Eligible Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):
A recognised higher education institution in Ireland must be:
   a) within the meaning of Section One of the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971;
   b) and/or approved by the Minister for Education and Science for the purposes of the Free Fees Initiative;
   c) and/or in receipt of some other form of public funding from the Department of Education and Skills.

These institutions are:
- Athlone Institute of Technology
- Coláiste Mhuire Marino
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Dublin City University
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies
- Dublin Dental Hospital
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
- Galway–Mayo Institute of Technology
- Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown
- Institute of Technology, Carlow
- Institute of Technology, Sligo
- Institute of Technology, Tallaght
- Institute of Technology, Tralee
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- Limerick Institute of Technology
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- Maynooth University
- National College of Art and Design
- National College of Ireland
- National University of Ireland Galway
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Royal Irish Academy
- Royal Irish Academy of Music
• Shannon College of Hotel Management, Co. Clare
• St. Angela’s College, Sligo
• St Patrick’s College, Carlow
• St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth (Pontifical University)
• University College Cork
• University College Dublin
• University of Dublin, Trinity College
• University of Limerick
• Waterford Institute of Technology

Eligible Research Performing Organisations (RPOs):
An eligible RPO is one that possesses an existing in-house capacity to carry out research that materially extends and enhances the Irish research base and is in a position to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake and lead research projects/programmes, as approved by the Council.

Currently, these organisations are:
• ESRI (The Economic and Social Research Institute)
• Teagasc
• The Discovery Programme