COALESCE 2025

FAQ Document 29/11/2024
New queries for the current week
Queries from all previous cycles

Please consult the COALESCE 2025 Call Document for further details

FAQ Document Sections:

1. General
   - (i) Project
   - (ii) Eligibility
   - (iii) Project Partners/Collaboration
   - (iv) Budget
2. Strand 2A
   - (i) General
   - (ii) Project Partners/Collaboration
   - (iii) Budget
3. Strand 1M
4. Strand 2B
   - (i) General
   - (ii) Oversea Partners / Collaboration
   - (iii) Budget

1. General

(i) Project

What kind of research is funded under COALESCE e.g., does the scheme fun incremental research?

As outlined in the Call Document, COALESCE seeks to fund excellent research addressing national and European/global national challenges as set out in the challenge frameworks now in place. This year, COALESCE features an open strand together with two strands run in partnership with government departments and agencies.

Where can I view the recording of the COALESCE 2025 Webinar Briefing session?

The Webinar Recording will be made available on the [COALESCE webpage](#).

What is the start date for projects?

Projects are expected to commence in Q3 2025.

The project duration for Strand 2B is specified as 36 months, but is it possible to submit a proposal for a project with a duration less than the max duration outlined for a particular strand?

The COALESCE 2025 Call Document states the maximum project duration as per each strand, which has been set by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland and/or the Strategic Funding Partner. Proposals will be considered for shorter durations but must be feasible and fully justified.

Can a PI lead one proposal in Strand 2A and another in Strand 2B?

Applicants may only submit one application to COALESCE 2025.

Is it possible for an applicant to apply as a PI in one application, and be named as a Co-PI in a separate application?

An applicant may not be named as a PI and Co-PI on separate applications.

Are projects previously submitted for COALESCE funding but were unsuccessful, eligible for resubmission?

Projects previously assessed under the COALESCE scheme which were unsuccessful may be resubmitted to COALESCE 2025. Details of changes made to the proposal should be included in the 'Is this the resubmission of an unsuccessful application to COALESCE?' section of the form. If you are resubmitting a previously unsuccessful application to COALESCE, you must be able to demonstrate how the application has changed.

Can you please let me know whether and where letters of support from institutions or individuals agreeing to provide material or support to the project can be uploaded?

Applicants may **not** upload a letter of support from institutions or collaborators. Uploading material and/or documents not requested in the application form will render an application ineligible.

Are Institutional Letters of Support mandatory for applicants?

Applicants should **not** upload a letter of support from their HEI/RPO.

Applicants must inform the Research Office in the proposed host institution of their intention to submit an application to the COALESCE programme. Following submission, the Research Office will decide to endorse an application by the endorsement deadline.

Can you apply if you are currently funded under a former SFI grant?

Yes, however please note that the lead applicant and any co-PIs <u>must</u> be in a position to devote sufficient time to the management and realisation of the project.

The Call Document states that if an applicant is currently funded by a Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland PI-led award (specifically Laureate, COALESCE, HERA, CHIST-ERA and UKRI Digital Humanities awards) the applicant's existing award must finish by the project start date in 2025. Does this also apply to applicants with SFI awards?

This specifically applies to Laureate, COALESCE, HERA, CHIST-ERA and UKRI Digital Humanities awards. Please note, the lead applicant and any co-PIs <u>must</u> be in a position to devote sufficient time to the management and realisation of the project.

Can you please advise if there are any word count requirements for the 18-page Detailed Project Description section to be uploaded. In addition, can you please advise if images are permitted in the Detailed Project Description section?

There is no word count limit for the Detailed Project Description, however there is an 18-page limit. Images may be included but must be within the 18 pages. The following should be used for documents being uploaded to COALESCE applications:

- **Font colour: Black**
- **Font type: Calibri**
- **Font size: 11**
- **Side margins: 2.0cm**
- **Top and Bottom margins: 1.5cm**
- **Line spacing: single**

Regarding the 18-page Project Description, can a) references be included b) should a GANTT chart be uploaded as part of the 18-page project description, c) are hyperlinks permitted to provide additional information, d) should the CV of both the PI and co-PI be included? e) Is there guidance on words/pages per section i.e., Track Record? f) Does budget justification need to be included.?

