability of the proposal. All costs must be specified and fully justified. Irish Research Council/Institutional rates should be used for all research staff costs sought (see New Foundations page on www.research.ie). Recruitment to these posts should be in accordance with the scheme's Terms and Conditions and institutional norms (contact your institution's research office or equivalent for advice in this regard).

I was hoping you could help me with two queries related to the New Foundations 2016 scheme.

- 1) Are post-doctoral researchers, and not permanent lecturing staff, eligible to apply? My current research contract is until June 2019.
- 2) Would being co-PI on a grant awarded from a professional organisation (The European Health Psychology Society) meet the criteria for the scheme? The grant was awarded following open competition among members of the society.

As per Section B of the terms and conditions, this scheme will offer research opportunities for academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities.

Not enough information has been provided to determine the eligibility in the case of the second question, however normally funding from professional societies is not viewed as a competitive research award for the purposes of this Scheme.

I have a number of questions relating to the eligibility criteria of the New Foundations scheme. A number of students who have secured funding on different schemes are interested in applying. The schemes are:

- 1) A PhD scholarship provided by a HEI

There is a double competitive element to securing this funding. First the proposals (developed by the supervisors) are considered competitively within the HEI and upon receipt of funding are then advertised. The students interested in applying for the New Foundations Scheme applied to an open competition and were interviewed for the scholarships.

- 2) A scholarship from a research group situated in a HEI that is funded by an external corporate partner (the research is not carried out for this partner). Normally this research group would develop research proposals internally (with an external visiting professor) and then advertise them competitively. However they also accept applications outside of this. In the case of the students who wish to apply for the New Foundations Scheme they applied to the research group with a research proposal that they had developed and secured the scholarship. Is this still considered a competitive application?

For the purposes of this scheme, a competitively acquired research award for the conduct of research could be an individual or PI type award from, for example, either of the former research councils (IRCHSS/IRCSET, www.research.ie), the Health Research Board (www.hrb.ie), Science Foundation Ireland (www.sfi.ie), Teagasc

(www.teagasc.ie), the Marine Institute (www.marine.ie) or any other such national or international research funder.

Competitively acquired research awards for the conduct of research from individual Irish HEIs are deemed to meet the requirements of competitively acquired research awards for the purpose of this scheme.

Would being a co-PI on a Tandem Grant awarded by the European Health Psychology Society meet the requirements of the New Foundations scheme? The Tandem Grant is intended to allow two young researchers to work on a joint project and members of the European Health Psychology Society within two years of their PhD being awarded are eligible to submit an application. The grant is awarded to one project following consideration by a grant selection committee

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

Can a researcher submit an application and also act as mentor for a PhD student on another application?

Yes, a researcher can submit an application and act as a mentor for a PhD student on another application provided they meet the eligibility criteria of the Scheme outlined in Section B of the Terms & Conditions. This includes the stipulation that applicants must be affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities, and have “held a competitively acquired research award” for the purposes of application to this scheme, once they are the named recipient of the award (or amongst the named recipients in the case of joint awards).

1. I previously held an IRC New Foundation award, do this count as a competitively acquired award?

1. An IRC New Foundation award is a competitively acquired award. Please note that as per the terms and conditions potential applicants must currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016.

I am applying for a New Horizons Project KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE (3) Strand 4: Enhancing Knowledge Exchange. I am a post-doctoral scholar but not currently officially associated with any institution. I was wondering if a proposed mentor was eligible if they held a Heritage Council Archaeology Grants Scheme in 2013. Would this qualify for holding a competitive grant within the last three years?

As per the terms and conditions, this scheme will offer research opportunities for academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities. An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply. If the applicant is no longer a registered postgraduate, they must be an academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland. If you are not affiliated with a HEI, you must identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme.

Potential applicants must 'currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. This requirement does not apply to a named Mentor on a proposal.

We have a post-doctoral researcher whose contract finishes in April 2017. Is he eligible to apply for the scheme or would he need an institution PI. Last year he applied for research fellowship in the USA and was successful, is this sufficient? If he can apply, is it possible for him to pay himself salary – using buyout time?

As per the terms and conditions, this scheme will offer research opportunities for academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities. All awards are of a maximum of 9 months duration.

Based on the information provided about the research fellowship, it is difficult to determine if the fellowship meets the criteria of a competitively acquired research award for the purposes of this scheme.

