

**2020 COALESCE Research Fund:
Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)**

The deadline for receipt of FAQs is **16.00 (Ireland Time), 15th December 2020**. FAQs must be submitted no later than this date.

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

1. Eligibility - General
 - 1.1 Strand 2A Eligibility
 - 1.2 Strand 2B Eligibility
 - 1.3 Strand 1K Eligibility
2. Applying to the Scheme
3. Budget

If you can't find your answer below, you may refer to the Terms and Conditions:

<http://research.ie/funding/coalesce/>

1. ELIGIBILITY – General

Can applicants upload a letter of support from a collaborator?

Applicants may **NOT** upload a letter of support from a collaborator. 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. The HEI/RPO will endorse their application through the OLS.

Can you confirm that a PI who is academic supervisor/mentor to an IRC Postgraduate Scholar/Postdoctoral Fellow is not considered to be in receipt of IRC funding.

A PI who is an academic supervisor/mentor to an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholar/Postdoctoral Fellow not in receipt of funding from the IRC themselves and is therefore eligible to apply in their own right.

In order to be eligible a PI should not be in receipt of any other Council funding at the proposed start date, with the exception of New Foundations, Creative Connections and/or Ulysses or similar travel award(s).

Is a postdoctoral researcher eligible to apply?

Postdocs who, at the time of the call deadline, hold a contract of sufficient duration to carry out the proposed project from the project start date until the project end date are eligible to apply as long as they meet the other criteria for eligibility of the Strand to which they are applying.

Could you clarify which are the IRC grants that are incompatible with the COALESCE or what it means not being "in receipt of any other Council funding at the proposed start date, with the exception of New Foundations, Creative Connections and/or Ulysses or similar travel award(s)"?

The Council have amended the eligibility criteria for applicants to Strand 1K and Strand 2A under the COALESCE 2020 Terms and Conditions on page 9 and 10. If currently funded under an IRC PI-led award, their award will finish in 2021. This is without prejudice to future policy on

applicants' eligibility to COALESCE. This condition does not apply to Strand 2B, eligibility criteria may be found on pages 10 and 11.

A potential applicant currently has HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) funding until December 2021. While the IRC are involved in the HERA scheme in a management capacity, the funding itself is provided by the European Commission, thus as they are not in receipt of IRC funding, are they eligible?

Yes, they would be eligible to apply as they would have received funds from the IRC as part of the HERA grant which is a co-funded programme through the European Commission.

An applicant who is due to commence permanent employment in a HEI on the 1st of January 2021 is interested in the COALESCE call and is wondering whether they can apply as a Lead PI for strand 2a. They and the HEI have already signed the contract of employment.

Would the individual be eligible to apply given that on the 22nd of December they will in fact have a signed contract of employment that covers the duration of the project proposed from Q3 2021 up to a maximum of 2.5 years.

Yes. A contract of employment is in place and their contract is of sufficient duration for the project's duration.

A multinational is interested in being part of one of our applicant's projects and will offer co-funding. The multinational's legal team kindly requests clarification for the definitions of the term "partnership" in the Terms and Conditions document?

For example, in section 2.9, there is a distinction drawn between the terms "partnership" and "enterprise." In discussion of budget (pg. 36-7), there is no mention of enterprise but only of "co-funding" from "partners" and "cross-sector funding". But then in section 1, there is a distinction drawn between policy makers, civil society and "enterprise" as "key stakeholders". Would the private company be considered by the IRC as "Partners" or as "Enterprise" or "key stakeholders"? If they want to contribute funding can they do so as a 'stakeholder' or an 'enterprise' or must they be listed as a 'partner' who co-funds?

Yes, non-academic partners who add value to the project can include enterprises, public sector bodies, and civic society organisations. The appropriate institutional arrangements should be in place for the necessary governance.

1.1 Strand 2A Eligibility

Under Strand 2A: Can the proposal be split between 2 institutions?

