

COALESCE 2025

FAQ v2 01.11.24

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Please consult the [COALESCE 2025 Call Document](#) for further details

New queries for the current week

Queries from all previous cycles

1. General

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 the Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland or the Strategic Funding Partner. Proposals will be considered for shorter durations but must be feasible and fully justified.

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 not as a co-PI.

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 must be in a position to devote sufficient time to the management and realisation of the project.

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.

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 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?

- 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.

2. Strand 2A

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

3. Strand 1M

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

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 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.

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.

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](#).