

RESEARCH COLLABORATION
COLLABORATION DE RECHERCHE
2025 CALL

Ulysses

Call Document

Amendment made to 'Eligibility Criteria' section on the 8th of March 2024.



IRISH
RESEARCH
COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um
Thaighde in Éirinn



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Ambassade de France en Irlande

CAMPUS
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campusfrance.org



Le réseau
de transport
d'électricité

seai SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY AUTHORITY
OF IRELAND

Organisers:

- **Irish Research Council**
Email: ulysses@research.ie
www.research.ie
- **Ambassade de France en Irlande**
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- **Campus France**
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Participating organisations:

- **ADEME — French Environment and Energy Management Agency**
www.ademe.fr/en
- **EirGrid Group**
www.eirgridgroup.com/
- **Réseau de Transport d'Électricité**
www.rte-france.com/enai.ie
- **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**
www.seai.ie

1. Background

The aim of the Ulysses scheme is to foster new collaborations between Irish- and French-based researchers by providing seed funding for reciprocal travel visits over the course of 24 months. The scheme facilitates the exchange of innovative ideas and approaches between Irish- and French-based researchers across all disciplines. The Irish Research Council (IRC) and the Embassy of France in Ireland are committed to supporting continued knowledge exchange between Irish and French researchers through appropriate forms of collaboration.

The longer-term goal is to establish lasting professional networks of researchers and institutes. Successful applicants are encouraged to develop their collaboration post-Ulysses by seeking larger-scale funding.

Applications seeking support for collaboration on related research in any disciplines are welcomed.

The majority of projects are co-funded by the IRC and the Embassy of France in Ireland. In the 2025 call, selected projects will also be supported by the following strategic partners, in line with their specific research interests:

- Electricity transmission system operator EirGrid will partner with French-based Réseau de Transport d'Électricité to support suitably aligned research projects in the area of renewable energies and smart grids, and on the technical and societal issues related to energy transition.
- The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and ADEME, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, will provide support to research projects exploring topics relating to environmental, climate and energy transition.

An application form submitted by an Irish-based research partner(s) to the IRC, must be matched by an application form submitted by the French-based research partner(s) to Campus France, otherwise the research proposal will not be considered as part of the assessment process.

The partnerships between the IRC and the French Embassy in Ireland and the strategic partners are based on alignments to research topics that are of particular significance to the strategic partners' research objectives. Following the submission of proposals, the IRC will reach agreement with the co-funders on which proposals may be supported through the strategic partnerships. All applications that potentially align to the research topics outlined by the strategic partners will be considered for support under these partnerships. Please note there is no requirement for applicants to indicate if funding through a specific partnership is sought. Partnership and non-partnership applications to this call will be treated equally with respect to the review process.

2. Finance

A Ulysses award will involve researcher(s) based in Ireland collaborating with researcher(s) based in France.

Awards will be up to a maximum of €5,000 each to Irish- and French-based research partner(s) to cover travel and living expenses. These awards are simultaneously receivable. Overnight subsistence rates for researcher(s) based in Ireland travelling to France must be calculated in accordance with [Irish civil service rates](#).

Expenses for researchers based in Ireland will be funded by the IRC, EirGrid or the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland as appropriate. Expenses for researchers based in France will be funded by Campus France, on behalf of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research, ADEME or Réseau de Transport d'Électricité as appropriate.

Awards run between 1st January 2025 and 31st December 2026.

3. Disciplinary areas concerned

- The IRC and the Embassy of France in Ireland will fund applications across all STEM and AHSS disciplines, from archaeology to zoology.
- A number of proposals concerning renewable energies and smart grids, and on the technical and societal issues related to energy transition, may be funded by EirGrid in partnership with Réseau de Transport d'Électricité.
- A number of proposals concerning sustainable energy may be funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in partnership with ADEME.

