

**2023 Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme
Frequently Asked Questions**

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 13 October 2022.

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

****New****

A potential applicant wants to apply for the one-year fellowship aimed at the publication of their PhD thesis. However, they are currently funded by the IRC Enterprise Partner Scheme for their PhD programme. According to the call document, applications will be deemed ineligible if “the research project as proposed in the application form has previously been funded either in full, or in part, by the Irish Research Council or any other funding agency”. Can you please confirm if this rule applies in this circumstance, and the applicant is not in fact eligible to apply for the postdoc call?

If the purpose of the application is to prepare a doctoral dissertation for publication through a variety of high quality published academic outputs, e.g., monographs, peer-reviewed articles, edited volumes; etc. following on from their PhD then this would be considered eligible.

Where someone has taken maternity leave, can you please clarify as to which specific supporting documents the IRC will require as proof of same? Is a letter from the applicant’s institution of employment at the time acceptable, or does the IRC require medical documentation such as a doctor’s note, or a birth certificate?

The IRC will require a letter from the institution of employment at the time. If this cannot be provided, we would also accept a doctor’s note confirming the same.

Where someone has taken carer’s leave, can you please clarify as to which specific supporting documents the IRC will require as proof of same? Is a medical certificate for the person who required care sufficient? If not, what else will suffice?

The IRC would accept a letter from the institution of employment at the time, confirming the period of carer’s leave. If this cannot be provided, we would also accept a doctor’s note confirming the same.

In the eligibility quiz, the question is asked: “Will you have been awarded your doctoral degree within the 5-year period before 31 May 2023?”. Where an applicant graduated before 31st May

2018, but has taken sufficient career breaks as to retain eligibility, how should they answer this question? It would be untrue to select “yes”, but there is no follow-up question for them to clarify on the matter if they select “no”.

As the applicant meets the eligibility criteria, we would expect them to select ‘yes’. There is a section within the application where they can provide clarifying details related to career breaks.

Under ‘*Relevant Work Experience*’ the applicant can clarify which career breaks they have taken.

A potential applicant had their PhD graduation in July 2018, which is within the eligibility bracket. However, the date on their graduation certificate is 21st May 2018; the date on which they defended their PhD (10 days outside the eligibility bracket). Can you please confirm if this person can still apply to the call, or does this disqualify them?

If the applicant can provide evidence of their PhD graduation taking place within the eligibility bracket, then the IRC will accept this application.

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

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...’

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.

3. Conditions of award