Yes, the AHSS PI and STEM co-PI can come from different HEIs/RPOs. However, the lead PI and their institution must take responsibility as the lead on the project with regard to financial matters and progress reporting.

Is a researcher with an Honorary Contract post eligible to act as a co-PI on the IRC COALESCE Strand 2A?

Under the COALESCE 2020 Terms & Conditions:

An eligible application for Strand 2A is, on the call deadline, submitted by:

An AHSS Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible HEI or RPO to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

WITH

A mandatory and named STEM Co-PI (co-applicant) who holds a contract of sufficient duration

with an eligible HEI or RPO to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

Both AHSS Lead PI and STEM Co-PI must:

- Have been awarded their doctoral degrees no later than 31st May 2019. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.
- If currently funded under an IRC PI-led award, their award will finish in 2021.

Provided that the STEM Co-PI meets all other eligibility criteria, the contract of sufficient duration, may be an honorary contract. This is without prejudice to future policy on applicants' eligibility to COALESCE.

I am wondering if a COALESCE Strand 2A project would be eligible if the named Stem Co-PI is Professor of Architecture in UCD's School of Engineering & Architecture?

As per the Annex A AHSS disciplines, Architecture is classified as an AHSS discipline, under the primary area 'Individuals, Institutions, markets, values, behaviour the mind and environment'.

In relation to Strand 2A, on page 10 it states the PIs must have been conferred their doctoral degrees no later than 31st of May 2018. It further states – "If you have not yet graduated, 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. Please indicate the year of submission above."

I was conferred in November 2019. I wish to query whether the date is an error (31st of May 2018) and if not, am I eligible?

The date 31st of May 2018 was an error in the Terms and Conditions. In order to be eligible for Strand 2A, both the AHSS Lead PI and STEM Co-PI must:

- **Have been awarded their doctoral degrees no later than 31st May 2019. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.**
- If currently funded under an IRC PI-led award, their award will finish in 2021.

As part of the Consultancy (Maximum €10,000), can we include an independent research company with solid survey experience collaborating with universities to work on technical aspects of the survey data collection, such as advice on sampling strategy, support on designing online questionnaires, and keeping track of respondents' survey participation?

Yes. All costs sought must be relevant and clearly justified.

Are there any regulations in terms of offering vouchers to participants? More specifically, for a project that will work with Principals and schools which will then survey students and families, is it possible to give some educational materials to schools (books, educational posters after the data analyses) to acknowledge the involvement of schools in the project? If so, would this cost go to consumables or somewhere else?

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.

Can costs related to statistical package licences be included in the budget? If so, should these go to equipment?

This would be an eligible cost under the 'Consumables' category, for which the maximum amount allowed under Strand 2A is €2,000.

Can you please advise if under Strand 2A Technical Officers can be hired for a duration of 18 months (which would exceed the consultancy max allowable cost of 10k). This would of course be fully justified and crucial to achieving the objectives of the project.

Technical Officers may be included under the 'Staff Costs' category. The recruitment of staff (e.g. research assistants, postdoctoral researchers) must be done openly, through public advertisement. Staff must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only. Recruitment of staff can commence before the start date of the project and costs for recruitment can be charged to the project (outside the official start date) with the prior approval of the Council. All costs sought must be relevant and clearly justified.

Can you please advise if more than one application can be submitted under Strand 2A by the same AHSS lead PI, with a different STEM Co-PI?

Applicants may make more than one application under Strand 2A if these are clearly distinct research projects. In the event of an applicant being successful in more than one application in this call, the applicant must clearly indicate a time management strategy and must receive approval of the same from the Irish Research Council in order to be permitted to accept both awards.

In relation to Strand 2A are the AHSS disciplines under Annex A of paramount importance, or should the applications also consider the disciplines under Annex B for the STEM co-applicant?

Yes. The lead PI under Strand 2A should be in the AHSS with a STEM co-PI as it is an interdisciplinary strand. The Terms and Conditions state applicants in any AHSS discipline (see Annex A with call documentation) can apply for funding as the lead applicant along with a named applicant from any STEM discipline (see Annex B).