4. Eligibility

- Eligible Irish-based partner(s) must be postdoctoral researchers and Principal Investigators in [eligible third level institutions or publicly-funded research institutions](#) with contracts that will cover their employment during the two year period of the award. Please note that PhD students are deemed ineligible to act as the Project Leader.
- Eligible French-based partner(s) include academic researchers and staff in an academic institute, research institute or facility, or the R&D unit of a private company.
- The scheme is only open to researchers based in Ireland or France. There are no nationality or citizenship requirements.
- The participation of early career researchers is mandatory. An early career researcher is defined as a current PhD student, or a postdoc who has submitted their PhD thesis within the last 5 years. Contribution to the training and career development of early-stage researchers is a mandatory element of the scheme.

5. Application procedure

- Applications from the Irish-based partner(s) should be submitted to the IRC; applications from the French-based partner(s) should be submitted to Campus France. French-based partner(s) should visit www.campusfrance.org for information about the correct submission procedure for their application.
- Applicants should submit a CV (one page maximum) for each of the team members (in both Ireland and France), including early career researchers, as referenced in the application.
- If any of the applicants in the proposed collaboration have previously received Ulysses funding in the past five years their latest research must include new French-based partner(s) and/or new areas of research in the proposed collaboration. Irish applicants who are past awardees on three or more occasions will only be considered if the Irish budget for the Ulysses Call Scheme is not fully allocated.
- If any of the applicants in the proposed collaboration have received Ulysses funding in the past five years, a synopsis of this previous funding should be included (one page maximum). This synopsis should briefly outline the current status of the collaboration, the outputs already obtained and those anticipated in the future.
- One electronic copy of the application form and all related attachments must be submitted to the IRC via email to ulysses@research.ie **by a person authorised by their institution to hold responsibility for research grants which will be either the applicant or their higher education institution.** This copy must include original signatures and institutional stamp. Please also copy a research officer from the higher education institution into the email containing the application.
- **The file should be in PDF format and should include all parts of the proposal collated into one single file.** Submission of multiple files is not permissible. Applications not submitted in PDF format will not be considered.
- **Only one Irish application per research partner team is permitted in a programme call year.**

Please note that Irish applications must be received by the IRC by 4 PM (Irish time) on 11th of April 2024. Applications received after this time will not be considered. Results will be announced in September 2024.

6. Progress and Final report

- A progress report template for the Ulysses scheme will be available for download on the IRC website and must be completed by the Irish-based partner(s) by the end of October in the first year of the award period. Satisfactory progress and/or a detailed research schedule for the remainder of the award is required in order for the award to continue into the second year.
- The final report template for the Ulysses scheme will be available for download on the IRC website and must be completed by the Irish-based partner(s) within one month of the end of the award period.
- The expenditure section of the final report must be reviewed, signed and stamped by the research institution's finance office.
- Awardees are required to submit one electronic copy of their progress report and their final report to the IRC at ulysses@research.ie
- Please note the [Terms and Conditions for Principal Investigator-Led Awards](#) applies to the Ulysses Scheme.

7. Extensions to current awards

- It is not possible for Irish-based partner(s) to apply for a costed extension to a Ulysses award.
- Irish-based partner(s) who are current holders of a Ulysses award and who wish to apply for a no-cost extension may contact the IRC for them to consider a request, **no later than 2 months before the end date of the award.**

8. Assessment Process and Evaluation Criteria

- Each application is assessed remotely and ranked by independent expert peer reviewers from Ireland and France. The assessment looks at the following areas:
 - Quality of research programme
 - Individual merits of Irish and French teams
 - Merits of collaboration between Irish and French teams
 - Participation of early career researchers,
 - Impact as a direct result of collaboration.
- A panel meeting follows to discuss and decide the final ranking list of projects.
- The primary criterion for the selection of funded projects is excellence.
- Where appropriate, the assessment panel may, as part of their decision-making process, prioritise new collaborations and/or take into consideration the secondary evaluation criterion of achieving balance with regards to awardees' gender and/or research discipline.