a) References should be included in the 18-page project description and count towards the page limit.

b) A GANTT chart to illustrate the project timelines, milestones and deliverables can be uploaded separately. The system will only accept a PDF file for upload.

c) The use of hyperlinks and URLs to provide additional information is not permitted.

d) The detailed project description can include the CV of the lead PI only. The CV should not exceed 2 pages; however, the other requirements should be incorporated as the applicant sees fit, in terms of the length and sequence of the document. Please see the COALESCE Indicative CV Template on the COALESCE funding page.

e) Section length: Track Record and other sections are to be incorporated into the 18-page document. Please note: Two pages at a minimum must be dedicated to methods and analysis.

f) Budget Justification: The proposal must include a detailed budget justification. Explicit and clear justification should be provided for each budget category.

Can a PI who is planning on submitting a COALESCE application as lead PI also be named as a collaborator on a separate COALESCE application.

Yes, a PI applying for COALESCE may also be named as a collaborator on a separate application, but <u>not</u> as a co-PI.

(ii) Eligibility

A staff member, who has a Research Masters with 10+ years research activity including a New Foundations award, is nearing completion of their own PhD and would like to apply to Strand 2A. Would their previous research experience be accepted as equivalency for the PhD requirement?

For Strand 2A, both AHSS Lead PI and STEM Co-PI must have been awarded their doctoral degrees no later than 31st May 2023.

For Strand 2B, the lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2019 [or 31st of May 2021 with a New Foundations award]. The co-PI I will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2021.

For Strand 1M, the lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2019 [or 31st of May 2021 with a New Foundations award].

Can a researcher who is currently on a contract that will end before the proposed project end date be named as a PI or Co-PI if they have a statement from their university confirming their contract will be extended in the event the project is awarded funding?

PI and Co-PI must hold a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible research body to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project ends.

Applicants may <u>not</u> upload a letter of support from institutions. Uploading material and/or documents not requested in the application form will render an application ineligible.

(iii) Project Partners / Collaborations

Is consortia building required for COALESCE?

Strand 2B seeks to elicit proposals from senior researchers with a proven research track record in development, in established Irish research institutions, leading consortia that must comprise of at least one research institution in an eligible partner country, working with at least one Irish research institution. Proposals must demonstrate how they will build research capacity in the partner countries; the consortium's collective capacity to address a key challenge linked to one or more of the SDGs; and the consortium's ability to generate new knowledge that will contribute to one or more of the four policy priorities in A Better World.

For Strand 2A, as outlined in the Call Document Evaluation Criteria, proposals must demonstrate potential for further capacity-building. This may include, for example, consortia building on interdisciplinary projects for European funding programmes.

The Call Document puts a limit of 10% on the collaboration costs. Is this just for costs associated with building the collaboration itself (travel for project meetings, research visits, stakeholder /policy meeting etc) or does it also refer to the costs awarded to the co-PI?

Collaboration costs are costs that support the integration of policy-makers and other partners (national or international) in the proposed research project, up to a max. of 10% of total project costs.

Page 13 of the Indicative Application Form refers to 'project partners'. Could you please explain who is eligible to act as a project partner i.e. does this refer to additional researchers and/ or civil society groups?

As per the COALESCE 2025 Call Document, societal partners include service users, product users, policymakers, civil and civic society organisations, industry partners, members of the public, and other relevant stakeholders. Information regarding any project partners should be included in the application in the section 'Identify any project partners' and in the 'Project Description'.

As per Research Ireland's Grant Conditions, all Research Ireland funding granted is subject to, and must be compliant with, State aid legislation based on Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a Grant awarded under the Research Ireland COALESCE Scheme, and agreed to subject to Research Ireland's Grant Conditions, must be "non-economic" in nature and be designed to ensure that any funding received does not, directly or indirectly, give rise to the granting of State aid.

Where a proposed programme of research involves collaboration with an 'undertaking' or industry party, the activities must comply with the definition of "effective collaboration" and the conditions relating to the allocation between the parties of the results and/or intellectual property rights arising from the collaboration as per the 2022 Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2022/C 414/01) (the "Framework").
Research Ireland has set out guidance to support how the programme of research or project is developed and undertaken in accordance with these conditions. Applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice in advance of applying to Research Ireland for funding where further clarification is sought.