Under Strand 2A, are Co-PI's permissible in addition to the STEM Co-PI?

Strand 2A requires **one** lead PI from an AHSS discipline and **one** co-PI from a STEM discipline **only**. The lead PI will be from an AHSS discipline as identified in Annex A. The mandatory and named co-PI will be from a STEM discipline as identified in Annex B. Project proposals can draw on other expertise to the above, and include project partner but not as co-PIs.

We have a potential STEM co-PI who although they have > 4 years of research experience, do not have a PhD. Are they eligible to be a co-PI?

Lead PIs and Co-PIs on COALESCE 2020 must have qualified with a PhD within the required time frame specified in the relevant strand of the Terms and Conditions.

Strand 2A - Would it be possible to add a third researcher in the project? If yes, should this person be a co-PI, project partner or collaborator? If not, is there any section or place where this can be acknowledged or indicated?

For a Strand 2A application, only the AHSS lead PI and STEM Co-PI are required to be named specifically. Project partners should be featured in section '8: **Identify any project partners'** and in **the Project Description**.

Strand 2A 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.

Can you please advise if collaborators on any of the strands are permissible, particularly Strand 2A?

Collaborators are permissible and should be included under 'Identify any project partners'. As above, Strand 2A requires one lead PI from an AHSS discipline and one co-PI from a STEM discipline only. Collaborators are permissible.
Strand 2A - In section "8. Identify any project partners": are we expected to add non-academic organisations only, researchers only or both non-academic organisations "and" researchers?
Apart from the AHSS PI and STEM co-PI, all partners may be listed under 'Project Partners'.
Can medicine be considered an acceptable STEM discipline under Annex B?
Yes. Medicine can be considered a STEM discipline. 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.
A professor in nursing and midwifery is interested in working with a legal scholar (Proposed AHSS PI) on a topic related to the practical operation of the right of conscientious objection in abortion services in Ireland.
We are querying whether, for the purposes of this call, Health Sciences will be considered as a STEM disciplinary area for the co-PI?
Yes. Health Sciences can be considered a STEM discipline. 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.
An applicant has a background in computer science, their research is focused on social science research methodologies, and they are based in Business Information Systems under Business & Law. Under Strand 2A, would this applicant fall under AHSS or STEM?
Please refer to the annex of discipline Computer Science and Information Science are classified as STEM. http://research.ie/assets/uploads/2018/05/Annex-B.-STEM-Disciplines.pdf
Can applicants make a Strand 2A application, <i>as well as</i> a Strand 2B application?
Applicants may apply to more than one strand. In the event of an applicant being successful in more than one strand in this call, the applicant must clearly indicate a time management strategy and must receive approval of the same from the Irish Research Council in order to be permitted to accept both awards.
1.2 Strand 2B Eligibility
Nepal is not an Irish Aid focus country. Does this mean that an organisation based in Nepal is ineligible under the Terms and Conditions of Strand 2B?
The Terms and Conditions stipulate the requirement for a mandatory and named Co-PI (co-applicant) employed by a research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of Irish Aid's partner countries and who will be in a position to carry out the proposed research from the project start-date until the project end. Co-Applicants based in countries that are non-Irish Aid partner countries are not eligible to apply.
Do services provided by e.g. an SFI funded centre call fall under "access to research infrastructure"? This centre is currently the only national research infrastructure who is able to provide these services for larger genomes and transcriptomes like those of plants. Is there a limit to the costs associated with this category?
The services outlined would fall under the 'Access to research infrastructure'. Only research infrastructure outside the host institution is valid for costs. All costs must be fully justified.
For Strand 2B 14-page PDF, the applicant wishes to identify all the participants and include their logos. Is this acceptable or should they go in the participants' section?

