

2018 COALESCE Research Fund: Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

The deadline for receipt of FAQs is **16.00 (Ireland Time), 20th August 2018**. FAQs must be submitted no later than this date.

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

1. Eligibility
2. Applying to the Scheme
3. Budget

If you can't find your answer below, you may be interested in checking out the presentation slides from the programme briefing session:

http://research.ie/assets/uploads/2018/05/COALESCE-Programme-briefing_2018.pdf

You can also listen to a recording of the same session:

<https://youtu.be/HjiniWSpHxDM>

1. ELIGIBILITY

Can medicine, midwifery or nursing could be considered an acceptable STEM discipline under Annex B?

The list of disciplines are indicative. It is a matter for researchers to evidence their capability to undertake a proposed project as a STEM researcher.

Is neuroimaging a STEM discipline?

The list of disciplines are indicative. It is a matter for researchers to evidence their capability to undertake a proposed project as a STEM researcher.

Is Psychiatry considered an acceptable STEM discipline under Annex B, for submission under strand 2A.

The list of disciplines are indicative. It is a matter for researchers to evidence their capability to undertake a proposed project as a STEM researcher.

Nepal is not an Irish Aid focus country. Does this mean that an organisation based in Nepal is ineligible under the Terms and Conditions of Strand 2B?

The Terms and Conditions stipulate the requirement for a mandatory and named Co-PI (co-applicant) employed by a research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of Irish Aid's partner countries and who will be in a position to carry out the proposed research from the project start-date until the project end.

Applicants based in countries that are non-Irish Aid partner countries are not eligible to apply.

I understand Nigeria is not considered an Irish Aid Partner country. Are Nigerian nationals eligible to apply for the programme?

Eligible PIs in RPOs in any country on the African continent are eligible to apply as co-PIs to strand 2B.

Can the proposal be split between 2 institutions?
Yes, the AHSS PI and STEM co-PI can come from different HEIs/RPOs. However, the lead PI and their institution must take responsibility as the lead on the project with regard to financial matters and progress reporting.
How many co-PIs from the lead institution in ROI (not from the Irish Aid's partner's research performing organisation) are allowed?
There should be one applicant (lead) from the ROI institution. Project proposals can draw on other expertise, but not as a co-applicant.
Are 3 PIs possible on Strand 2A?
Strand 2A should have two PIs as applicants. The lead PI will be from an AHSS discipline as identified in Annex A. The mandatory and named co-PI will be from a STEM discipline as identified in Annex B. Project proposals can draw on other expertise to the above, but not as co-applicants.
As per call document (page 18) 'applicants may concurrently apply for a Strand 1 and Strand 2 award' provided they have a justifiable time-management strategy if they get both awards. Can a PI apply for strands 2A and 2B simultaneously - in this case, as a lead AHSS PI for a Strand 2A, and as a co-PI (based in an Irish-based RPO) for a strand 2B.
An Irish-based PI cannot be the co-PI under Strand 2B. The mandatory and named Co-PI (co-applicant) on Strand 2B must be employed by a research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of Irish Aid's partner countries and who will be in a position to carry out the proposed research from the project start-date until the project end.
Under Strand 2A, can the AHSS PI and STEM co-PI come from different HEI/RPOs?
Yes, the AHSS PI and STEM co-PI can come from different HEIs/RPOs. However, the lead PI and their institution must take responsibility as the lead on the project with regard to financial matters and progress reporting.
In relation to Strand 2A are the AHSS disciplines under Annex A of paramount importance, or should the applications also consider the disciplines under Annex B for the STEM co-applicant?
The Terms and Conditions state applicants in any AHSS discipline (see Annex A with call documentation) can apply for funding as the lead applicant along with a named applicant from any STEM discipline (see Annex B).
Is a potential applicant, who is a STEM partner on a New Horizons grant due to end in early January 2019, eligible to apply to this scheme?
PIs on projects completing in early January 2019 will be permitted to apply, however the Council reserves the right to withdraw a COALESCE award in circumstances where an outgoing grant is not completed by this date.
2. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME
Is there any criteria for the selection of the five potential peer reviewers (pertaining to the field) and three reviewers the applicant would prefer the Council would exclude from the review process of their proposal?
Nominated reviewers should be international experts in the relevant field.

3. BUDGET

Looking at the eligible research expenses for Strand 1 (1A – Open call addressing the NSOs) in the Coalesce call the terms and conditions state that the maximum allowable consumables costs are €1k (for a 24-month project). Is this intended to rule out any lab based (scientific) research under this strand? The costs associated with any lab based project will incur much higher consumables costs than this. There are many potential projects addressing the NSOs which would involve lab research. Can you please consider removing this limit?

I am asking this in my capacity as research officer as part of the Trinity Research Development Office.

COALESCE Strand 1A is designed to encourage policy-orientated research addressing one or more of the National Strategic Outcomes. This particular scheme is not intended to support scientific research that would be more appropriate to other funding streams either of the Council or other research funders. For that reason the consumable cost must be minimal and this limit cannot be changed.