

## Information Booklet

Open competition for appointment(s) to the position of  
Programme Manager (Senior Executive Officer),  
**Irish Research Council**

**Closing Date:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019

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## Key facts

- Position:** Programme Manager (Senior Executive Officer),  
1 fixed-term position (until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- Note:** **We will also form a panel to fill future permanent and fixed-term vacancies in the Irish Research Council.**<sup>1</sup>
- Employer:** Irish Research Council (Higher Education Authority)
- Location:** 3 Shelbourne Buildings, Crampton Avenue, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

## About the competition

- We seek to fill **one fixed-term position** in the Irish Research Council (IRC) at Programme Manager (Senior Executive Officer) level.
- We also plan to establish a panel of 12 months' duration. The panel will be used to fill future **permanent and fixed-term vacancies** that arise at this level in the IRC.

## The Irish Research Council at a glance...

The mission of the Irish Research Council is to enable and sustain a **vibrant research community** in Ireland by supporting excellent researchers **across all disciplines and career stages**.

We foster and invest in a range of **partnerships**, both nationally and internationally, to enable the development and transfer of knowledge that underpins social, economic and cultural progress, and to connect researchers and expertise with the wider community. In delivering on this, we partner with enterprise, employers, government departments and civic society.

The Irish Research Council is an associated agency of the **Department of Education and Skills**, under the aegis of the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

*Visit our website for further information on our work: [research.ie](https://research.ie)*

## Job Description

### The post-holder will be:

- **Enthusiastic** about working with a small, dynamic team to make a difference to Ireland's research and innovation system;
- **Eager** to take on the challenge of managing a diverse portfolio of work, including management of selected funding programmes.
- **Keen** to shape the development and implementation of robust policies and procedures in line with the Council strategy and mandate.

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<sup>1</sup> The panel may also be used to fill similar vacancies in the HEA.

### **What you can expect:**

- Opportunities to interact with diverse national and international stakeholders
- Opportunities to join and to lead project teams
- Support for further professional development
- A flexible working environment

### **Duties will include:**

- ✓ Preparing and implementing an annual work plan for areas of responsibility;
- ✓ Coordinating the lifecycle of selected funding programmes (from conception and promotion, to the application and assessment process, to monitoring post-award progress);
- ✓ Overseeing the financial management of programme budgets and award payments;
- ✓ Developing policies and procedures, drawing on national and international good practice;
- ✓ Planning meetings and workshops for researchers;
- ✓ Delivering presentations and briefings on the Council's funding programmes and wider Council activities;
- ✓ Coordinating and developing impact and outcomes assessment on programmes within the Programme Manager's portfolio;
- ✓ Providing information and support to awardees, to host institutions and to other partners;
- ✓ Liaising with and reporting to the European Commission in respect of the Council's EU-funded schemes;
- ✓ Proposing recommendations and fresh ideas for the further development of the Council's programmes and activities;
- ✓ Representing the Council at meetings and events as requested by the Director and/or Assistant Director(s);
- ✓ Preparing reports, statistics and other materials as requested by the Council or the Department of Education and Skills.

## Requirements

### Essential

- A genuine interest in supporting research and innovation in Ireland, across all disciplines;
- Ability to work in an effective manner with other members of a team, including willingness to take on a team-leadership role where appropriate;
- Excellent organisational and project management skills;
- Excellent decision-making and problem-solving skills;
- Excellent communication skills (interpersonal and written);
- Good time-management skills, including the ability to coordinate multiple projects;
- Good IT skills;
- NQF Level 8 qualification or higher.

### Desirable

- Experience in supporting or managing research funding programmes (or related areas of work);
- Good understanding of the research system and landscape in both Ireland and internationally.

### How to Apply

**Closing date for applications is 5.30pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.** Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

Applications should consist of a **current CV** together with a **cover letter outlining suitability for the post**.

Please email applications to [recruit@hea.ie](mailto:recruit@hea.ie), for the attention of Padraic Mellett, Head of Corporate Affairs, Higher Education Authority.