See Section 5.4 of the COALESCE 2025 Call Document for further details.

Is previous collaboration between PI and Co-PI an essential requirement?

It is not essential for the PI and Co-PI to have previously collaborated together, but applicants should make a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project and how the collaboration will benefit the two parties or provide opportunity for further collaboration or capacity building in the research area.

(iv) Budget

What is the purpose of the min/max 30%/70% Personnel Costs?

The purpose of the min-max personnel costs for the lead HEI and Partner HEI/RPO under Strand 2A and Strand 2B is to ensure that both PI and Co-PI have a share of project resources and support to complete project activities and objectives, through a share of total personnel/staffing costs. Eligible staffing costs include academic replacement costs/buyout and costs for research assistant/postdoctoral research in line with specified salary scales. These are outlined in section 7 of the COALESCE 2025 Call Document.

We have our own institutional rates for teaching buyout for individual modules and I believe some of our departments have their own rates, can I check please whether the rate for teaching buyout must be equal to 1 IUA salary scale for postdoctoral researchers or whether, where we have rates for module buyout, we can use those rates instead?

HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. A value equal to point 1 on the IUA salary scale for postdoctoral researchers may be charged to the project to facilitate the awardee's leadership of the project. If the existing academic commitments of the awardee are fully replaced, this money can be charged to the project in order to recruit one whole-time person, e.g., a postdoctoral fellow, to discharge the awardee's commitments. As part of the reporting requirements, the awardee will be required to report on how the replacement costs have been allocated.

Can academic replacement costs be applied to other team members who are academic staff and are part of the research team (but are not a PI)?

As outlined in the Call Document, academic replacements are used to alleviate the awardee's commitments and to facilitate their participation as a principal investigator. Under Strand 2A, the PI and co-PI can cost academic replacement to the budget. Under Strand 2B, academic replacements are permissible for the Ireland-based PI only. Under Strand 1M, the PI can cost academic replacement to the budget.

A co-PI is full-time non-teaching research staff and does not require replacement costs but will be able to participate in the project as part of their core work. Is it okay then if the staff costs only include academic replacement costs for the PI and salary costs for a post-doctoral researcher?

Yes, this is acceptable. For research assistant and postdoctoral researcher staff costs, HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form. The salary requested must include provisions for PRSI, and Employer Pension Contribution, if applicable. As part of the award acceptance process, the Research Office must confirm that the requested salary is in line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.

Where should compensation for human participants be entered in the budget section?

Participants in surveys/focus groups/workshops or other such project-related activities may not be paid; however, costs incurred as a result of participation in the survey (i.e. 'travel costs' for focus group members) may be included in the budget so long as they are detailed and fully justified. Only vouched expenses incurred in carrying out the research project during the agreed funding term are permissible.

2. Strand 2A

(i) General

Can the PI and co-PI be from the same eligible research body? Or do they have to be from different institutions?

Yes, both the PI and Co-PI can be in the same institution.

Is a PI who is aligned to AHSS research but affiliated to a STEM school eligible to apply?

It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate their research alignment with an AHSS discipline (see Annex A on the COALESCE funding page); and to provide sufficient detail and context in the application to demonstrate their eligibility for the strand.

How strict is the disciplines definition, my research theme would come under other research areas but doesn't fit into disciplines category per se?

Applicants should choose the discipline that most closely matches his/her proposed research. In considering the selection, the applicant should consider the methodology and techniques used in the research project. Consult Annex A and Annex B. The applicant and STEM co-PI are required to choose from the list of primary and secondary, most relevant discipline from the list provided. Applicants can also use the keywords to provide additional information. The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate their discipline falls under the AHSS or STEM categories as relevant.

One of our AHSS researchers wants to collaborate with a researcher in Nursing as STEM disciplines that are covered. Under the heading for Biological Sciences B, 'Reproductive Biology' is listed, would someone from Nursing/ Medicine align with that category or does this relate more to someone specifically working on lab-based cell research?

