

# COALESCE 2025

FAQ v4 15.11.24

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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

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

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

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

**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.

**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.

**What is the start date for projects?**

Projects are expected to commence in Q3 2025.

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

Applicants may only submit one application to COALESCE 2025.

**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.

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

**Are projects previously submitted to COALESCE but which were unsuccessful eligible for resubmission?**

Projects previously assessed under the COALESCE scheme which were unsuccessful may be resubmitted to COALESCE 2025. However, applicants must provide a description of 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.

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? 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.

## 2. Strand 2A

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.

Can a post-doctoral researcher apply to Strand 2A as lead applicant and claim salary from the award? For example, if their contract of duration will be in place at time of award and not time of application.

The applicant must be a 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 ends.

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 €5,000.00 for Strand 2B.

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 a 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'.

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

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 one of the themes. Applicants may focus on one or both of the project areas within their chosen theme.

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

In the first instance, all applicant queries should be directed to your 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 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 (or 31<sup>st</sup> 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

**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.**

**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](#).**