Costs may be sought for expenditure on travel for conference attendance or network development, conference support or management, archival research, equipment purchase (see limits), publication or dissemination costs, or other such costs as an applicant may appropriately justify in an application to this scheme. All costs sought must be detailed and justified in Part B of the application. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that any costs sought are necessary to carry out the proposal and that such facilities are not available to the researcher(s) via any other means. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration under the evaluation and assessment process. Only eligible costs as set out in the terms and conditions will be considered. Where not covered by the categories outlined in the terms and conditions, and relevant to the viability of the proposal, other costs such as staff costs can be considered. All costs must be specified and fully justified. Irish Research Council rates should be used for all research staff costs sought (see New Foundations page on www.research.ie).

I was considering applying for this award for a travel to US for a collaborative work. I was wondering whether a prize for the best at a conference is considered as an award?

Based on the information provided it would appear that this was not a research award under an open competitive process and would not be eligible for the purpose of this scheme.

Can the research institute and CVO/NGO applicants be based in the north of Ireland?

For the purposes of the Scheme, Ireland refers to the Republic of Ireland. This scheme will offer research opportunities for academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities. See <http://www.research.ie/> for list of eligible institutions. Strand 3a focuses on research collaboration with partners in the North of Ireland.

I received PhD funding in August of 2013 and I am currently still in receipt of this PhD funding. From reading the T&Cs I think I should be eligible to apply for the new foundations as I currently still hold this award. However, I have noticed that the application looks for the date of the award, which in my case would be more than 3 years ago. Can you confirm if this award is eligible?

As per the terms and conditions, potential applicants must:

currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016.

The award must have been held within the three year period to 21st October 2016, as you currently hold the award, it would seem that the award is eligible. For the purposes of this scheme, an award must be a competitively acquired research award for the conduct of research. Evidence must also be provided when submitting your application.

Some questions on the New Foundations Scheme:

1. Does an IRC postdoctoral award (in the period specified) count for eligibility for New Foundations scheme?
2. Is the holder of a philanthropically-funded postdoctoral scholarship (which was not advertised) eligible for the New Foundations scheme?
3. Can the holder of an IRC New Horizons award (2015-2017) apply for a New Foundations award?
4. Are artists' fees deemed eligible costs, where integral to the research proposed? If so, are there guidelines on appropriate sums?

1. As per the terms and conditions, a competitively acquired research award for the conduct of research could be an individual or PI type award from, for example, either of the former research councils (IRCHSS/IRCSET, www.research.ie), the Health Research Board (www.hrb.ie), Science Foundation Ireland (www.sfi.ie), Teagasc (www.teagasc.ie), the Marine Institute (www.marine.ie) or any other such national or international research funder.
2. Based on the information provided above, it would appear that this was not a research award under an open competitive process and would not be eligible for the purpose of this scheme.

3. Yes, a holder of an IRC New Horizons award (2015-17) can apply for a New Foundations award. Please note that the Council cannot fund the same research twice.
4. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that any costs sought are necessary to carry out the proposal and that such facilities are not available to the researcher(s) via any other means. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration under the evaluation and assessment process. Only eligible costs as set out in the terms and conditions will be considered. Where not covered by the categories outlined in the terms and conditions, and relevant to the viability of the proposal, other costs such as staff costs or artist's costs can be considered. All costs must be specified and fully justified. Irish Research Council rates should be used for all research staff costs sought (see New Foundations page on www.research.ie).

I'm hoping to apply for the New Foundations Scheme 2016 grant. However before I get going on my application, I just want to be sure I'm eligible.

- 1) I am a part-time postdoctoral researcher based at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, and my seed fund grant over the past 2 years was competitively awarded to me by the National Children's Research Centre (funded by the CMRF, a charity). Given the above, I'm wondering if I'm eligible to apply?
- 2) I am employed by the NCRC and am a member of staff there. I'm just checking that I do not need the form to be co-signed by a mentor?
- 3) I have been accepted to present at a Global conference next April, a trip that will be costly. I'm hoping that this could be funded by the scheme. I will be preparing for the conference in early March however, so wondering if it's still ok to apply? (it mentions preparatory work must begin by March 1st, so just checking)
- 4) If we are successful in securing 10K from the scheme, my plan is to attend a global conference in April at which I am definitely presenting (est. cost of entire attendance 4,500K), in addition to disseminating the data at another conference in Athens in May (4K) in addition to using the remaining funds for laboratory analysis (1.5K). The funds will have been fully used up by June 2016 – are these uses of funds permissible? i.e. it's ok to use funds for 2 conference attendances?

This scheme offers research opportunities for academic researchers affiliated with, or supported by, a recognised higher-education institution in Ireland to pursue research and dissemination activities. See <http://www.research.ie> for list of eligible institutions. The National Children's Research Centre and Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin are not eligible institutions for the purposes of IRC's schemes.