Yes, Nursing would align as a STEM discipline. Applicants should choose the discipline that most closely matches his/her proposed research. In considering the selection, the applicant should consider the methodology and techniques used in the research project. Consult Annex A and Annex B. The applicant and STEM co-PI are required to choose from the list of primary and secondary, most relevant discipline from the list provided. Applicants can also use the keywords to provide additional information. The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate their discipline falls under the AHSS or STEM categories as relevant.

I wanted to know if nutrition science is considered a STEM discipline?

Applicants should choose the discipline that most closely matches his/her proposed research. In considering the selection, the applicant should consider the methodology and techniques used in the research project. Consult Annex A and Annex B. The applicant and STEM co-PI are required to choose from the list of primary and secondary, most relevant discipline from the list provided. Applicants can also use the keywords to provide additional information. The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate their discipline falls under the AHSS or STEM categories as relevant.

Applicants are requested to "Outline how the proposal meets the thematic requirements of the strand? Where exactly are the "thematic requirements" of the call? I can't find the exact term in the documents.

The thematic requirements for Strand 2A are outlined in pages 7 and 8 of the Call Document, and further outlined in Appendices 1 and 6.

I have a PI who is interested in applying to the COALESCE call, strand 2A. They are however currently an ERC award holder. Given the limitations with holding a Laureate award, the PI wishes to confirm that they are still eligible to apply being an ERC holder?

In this instance, they would be eligible. However, as outlined in the Call Document, the lead applicant and any co-PIs must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation of the project. PIs are advised that, by submitting an application in their own name, they personally undertake to develop the project, with due attention and viable commitments of time and without sub-contracting the project to another party or parties. In addition, the requirements set out by the Strategic Funding Partners are part of the general rules of this scheme

(ii) Project Partners / Collaborations

For Strand 2A, are there any requirements for additional project partners (not the co-Applicant)? For example, can they be from external organisations/industry collaborators, or do they also need to be associated with a HEI?

As per the COALESCE 2025 Call Document, societal partners include service users, product users, policymakers, civil and civic society organisations, industry partners, members of the public, and other relevant stakeholders. Information regarding any project partners should be featured in the section 'Identify any project partners' and in the Project Description.

As per Research Ireland's Grant Conditions, all Research Ireland funding granted is subject to, and must be compliant with, State aid legislation based on Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a Grant awarded under the Research Ireland COALESCE Scheme, and agreed to subject to Research Ireland's Grant Conditions, must be "non-economic" in nature and be designed to ensure that any funding received does not, directly or indirectly, give rise to the granting of State aid.

Where a proposed programme of research involves collaboration with an 'undertaking' or industry party, the activities must comply with the definition of "effective collaboration" and the conditions relating to the allocation between the parties of the results and/or intellectual property rights arising from the collaboration as per the 2022 Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2022/C 414/01) (the "Framework").
Research Ireland has set out guidance to support how the programme of research or project is developed and undertaken in accordance with these conditions. Applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice in advance of applying to Research Ireland for funding where further clarification is sought.

See Section 5.4 of the COALESCE 2025 Call Document for further details.

Regarding Strand 2A: If a collaborator is included (in addition to the PI and STEM co-PI), where in the application documentation should this information be included and what needs to be included in relation to the collaborator's expertise/etc?

Information regarding project collaborators and partners can be detailed in the 'Identify any project partners' section. Relevant detail regarding collaborators and partners can also be included in the 'Project Description'.

I'm a researcher interested in applying to COALESCE strand 2A with a PI in AHSS. We were thinking about adding an additional collaborator from the UK. Would that be possible with this scheme?

For Strand 2A, applications may only include only one named PI and one named Co-PI. Information on project partners/collaborators can be included in the sections 'Identify any project partners' and in the 'Project Description'.

(iii) Budget

Strand 2A: I am hoping to include some key PPI colleagues in my application (as they are instrumental to the project, and will contribute to team meetings and data analysis). As per our university guidelines, they can only be remunerated through vouchers. Can I include these in the application, and if so, would this be consultancy, staff, collaboration, or Access to Research Infrastructure?

As outlined in the Call Document, honoraria such as vouchers are deemed an ineligible research expense. Participants in surveys/focus groups/workshops or other such project-related activities may not be paid; however, costs incurred as a result of participation in the survey (i.e. 'travel costs' for focus group members) may be included in the budget so long as they are detailed and fully justified. Only vouched expenses incurred in carrying out the research project during the agreed funding term are permissible.