Alternatively, applications can be sent by post to:

Padraic Mellett, Head of Corporate Affairs,  
Higher Education Authority,  
3 Shelbourne Buildings, Crampton Avenue,  
Ballsbridge, D04 C2Y6.

**Please send queries relating to this position to [recruit@hea.ie](mailto:recruit@hea.ie)**

**Interviews will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.** (See 'Competition Process' for further information).

## Principal Conditions of Service

### Part 1 (Conditions which particularly apply to this position)

1. **Pay:** The salary scale for this position is as follows:

PPC - €48,868, €50,297 €51,722, €53,147, €54,577, €56,003, €57,429, €59,489, €61,545

Scale as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

PPC (Personal Pension Contribution) Scale (for officers who are existing civil or public servants appointed on or after 6 April 1995 or who are new entrants to the civil or public service and who are making a compulsory personal pension contribution).

Different pay and conditions may apply if, prior to appointment, the appointee is an existing civil or public servant appointed prior to 6<sup>th</sup> April 1995.

Increments may be awarded subject to satisfactory service and to changes in the terms and conditions relating to salary increments in the Civil/Public Service generally.

The rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.

**Salary:** The appointment will be made on the salary scale at a point in line with current Government Pay Policy. New entrants to the Civil or Public Sector, as defined in Circular 18/2010, will commence on the first point of the salary scale. Different pay and conditions may apply if, immediately prior to appointment, the appointee is a serving civil or public servant.

2. **Annual Leave:** Annual Leave will be 29 working days. This leave is exclusive of public holidays.
3. **Hours of Attendance:** Working hours will be in accordance with the standard arrangements for HEA and will equate to no less than a 37 hours (net of rest breaks) per week.

No additional payment will be made for extra attendance as the rate of remuneration payable covers any exceptional extra attendance liability that may arise from time to time.

4. **Location:** This position is currently based at 3 Shelbourne Buildings, Crampton Avenue, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

### Part II (Other conditions which apply generally to appointees to this position)

1. **Tenure:** The current vacancy is a fixed-term position for 18 months. This and any future position(s) will be placed in IRC.

The appointee must serve a probationary period of approximately 11 months. Should the appointee's services be satisfactory as regards health, conduct and efficiency generally during the probationary period, the appointee, on completion of the period will be finally appointed. Should the appointee's services be unsatisfactory, the appointment may be terminated at any time during the period.

This currently vacant fixed-term position is externally funded, and the contract is contingent on continued receipt of the designated external funding by the Irish Research Council. In the unlikely event that the funding is discontinued during the contract term, the post will automatically terminate from the point at which the funding is exhausted. The Irish Research Council/HEA is under no obligation to fund the post in such circumstances.

2. **Duties:** The appointee will be expected to perform all acts, duties and obligations as appropriate to this position (which may be revised from time to time).
3. **Outside Employment:** The position is whole-time and the appointee must avoid involvement in outside employment/business interests in conflict or in potential conflict with the business of the Irish Research Council or HEA. Clarification must be sought from management where any doubt arises.
4. **Sick Leave:** Sick leave with full pay may be allowed at the discretion of the Higher Education Authority in accordance with established procedures and conditions for the public service generally.
5. **Retirement and Superannuation:** The appointee will be offered public service pension terms and retirement age conditions in accordance with pension arrangements in the HEA depending on the status of the successful appointee:
  - a) In general, an individual who has no prior pensionable Public Service history in the 26 weeks prior to appointment will be a member of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme) which commenced from 1 January 2013 (Section 10 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 refers);
  - b) An individual who is on secondment will remain a member of the parent organisation's pension scheme and the pensionable remuneration will be based on his/her substantive grade i.e. the grade at which the individual is employed in his/her parent organisation;
  - c) An individual who was a member of a "pre-existing public service pension scheme" as construed by the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 and who does not qualify for membership of the Single Scheme will be a member of the HEA's Staff Superannuation Scheme and Associated Spouses and Children's Scheme;
  - d) At the time of being offered an appointment, the HEA in consultation with the Department of Education & Skills and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform if necessary, will, in the light of the appointee's previous Public Service (and/or other) employment history, determine the appropriate pension terms and conditions to apply for the duration of the appointment. Appointees will be required to disclose their full public service history. Details of the appropriate superannuation provisions will be provided upon determination of appointee's status;
  - e) In accordance with the provisions of the Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004 staff may not retire before their 65th birthday unless it is on grounds of ill-health. Different retirement arrangements apply to staff employed in the public service prior to the aforementioned 2004 Act;