Do either of the following meet the New Foundations eligibility requirement of a "competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016

1. Enterprise Ireland Horizon 2020 Coordination grant
2. Erasmus Staff mobility grant

1. The EI Coordination Support for ERC Applications grant is not a competitively acquired research award and are not considered an eligible award for the purposes of applying to the scheme.
2. For the purposes of this scheme, a competitively acquired research award for the conduct of research could be an individual or PI type award, and the applicant is the named recipient of the award. As ERASMUS grants are an institutional award

rather than an individual award, it does not meet the eligibility requirement of a “competitively acquired research award” for the purposes of this scheme.

Does the following meet the New Foundations eligibility requirement of a “competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016”:

Senior Expert/PI for competitively secured EU Fundamental Rights Agency research tender

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

****NEW**** I’d like to apply for the New Foundations scheme (Strand 3) to sponsor my trip to an international conference taking place in August 2017. However, the conference organisers will only decide on accepted papers in April 2017. As the conference is quite competitive, there is a chance that my presentation is rejected. Can I apply for this grant without the acceptance letter at hand?

No, you cannot apply to the New Foundations scheme without confirmation of your participation in the conference proceedings.

****NEW**** I am a postgraduate student interested in applying to the open new foundations funding call but I am not sure of my eligibility.

I was awarded a four year PhD studentship by Prof. Daniel Kelly at Trinity College Dublin covering living expenses and tuition fees (€24,000 per year total). The application process was competitive with 2 interviews. Does this count as a research award as Prof Kelly acquired the funding to pay me from SFI?

Postgraduate scholars awarded by SFI or other competitively awarded scholarships are eligible once the award was held within the three year period before 21st October 2016. However please note the condition on page 7 of the terms and conditions “An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must, as part of their application, identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme”.

****NEW**** I was wondering if it is possible for two people to apply for the scheme as co-applicants? Strand 2.

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

****NEW**** The application form for the above requires evidence of the relevant award to be submitted with the application – what form should the evidence take or does endorsement by institutional authorities constitute sufficient evidence in itself? This is important to clarify given additional materials other than those requested are attached to the application will render it ineligible. Note my question is NOT in relation to eligible extensions to the three year period within which an applicant has held a research award.

Evidence of the relevant award can take the form of a letter of award from the relevant funding or award institution. A letter of award will suffice in this case which must be uploaded via the online application system. Link: [IRC New Foundations Scheme 2016](#)

****NEW**** I have an inquiry about eligibility for applying for the Irish Research Council New Foundations Awards 2016. The call specifies that "Potential applicants must hold/have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21 October 2016". I was wondering if an award from Google's CS4HS programme (<http://www.cs4hs.com/process-europe.html>) would qualify?

For the purposes of this scheme, a competitively acquired research award could be an individual or PI type award. Awards are considered eligible once the award was a competitively acquired research award held within the three-year period before 21st October 2016.

****NEW**** I'm wondering if having been a mentor for an IRC post doc (actually a series of them) counts as eligibility in relation to a competitive research award within the last 3 years.

As per the terms and conditions of the scheme, potential applicants must 'currently hold or have held a competitively acquired research award within the three-year period prior to 21st October 2016. This requirement does not apply to a named Mentor on a proposal.

****NEW**** I was interested in the New Foundations Scheme: <http://www.research.ie/scheme/new-foundations-scheme-2016>

Apologies if I missed where on website we could fill out the form to express interest i.e. Those seeking an Academic Partner can complete an expression of interest form detailing their area of interest.

Expression of Interest forms are available on our website underneath the New Foundations Call. Please see link: Expression of Interests.

****NEW****The FAQ for the NF scheme currently states the following :

Irish Research Council/Institutional rates should be used for all research staff costs sought (see New Foundations page on www.research.ie).

I have looked at <http://www.research.ie/scheme/new-foundations-scheme-2016> but can't see the rates.

Could you direct me to where they are when you have a chance

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)		

For New Foundations, staffing costs aren't technically an eligible cost. There is no budget category for staffing. In the budget table, there is a category for 'Other Costs': "Where not covered by the categories above, and relevant to the viability of the proposal, other costs can be considered. All costs must be specified and fully justified."

- ****NEW****The description in the T & C for Strand 3b notes that Details for upcoming calls in SSH ERA-nets - HERA and NORFACE - are available on www.heranet.info and www.norface.net. The former contains no information about any future calls and themes, the later only includes a call title 'Transitions to Sustainability - T2S' but no other information. Can the Council point applicants to any other website/sources of information about future HERA or NORFACE calls?
- A member of staff has developed networks with The Wheel and would like to pursue an application to Strand 1a with The Wheel as partner. However as sponsor of Strand 1a is The Wheel an eligible partner?