For Strand 2A: The Call Document states that for team membership, honoraria such as vouchers are deemed an ineligible research expense. However, our work involves the contribution of PPI and other participants for whom we would like to incentivise participation. Our university recommends paying PPI contributors via vouchers, would this be allowed? Or are they only allowed direct monetary reimbursement of their time/travel as for human participants? Would participation expenses like a raffle prize be an eligible expense? What budget category should PPI participation/participation incentive costs be included under if allowable?

As outlined in the Call Document, honoraria such as vouchers are deemed an ineligible research expense. Participants in surveys/focus groups/workshops or other such project-related activities may not be paid; however, costs incurred as a result of participation in the survey (i.e. 'travel costs' for focus group members) may be included in the budget so long as they are detailed and fully justified. Only vouched expenses incurred in carrying out the research project during the agreed funding term are permissible.

For Strand 2A can the lead applicant be a post-doctoral researcher and apply for their own salary through the award? i.e. the contract of duration would only be in place at time of award?

For all strands, applicants must, on the call deadline, hold a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible research body (as defined in the 2025 Call Document) to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date.

The overall funding limit for Strand 2A is €220,000. Is this figure inclusive of the overhead costs?

Yes, the maximum award value is inclusive of all costs.

Applicants should confirm their budget calculations and seek guidance from their Research Office when preparing their budget to ensure all calculations are correct and adhere to the eligible costs set out in the Call Document and in accordance with their institutional guidelines and policies.

What are the rules for distributing funding between the PI and the STEM-Co-PI? There seems to be a 30/70 guideline for personnel funding, but does it also apply to other sections of the budget (e.g. consumables)?

The min-max personnel costs for the lead HEI and partner HEI/RPO under Strand 2A and Strand 2B solely refer to personnel costs. The breakdown of time/funding to be committed by the lead AHSS PI and STEM co-PI is not specified in the Call Document. The maintenance of the minimum 30% personnel costs will be the responsibility of the lead HEI. Applicants should confirm their budget calculations and seek guidance from their Research Office when preparing their budget to ensure all calculations are correct and adhere to the eligible costs set out below and in accordance with their institutional guidelines and policies.

Consumables under Strand 2A and 1M have a maximum allowable budget of €2000.00; and a maximum of €5,000.00 for Strand 2B.

3. Strand 1M

Strand 1M: Can time be costed in for the expertise of a policy manager in the stakeholder group?

Eligible personnel costs for Strand 1M are detailed in Section 7.3 of the Call Document.

Strand 1M applications may include provision for team membership of researchers from institutions and organisations that fall outside the eligible institutions, including both national and international participation. However, only collaboration costs (not personnel costs) may be allocated to such institutions/organisations and the added value of such costs must be strongly demonstrated.

Eligible research expenses under Strand 1M include Consultancy costs, up to a maximum of €20,000 of total project costs. These costs must be relevant and clearly justified.

Under Strand 1M, should proposals address one of the areas outlined under each theme? For example, for Theme 2, should proposals address either 2.1 or 2.2?

Cuan invites applications for research proposals with a focus on <u>one</u> of the themes. Applicants may focus on <u>one or both</u> of the project areas within their chosen theme.

Regarding the focus of Cuan's work, is there a contact link I may address these too?

In the first instance, all applicant queries should be directed to their institution's Research Office.

For Strand 1M is buyout possible for named collaborators or only PIs (where the collaborator is a colleague in the same institution)?

As outlined in the Call Document, academic replacements are used to alleviate the awardee's commitments and to facilitate their participation as a principal investigator. Under Strand 1M, the PI can cost academic replacement to the budget.

I would like to check if a research assistant on a project in the Coalesce - Strand 1M would have to have their Masters finished? What are the requirements for the research assistant in Strand 1M?

Should the Masters student have a suitable qualification, they can be employed as a research assistant on the project provided there is a clear rationale and justification.

I hold a New Foundations award, my viva was in July 2020 but my graduation was delayed until 2022. Am I still eligible to apply for this strand?

