

## Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

**UPDATED ON 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

The deadline for receipt of FAQs is **21 February 2019**. FAQs must be submitted no later than this date.

**Q** I note that the eligibility criteria for this call assumes that there will be a singular applicant per application:

- Is it possible for two colleagues to submit a joint-application?
- If so, what is the eligibility criteria for such a joint-application?
- Must the co-applicants be based at the same institution?
- Can a joint-applicant be based out of the Republic of Ireland (for example, a co-applicant based at QUB) if the other applicant is based within the Republic?

**A** The Irish Research Council is happy to receive a joint-application. A co-applicant can be based in Northern Ireland, however, awards must be held at an eligible higher education institution (HEI) or research performing organisation (RPO) in the Republic of Ireland. A list of eligible Irish HEIs and RPOs is provided on [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie).

**Q** I see from the guidelines that researchers can receive €75,366 p.a. for three years (p.7), but Appendix 1 also states that they can claim Academic Replacement costs of €24,353 for up to 12 months, and it is stated that 20% Overheads can be charged.

Can you confirm that all of these costs are eligible? Can applicant claim the full three years salary, plus Academic Replacement costs and then charge 20% OH on top of the two? For example:

$$€226,098 + €24,353 + €50,090.20 = €300,541.20$$

Or are there restrictions?

**A** The maximum award value per annum is €75,366 (excluding overhead), as set out under Section 3.3 of the Call for Proposals. The maximum value of the award over three years would be €226,098 (€75,366 x 3 years) excluding overheads. The total award value including the maximum 20% institutional overhead, over three years, would be €271,317.

The Academic Replacement costs set out in Appendix 1 are to facilitate the participation of an applicant with existing commitments such that the 'Fellow Salary' (as included in the financial table in Section 3.3) is not required. A full salary and academic replacement costs cannot be costed for the same individual. If an applicant requires three full calendar years of staff replacement costs (for the maximum duration of the project), then the maximum eligible cost would be €73,059 (€24,353 x 3 years).

**Q Can a permanent academic apply as the PI (and lead the project in terms of analysis and writing), but the full salary costs go to a post-doc who will be mentored under the PI for the project duration?**

**The final work would be then co-authored by both the PI and the Post-doc.**

**A Yes, a permanent academic is eligible to apply. Funding for replacement costs in respect of any teaching buyout sought by the PI must be provided for from the award funding as set out in the Call document.**

**Q Point 4.2 of the Call for Proposals document states: “By signing and endorsing an application the applicant’s institution agrees to accommodate, participate in and support the proposed project should funding be awarded. In addition, this signature will verify the current or contingent contractual/employment status of the applicant”.**

**Can you please advise what is meant by “contingent contractual/employment status of the applicant”. Does this mean that the a contract of sufficient duration to cover the term of the contract must be awarded to the applicant should they be successful?**

**A See Section 3.4 of the call document. As with all applicants to Irish Research Council schemes, if a successful applicant is an employee of the host institution then the duration of the employment contract must cover the duration of the award. If the applicant is not currently an employee of the host institution, and their application is successful then a contract of employment with the host institution to cover the duration of the award must be put in place.**

**Q Point 4.4 of the Call for Proposals document states: “The applicant must provide a copy of the proposed terms and conditions (if appropriate) for the contract with their proposal. This should include the provision of appropriate working papers and files being made available to the Council, if requested. It should also outline a proposed process for arbitration in the case of disputes or other difficulties that may arise”.**

**Can you please advise what is meant by “a copy of the proposed terms and conditions (if appropriate) for the contract”. Additionally, can you please clarify what is meant by provision of appropriate working papers and files? What documents specifically do the IRC require and from whom?**

**A The applicant should ensure that all questions are addressed in the Indicative Application Form, the applicant declaration and institutional endorsement is completed, and the Requirements as set out in Section 4.1 are addressed.**

**Q Regarding the external referees requirement, must this be someone based outside the HEA from which the applicant is submitting their proposal, or can referees be staff members within the same institution?**

**A** External referees should be referees who are external to the host institution for the project.

**Q** The salary of €53,776 is based on IUA Research Fellow, Point 1, as revised at 01st October 2018. Given the proposed start date for the project is 29th April 2019 and we are due at least another two public sector pay restoration increases (01st September 2019 and 01st October 2020), it appears no allowance has been made in the budget for these increases or increases linked to increments. In addition, the PRSI rate has been advised on the Call for Proposals information at 10.85% but this has already increased to 10.95% with effect from 01st January 2019, with a further increase to 11.05% on the 01st January 2020. Can you please advise?

**A** Strictly without prejudice to the Council's core funding schemes (which are funded from the Council's existing Departmental allocation), the Council will endeavour to fund under this Call the annual pay costs incorporating the revised PRSI levies together with nationally agreed pay adjustments. Proposals already received under this Call are not required to re-submit with a revised budget.