- Can a previous recipient of a *New Foundations* award act as a mentor for a postgraduate applicant to the *New Foundations* Strand 4 in 2016?

- Information/text on HERA and NORFACE are included in links below the New Foundations call on our website.

- As the wheel is one of the sponsors of Strand 1, this makes them ineligible to apply as a partner to this scheme.

- Yes a previous recipient of a New Foundations Award can act as a mentor for an applicant under this Strand 4. In this instance, a mentor is generally the supervisor of the postgraduate applicant for their PhD studies.

Community and Voluntary Organisations (CVOs/NGOs) QUERIES

****NEW**** We are a voluntary organisation and are interested in participating in strand 1 (Engaging Civic Society). Where can we find details for academics/researchers interested in collaborating on the initiative?

CVOs seeking an Academic Partner can complete an expression of interest form detailing their area of interest. Forms are available on the Council website (www.research.ie) and underneath the NF call. Completed expressions of interest should be returned to newfoundations@research.ie and will be advertised on the Council website and through social media.

I note in your FAQs that any CVO applying must have a CHY number. If an organisation is working towards obtaining a CHY number are they still eligible to apply?

At the time of application, a CVO must be a registered charities with a CHY number.

With regards to previous funding, I have received funds for radio documentaries from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland Sound and Vision. As part of my PhD I will be continuing to engage with academia through a series of qualitative interviews. Can you advise if this qualifies me for application?

Based on the information provided, this is not a competitively acquired research award and would not be considered eligible for the purpose of this scheme.

For Strand 1, does the CVO/NGO have to be based in Ireland?

Yes. CVOs/NGOs must be a registered charity based in Ireland.

I need some clarification application form their 'New Foundations' scheme 2016 entitled 'Engaging Civic Society' Do I need a named supervisor or university stamped application forms?

All applications to the Scheme, regardless of Strand, must include an endorsement by Institutional authorities in the form of the original signature of a VP/Dean of Research or their equivalent, and an institutional stamp.

An applicant who is a postgraduate scholar but not a member of staff affiliated to such an eligible institution must also, as part of their application, identify an appropriate named individual willing to act as a mentor and principal investigator for the purposes of an award under this scheme. Such applicants are eligible to apply to Strand 3 & 4, but not Strand 1 and Strand 2.

While I understand the project proposal is between one CVO and the Researcher. Is it ok for the research project to involve a number of CVOs in the work of the project?

Strand 1 supports applications from researchers in partnership with a CVO/NGO group. The latter must be a registered charity. The proposal may also include the involvement of other groups however only one may be named as the partner in the proposal.

What is the position if a CVO doesn't have an organisational stamp as required in the form?

If this is the case the organisation should supply confirmation on headed paper that the organisation supports the application in accordance with the Terms and Conditions. A dated signature should also be provided on page 4 of the application form.

This strand will support small, discrete collaborative projects between postdoctoral or senior researchers (acting as the applicant to the Council) and community and voluntary organisations (hereafter CVOs) or NGOs. The latter must be a registered charity. Must a CVO be a registered charity, or does this just apply to NGOs?

CVOs and NGOs interested in partnering with an academic for this scheme must be a registered charity.

We have a question regarding the IRC New Foundations Scheme 2016 that we would like to submit to the FAQ. Is it possible to apply to this grant as a portion of broader research, or does the grant need to fund a standalone project? We have a project that we are interested in submitting under Strand 1 of the New Foundations Scheme, but the overall required budget for the research is larger than €25,000. Can we submit for a portion of this project if we are able to secure funding for the remainder of the project from another source?

As per the terms and conditions, awards are not intended to substitute or to augment funds available under national and international programmatic research actions. Strand 1 will support small, discrete collaborative projects between postdoctoral or senior researchers (acting as the applicant to the Council) and an Irish-based CVO. Applications to this strand should develop a research idea or project, test a concept or theory and/or develop partnerships through activities, under one of the four themes identified in the

terms and conditions. Applications should clearly indicate why the project is important and how it speaks to the issues and concerns of the partner CVO.

I am making an application for New Foundations 2016 and already have a CVO/NGO partner. Does this partner then need to submit an expression of interest?

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

Application Form

Does the 1000-word limit on DETAILED PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION includes references and/or figure captions? Are figures allowed at all?

The 1,000 word limit in the proposal description excludes references.

I note that references are not included in the 1,000-word count limit, however, I would be grateful if you would confirm if references and images/charts can be included in applications?