As stated in the Call Document, the lead PI will be at least five years post-PhD, or if the applicant is 3 years post-PhD and has won a New Foundations grant, they will be deemed eligible. The lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st May 2019 (or 31st May 2021 with a New Foundations award). If you have not graduated by the required timeline, you must have all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected thesis within the required timeline.

4. Strand 2B

(i) General

In Strand 2B, how widely interpreted is the "most left behind first"? Many populations of interest to Global Health in the Global South are not homogeneously very poor, but that does not imply that research aiming to improve services and strengthen policy for that group would not also help its poorest members.

Proposals are expected to demonstrate an approach in research design to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Applicants can decide how widely they want to interpret this, with the caveat that they should be familiar with development contexts.

In relation to Strand 2B partner costs, apart from the Co-PI's time, can other university faculty be costed into the project?

Eligible staff costs for partner RPOs under Strand 2B are outlined in Section 7.5 of the Call Document. Staff Costs in Partner Country are eligible for the following:

Employment costs of co-PI: Up to 50% of employment costs of the co-PI in the partner country can be sought. Costs sought must be fully justified and align with the proposed time commitment to the project from the co-PI applicant. Any employment costs sought for the co-PI must be in line with relevant local salary scales applicable to the career stage of the co-PI.

Research Assistant (can be pro rata) / Post-Doctoral Researcher (can be pro rata): Participating RPOs in partner countries can use their own institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form.

Can 2B projects run for less than 3 years (2 years, for example) and would the maximum grant be pro-rata?

The COALESCE Call Document states the maximum project duration as per each strand, which has been set by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland or the Strategic Funding Partner. Proposals will be considered for shorter durations but must be feasible and fully justified.

Proposals must include a detailed budget justification. Explicit and clear justification should be provided for each budget category. All costs sought under an application must be detailed and justified. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that any costs sought are necessary to carry out the proposed research programme and that such facilities are not available to the researcher(s) via any other means.

Can there be a named investigator (not the PI's) on 2B projects whose contract is not as long as the project duration?

An Applicant to Strand 2B will be a lead Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible research body to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end date, with a mandatory and named co-PI (co-applicant) employed by an HEI or research performing organisation (RPO) in one of the Department of Foreign Affairs' partner countries and who will be in a position to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date.

Project proposals can draw on other expertise, who would be deemed project partners. Project partners should be detailed in the section 'Identify any project partners' and in the Project Description.

Strand 2B My PhD completion and graduation date was delayed by a year due to a medical issue. Would it be acceptable to add this year back in order to align with the eligibility criteria?

As stated in the Call Document, the applicant must be at least five years post-PhD, or, if the applicant is 3 years post-PhD and has won a New Foundations grant (DFA Strand), the applicant will be deemed eligible. The lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2019 (or 31st of May 2021 with a New Foundations award). If you have not graduated by the required timeline, you must have all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected thesis within the required timeline.

Can the project be led by two PIs from different HEIs in Ireland? This is in addition to the co-PI in the partner country.

As outlined in the Call Document, projects will be led by one Principle Investigator (PI), who is the lead applicant, and one named Co-PI.

Can a lead applicant be eligible if they are 3 years post-PhD and have won a New Foundations grant other than the DFA Strand (e.g., Strand 1a) if the New Foundations research is in a related area?

PI should be at least five years post-PhD, or, if the applicant is 3 years post-PhD and has won a New Foundations grant from the DFA Strand only, the applicant will be deemed eligible.

(ii) Overseas Partners / Collaborations

Strand 2B. The proposed international partner is already participating in a COALESCE project. My understanding is this does not preclude their involvement in this upcoming call? The eligibility issue would be with the Irish based PI. Is that a correct interpretation?

For any named PI and Co-PI on an application who are currently funded under a Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland PI-led award (specifically a Laureate, COALESCE, HERA, CHIST-ERA or UKRI Digital Humanities 11 award), the existing award must finish by the COALESCE 2025 project start date in Q3 2025.

Any other project partners can be identified under the 'Identify any project partners' section of the application.

Can we have two overseas partner institutions in Strand 2b?

An Applicant to Strand 2B will be a lead Principal Investigator (PI) with a mandatory and named co-PI (co-applicant) employed by an HEI or research performing organisation (RPO) in one of the Department of Foreign Affairs' partner countries.