f) The following points should be noted:

- **Pension Accrual:** A 40-year limit on total service that can be counted towards pension where a person has been a member of more than one existing public service pension scheme will apply. This 40-year limit, which is provided for in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and other Provisions) Act 2012 came into effect on 28 July 2012. This may have implications for any appointee who has acquired pension rights in a previous public service employment.
  - **Pension Abatement:** The Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 extended pension abatement so that a retiree's public service pension is liable to abatement on re-entering public service employment, even where the new employment is in a different area of the public service. However, if the appointee was previously employed in the Civil Service and awarded a pension under voluntary early retirement arrangements (other than the Incentivised Scheme of Early Retirement (ISER) or the Health Service Executive VER/VRS which, as outlined below, render a person ineligible for the competition) the entitlement to payment of that pension will cease with effect from the date of reappointment. Special arrangements will, however, be made for the reckoning of previous service given by the appointee for the purpose of any future superannuation award for which the appointee may be eligible.
  - **Department of Education and Skills Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers Circular 102/2007:** The Department of Education and Skills introduced an Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers. It is a condition of the Early Retirement Scheme that with the exception of the situations set out in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 of the relevant circular, and with those exceptions only, if a teacher accepts early retirement under Strands 1, 2 or 3 of this scheme and is subsequently employed in any capacity in any area of the public sector, payment of pension to that person under the scheme will immediately cease. Pension payments will, however, be resumed on the cesser of such employment or on the person's 60th birthday, whichever is the later, but on resumption, the pension will be based on the person's actual reckonable service as a teacher (i.e. the added years previously granted will not be taken into account in the calculation of the pension payment).
  - **Ill-Health Retirement:** Please note that where an individual has retired from a Civil/Public Service body on the grounds of ill-health his/her pension from that employment may be subject to review in accordance with the rules of ill-health retirement within the pension scheme of that employment.
6. **Pension Related Deduction:** This appointment is subject to the pension-related deduction in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2009. For further information in relation to public service superannuation issues please see the following website: <http://per.gov.ie/pensions>
7. **Eligibility to compete:** Candidates should note that eligibility to compete is open to citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union along with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
8. **Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER):** It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees, under that Scheme, are debarred from applying for another position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.



**9. Department of Health and Children Circular (7/2010):**

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 dated 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme and Voluntary Redundancy Schemes (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider public service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public moneys. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the VRS, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years, after which time any re-employment will require the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. People who availed of either of these schemes are not eligible to compete in this competition.

**10. Collective Agreement: Redundancy Payments to Public Servants:**

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform letter dated 28th June 2012 to Personnel Officers introduced, with effect from 1st June 2012, a Collective Agreement which had been reached between the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Public Services Committee of the ICTU in relation to ex-gratia Redundancy Payments to Public Servants. It is a condition of the Collective Agreement that persons availing of the agreement will not be eligible for re-employment in the public service by any public service body (as defined by the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009 – 2011) for a period of 2 years from termination of the employment. Thereafter the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will be required prior to re-employment. People who availed of this scheme and who may be successful in this competition will have to prove their eligibility (expiry of period of non-eligibility) and the Minister's consent will have to be secured prior to employment by any public service body.