Yes, you may include references or images/charts in the proposal.

I have a PI applying for the New Foundations Scheme. They need to include the cost of two mobile phones as part of their proposal... can you clarify if for the purposes of this funding call, would the cost be considered a consumable or equipment in the eyes of the IRC?

For the purposes of the New Foundations scheme, mobile phones would be classified as equipment. As per the Terms & Conditions, equipment costs require a strong rationale and account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from elsewhere.

I would like to apply for a 6 month buy-out... How do I best put this in the budget application? I can put an extra heading "BUDGET" into the detailed proposal description section 4a.

Academic buy-out time can be sought under this scheme. Awards are valued at up to a maximum for each strand and, as per the terms and conditions, may be sought for expenditure that an applicant may appropriately justify in an application to this scheme. All budget costs should be included in the Application Form Part B (excel spreadsheet). Staff costs should be included in the 'Other' cost heading.

Does the IRC in general deem the costs of publishing in an open access journal an eligible cost? I assume not as focus is on making publications/data available through repositories but it doesn't clearly state this in call documents.

The cost of publishing in an Open Access journal is not an eligible cost to the Scheme.

Can a researcher who is applying under the current New Foundations call include catering (teas/coffees/lunch/evening meal) in their budget? They want to establish a transdisciplinary European network that will meet initially over two day. I know subsistence isn't an eligible cost but the two-day meeting will be intense so if the catering costs are justified is that sufficient?

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

I am writing regarding section 4 of the application form, 'research track record and output to date'. The informative text instructs the applicant to include awards won, publications (including conference abstracts), contribution to research and learning etc. However the word limit is only 100 words. I am significantly over this word count due to the titles of my publications and the list of authors taking up so many words. For example, one of the titles including authors listed uses 33 words. Are publication titles included in the word count, as I see no way of restricting my track record and output to date to 100 words?

The word limit is 100 and this must be adhered to in the form. It is up to the applicant to determine which outputs are most relevant to the proposal and should be included.

I am a current GOI Postgraduate Scholar (2013/2014 cohort) and am planning to submit a New Foundations application. I note that on the issue of additional awards the terms and conditions of the 2013/2014 GOI scheme state '*Receipt of additional externally funded travel bursaries or equipment grants will not affect the value of the Scholarship provided that this does not exceed €5,000.00 per annum.*' I wonder could you clarify if this condition applies in the case of the New Foundations scheme, and whether this limits the total proposed budget in my case to €5,000, rather than the limit outlined in the New Foundations terms and conditions. A portion of my proposed budget is allocated to travel costs.

**As this stipulation was part of the terms and conditions for your cohort, should you submit an application for New Foundations, the budget for the proposal must be within the €5,000 limit for the year.

Could you please clarify how the budget spreadsheet should be completed? If for example the proposal includes hosting a workshop, development of a report and attendance at a conference, should each of these 'expenditure items' be put on a separate row?

Each item of expenditure should be listed on a separate row. For example, if under Equipment costs two items of equipment are being requested, they should be detailed separately on two rows.

The terms & conditions state that all costs sought must be justified in Part B of the application. Where exactly in the excel spreadsheet should I provide the justification for each item?

All costs included in Part B should be clearly linked to the detailed proposal description provided in Question 4a, in particular the proposal implementation plan.

Can you please confirm that the category Collaboration Costs research time input by a researcher based on the IRC staff rates? Also are there any restrictions on the share of total costs that should be represented by researcher costs?

Applicants should include costs under the most relevant heading for their specific proposal. For example, buy out time that is not for the purpose of collaboration activities may be included under the 'other' cost heading. There is no restriction on the amount of the total cost to be represented by any one cost category, with the exception of equipment items which are limited to a maximum of €1,000.

Other queries

I note the proposal start date indicates 1st January 2017 at **the latest**. Can a proposal start prior to this?

All new projects should commence no later than 1st January 2017. Applications for awards to recognise events already in planning may also be considered. Payments under this scheme will only commence once an appropriate letter of contract has been issued and an acceptance form received by the Irish Research Council. The duration of an award should be no more than nine calendar months and must be completed by 30th September 2017.

1) In the FAQs you advise that images/charts can be included in the proposal. Is it acceptable to include photographs? I have two photographs which are important to the research.

2) Strand 1 - if the CVO/NGO is a coalition of organisations - can this coalition be named as the CVO/NGO or does it have to be a single organisation?

1. Photographs may be included in the application if essential to the understanding of the proposal.
2. Strand 1 supports applications from researchers in partnership with a CVO/NGO. The proposal may also include the involvement of other groups however only one may be named as the partner in the proposal.