Project proposals can draw on other expertise, who would be deemed project partners. Project partners should be featured in the section 'Identify any project partners' and in the Project Description.

Is South Africa an eligible partner country under Strand 2B. South Africa is listed in the DAC list of ODA recipients under 'upper middle-income countries and territories which are not LDCs', where it is listed alongside other countries including Brazil, Turkey and Thailand. If South Africa is an eligible partner country under Strand 2B, does this mean Thailand is an eligible partner country too?

Eligible partner countries under Strand 2B are any ODA-eligible country on the African continent; any ODA-eligible Small Island Developing State (SIDS); Vietnam; Palestine; Laos; Cambodia. As South Africa is an ODA eligible country on the African continent, it is therefore eligible. Thailand is not eligible as it does not meet the criteria above.

I am wondering if you can confirm that the NGO: CHREAA is eligible to be a partner organisation as a not-for-profit RPO?

As per the COALESCE Call Document under Strand 2B, the RPO in the partner country must be a publicly funded or not-for-profit higher education/research institution. The RPO must have the capacity and infrastructure to support the research, should be research active and be able to demonstrate the standard of academic rigour required for a large research project.

A PI has strong connections with an inter-governmental organisation represented by six Greater Mekong subregion countries (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and China). The headquarters of the organisation is in Thailand. Although Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam are on the priority for COALESE 2B strand, is this organisation, with its headquarter in Thailand, but capacity to conduct research and mobilise resources in the priority countries considered as an eligible partner for the application?

Neither Thailand nor China are eligible partner countries. Strand 2B is open to proposals that seek to cultivate and grow high-quality development research capacity both in Ireland and an ODA-eligible country on the African continent; any ODA-eligible Small Island Developing State (SIDS); Vietnam; Palestine; Laos; Cambodia.

What partner countries are eligible for Strand 2B?

As outlined in the Call Document (pg. 35), eligible partner countries include any ODA eligible country on the African continent; any ODA-eligible Small Island Developing State (SIDS); Vietnam; Palestine; Laos; Cambodia. Further information on ODA Eligible Countries can be found here: DAC ODA Eligible Countries.

(iii) Budget

Strand 2B Q: Can time be costed in for a Lecturer based in the country of a project partner in Africa, and should this cost go under Collaboration or Consultancy?

As per the Call Document 2025 – Staff Costs in Partner Country are eligible for the following: Employment costs of co-PI: Up to 50% of employment costs of the co-PI in the partner country can be sought. Costs sought must be fully justified and align with the proposed time commitment to the project from the co-PI applicant. Any employment costs sought for the co-PI must be in line with relevant local salary scales applicable to the career stage of the co-PI.

Research Assistant (can be pro rata) / Post-Doctoral Researcher (can be pro rata): Participating RPOs in partner countries can use their own institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form.

In Strand 2B, is there a limit on the costs that can be assigned to the co-PI in the partner country and if so what is this limit?

Up to 50% of employment costs of the co-PI in the partner country can be sought under Strand 2B. Costs sought must be fully justified and align with the proposed time commitment to the project from the co-PI applicant. Any employment costs sought for the co-PI must be in line with relevant local salary scales applicable to the career stage of the co-PI.
All project costs must adhere to the eligible costs as set out in the Call Document. Applicants should confirm their budget calculations and seek guidance from their Research Office when preparing their budget to ensure all calculations are correct and eligible.

Strand 2B: We have collaborators in Nigeria and Cameroon. The application will involve the construction of a critical piece of equipment in Nigeria which will enable them to complete the planned project but also enhance their research capacity in the future, allowing them to possibility get involved in future Horizon Europe applications. The expected cost of building this equipment is estimated at 70,000-90,000 euro. Would this cost be eligible under the equipment category in the budget?

Collaboration Costs (not personnel costs) may be used to support the integration of partners in the proposed research project. The added value of such costs must be strongly demonstrated. Under Strand 2B, collaboration costs can be maximum 10% of total project costs, inclusive of overheads.

Is the Strand 2B consumable budget of €5000 in total for the entire length of the project?

The maximum consumable allowable for Strand 2B is €5000.00.