**11. Declaration of previous public service employment history:**

Applicants will be required to declare whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement and/or the collective agreement outlined above. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.

## **Competition Process**

### **Selection Methods**

The selection process will include shortlisting of candidates on the basis of the information contained in the application. Selection methods will include:

- interview
- references (referees will not be contacted without the candidate's prior agreement)

### **Interviews will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

The Higher Education Authority reserves the right to require candidates to attend a second interview.

### **Shortlisting**

Normally the number of applications received for a position exceeds that required to fill existing and future vacancies to the position. While a candidate may meet the eligibility requirements of the competition, if the numbers applying for the position are such that it would not be practical to interview everyone, the HEA may decide that a number only will be called to interview. In this respect, the HEA provide for the employment of a short-listing process to select a group for interview who, based on an examination of the application forms, appear to be the most suitable for the position. An expert board will examine the application forms against pre-determined criteria based on the requirements of the position. This is not to suggest that other candidates are necessarily unsuitable or incapable of undertaking the job, rather that there are some candidates, who based on their application, appear to be better qualified and/or have more relevant experience. It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your qualifications/experience in your application.

### **Confidentiality**

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended, applications will be treated in strict confidence.

### **Security Clearance**

Police vetting may be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for appointment. The applicant will be required to complete and return a Garda Vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána for security checks on all Irish and Northern Irish addresses at which they resided. If unsuccessful this information will be destroyed by the HEA. If the applicant subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

### **Other important information**

The HEA will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.

The admission of a person to a campaign, or invitation to attend an interview, is not to be taken as implying that the HEA are satisfied that such person fulfils the requirements of the competition or is not disqualified by law from holding the position and does not carry a guarantee that your application will receive further consideration. It is important, therefore, for you to note that the onus is on you to ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements for the competition before attending for interview. If you do not meet these essential entry requirements but nevertheless attend for interview you will be putting yourself to unnecessary expense.

Prior to recommending any candidate for appointment to this position the HEA will make all such enquiries that are deemed necessary to determine the suitability of that candidate. Until all stages of the recruitment process have been fully completed a final determination cannot be made nor can it be deemed or inferred that such a determination has been made.

Should the person recommended for appointment decline, or having accepted it, relinquish it or if an additional vacancy arises the HEA may, at its discretion, select and recommend another person for appointment on the results of this selection process

### Candidates' Obligations

Candidates should note that canvassing will disqualify and will result in their exclusion from the process.

Candidates must not:

- knowingly or recklessly provide false information
- canvass any person with or without inducements
- interfere with or compromise the process in any way

A third party must not personate a candidate at any stage of the process.

Any person who contravenes the above provisions or who assists another person in contravening the above provisions is guilty of an offence. A person who is found guilty of an offence is liable to a fine/or imprisonment.

In addition, where a person found guilty of an offence was or is a candidate at a recruitment process, then:

- where he/she has not been appointed to a post, he/she will be disqualified as a candidate; and
- where he/she has been appointed subsequently to the recruitment process in question, he/she shall forfeit that appointment.

### Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn

Candidates who do not attend for interview or other test when and where required by the HEA, or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as the HEA requires in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim to consideration.

### Quality Customer Service

We aim to provide an excellent quality service to all our customers. If, for whatever reason, you are unhappy with any aspect of the service you receive from us, we urge you to bring this to the attention of the unit or staff member concerned. This is important as it ensures that we are aware of the problem and can take the appropriate steps to resolve it. **Feedback will be provided on written request.**

## Data Protection Acts

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive.

When you submit an application for a competition, we create a computer record in your name. Information submitted with a job application is used in processing your application.

To make a request to access your personal data please submit your request by email to: [dataprotection@hea.ie](mailto:dataprotection@hea.ie) ensuring that you describe the records you seek in the greatest possible detail to enable us to identify the relevant record(s).

Information in relation to a candidate's personal data held by the HEA are set out on the Data Protection page of [www.hea.ie](http://www.hea.ie)