

2022 Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 14 October 2021.

New questions will be marked ****New****

Updated questions will be marked ****Updated****

Questions are grouped under the following headings:

1. Eligibility
2. Applying to the programme
3. Conditions of award

1. Eligibility

Can you confirm that the 18-month extension for maternity leave also applies to 7.8.9 (Applicants must not have been employed as a postdoctoral researcher for more than five years as at 31 May 2022)?

For maternity leave, applicants will be granted an 18-month extension for each child born before or after the first PhD award, regardless of how long the applicant took for maternity leave. If the applicant can document a longer maternity leave, the eligibility period will be extended by the documented amount of actual leave taken until the call deadline. This extension also applies to clause 7.8.9 in the [2022 Call Document](#).

I was conferred with my PhD in November 2016 but suffered a significant period of ill health. "While I'm technically outside the five-year window of eligibility after graduation (Nov 2016), I have been on sick leave the entire time (except for Jan 2020 when I tried to get back to teaching but was still in need of more recovery time) since which gives me a waiver on the window.

My DRs and surgeons can confirm my sick leave, however, I'm unsure if I need something from HEI Institute to confirm the period prior to that was not a period of unemployment. It feels as though its a grey area since I was casual staff so I'm unsure as to whether the break would be considered a eligible break since I wasn't contracted in employment and whether a note from Drs will be enough. It would seem strange, and unfair, if this was a road block to eligibility since so many phds are casual teaching staff!"

A medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner confirming the period of long-term illness will be required at the award offer stage in order to grant any extension to an applicant's eligibility window.

Is it no longer a requirement that applicants must carry out their postdoc research a different host organisation and with a different academic mentor, than those with which they completed their PhD preparation?

The applicant's choice of mentor is entirely at their own discretion but should be appropriately justified as part of the application.

2. Applying to the programme

For my project I intend to undertake long-term ethnographic fieldwork in Germany (approx. 6 months would be ideal). It states in the Terms and Conditions that the IRC does not sanction research-related absences for longer than one academic term in duration. Does that mean that the cumulative duration of absences during the fellowship must not exceed an academic term, or does this relate to the duration of individual absences and several such trips are possible? Are research trips that exceed an academic term generally prohibited, or does the IRC just not offer financial support for these?

The IRC recognises that awardees may benefit from spending time away from their host institution, for example to undertake fieldwork. The IRC will not normally sanction an individual research-related absence from the host institution for longer than one academic term in duration. Any intended research-related absences should be explicitly detailed and justified in the application form.

****Updated** Peer-review technicality: An applicant has a book which has undergone peer review but is awaiting a final reading before publication in Summer 2022. Can it be included under Peer-Reviewed Publications?**

Publications in press can be included in the 'top five peer-reviewed publications' section but submitted or in preparation publications strictly cannot.

The wording in the application seems to suggest that a GANTT chart is mandatory, but any other supplementary information is optional. Could you clarify whether the GANTT chart is in fact mandatory?

GANTT charts are not compulsory and applicants can submit their application without including one.

To make this clearer, we have now amended the wording on the online form and on the indicative form uploaded on the website, to the following: 'If you have supplementary information, e.g. GANTT chart, diagrams or a bibliography, which accompany your research proposal, please upload them here in PDF format...'

****New**** Can I put a book review essay (review of an academic book) published in an academic journal in the peer-reviewed publications section?

Unless the book review essay has been peer-reviewed by the academic journal, it should be listed in the 'Other Publications and Research Output' section of the application.

****New**** I have had a query from someone who submitted an application last year. They are re-submitting and have been in touch with a number of questions.

- They are wondering whether they should do a complete re-write of last year's application or whether they should tweak. Does the IRC have any advice for applicants in this regard?
- For the 2nd submission (planned for the 21st of this month) do reviewers assessing the application at inner and outer assessment board stage get a copy of the 1st (unsuccessful application) and the feedback for that application to review alongside the 2nd submission?
- Do resubmissions get viewed by the same remote reviewers (Outer assessment board) or could the resubmission be reviewed by different reviewers to those who reviewed last year?

The IRC is not in a position to provide advice on where the applicant 'should do a complete re-write of last year's application or whether they should tweak'. If an applicant has previously submitted all or part of the proposal to a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme call and been unsuccessful, they must clearly describe the modifications to their research proposal since it was previously submitted. The applicant's previous application will not be provided to the international assessment board. All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material provided at the time of submission. Eligible applications will first be sent for remote evaluation to an outer international assessment board. Each application is assessed by at least two remote independent, international reviewers. The IRC is not in a position to provide any further information in relation to which international assessors will be assigned to a particular application.

3. Conditions of award