Project partners should be featured in section 8 (Identify any project partners) and in the detailed project description.
How many co-PIs from the lead institution in ROI (not from the Irish Aid's partner's research performing organisation) are allowed?
There should be one applicant (lead) from the ROI institution. Project proposals can draw on other expertise, but not as a co-applicant.
As per call document (page 11) 'applicants may concurrently apply for a Strand 1K and Strand 2 award' provided they have a justifiable time-management strategy if they get both awards. Can a PI apply for strands 2A and 2B simultaneously - in this case, as a lead AHSS PI for a Strand 2A, and as a co-PI (based in an Irish-based RPO) for a strand 2B.
An Irish-based PI cannot be the co-PI under Strand 2B. The mandatory and named Co-PI (co-applicant) on Strand 2B must be employed by a research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of Irish Aid's partner countries and who will be in a position to carry out the proposed research from the project start-date until the project end.
How is Principal Investigator defined in the context of Strand 2B?
The lead applicant will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 eligible.⁴ ➤ Have experience of collaboration within research consortia with an international development focus and/or international project. ➤ Have a track record in research under one or more of the DFA themes for this strand. ➤ Not be in receipt of any other Council funding at the proposed start date, with the exception of New Foundations, Creative Connections and/or Ulysses or similar travel award(s). <p>⁴Applicants who are eligible under the latter caveat will need to demonstrate that they have the skills and experience to manage a project of this scale.</p> <p>The experience and expertise of the applicants is an evaluation criterion under Strand 2B, further details can be found in Appendix 4.</p>
Can you please advise if applicants should contact the DFA and discuss their application with them now, or this step not required until award stage?
In the event of a successful application, a representative from DFA should be invited to participate in, or provide a nominee to, any steering group or advisory structure being convened to support the research project
Is IITA in Nairobi (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) an eligible organisation? IITA is a non-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation.
The RPO in the partner country must be a publicly funded or not-for-profit higher education/research institution. In exceptional circumstances, other RPOs will be considered. 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.
The proposed RPO in the partner country will be assessed in line with the advertised criteria.
Can the proposal include a second co-applicant from RPO in Africa?
No. Strand 2B requires one lead PI based in an eligible Irish HEI or RPO and one co-PI employed by a HEI or research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of the Department of Foreign Affairs'

partner countries **only**. Project proposals can draw on additional expertise through the inclusion of project partners.

Does the Co-PI have to be an **African nationality**?

No, this is not a requirement.

Related to the postdoc being hired for the project in RPO in Africa, does the postdoc have to be an **African nationality**?

No, this is not a requirement.

Stand 2B - what countries are included as "eligible partner countries" - the document states "in Ireland and eligible partner countries" which includes Vietnam; Palestine; any African country - does this include South Africa.

Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Palestine, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and any African country

A potential applicant for Strand 2B has the criteria set out in the document however on page 31 " The lead applicant will... Have a track record in research under one or more of the DFA themes for this strand". If the potential applicant has all other criteria but not a proven research track record in development are they still eligible to apply?

The lead PI on strand 2B must have a proven track record in development and meet the other eligibility requirements in order to be an eligible PI.

The applicant is interested in Strand 2B (Irish Aid) and has a strong background in research in Africa. The T&C state that PIs must be 5 years post-PhD (unlike Strand 1K and 2A). The applicant submitted her PhD in 2016, had a viva in Feb 2017 and graduated in Aug 2017. Hence on paper she is ineligible. Is there any flexibility in how the IRC/Irish Aid interpret the length of time post PhD for PIs?

Eligibility is calculated from the date of graduation. The lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2016 [or 31st of May 2018 where the applicant hold a Strand 4 New Foundations award funded by the DFA]. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account. The co-PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2018. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.

Does DFA fund action research projects? (i.e. a study that is designed to intervene and improve ways in which a community addresses problems and issues)

Proposals involving action research will be considered. Please see Appendix 4 of the Terms & Conditions for the Evaluation Criteria for Strand 2B. All proposals submitted to Strand 2B must meet the standards of excellence and academic rigour required in order to be funded.

What role do DFA play throughout the duration of a successful awarded project?

As per the Terms and Conditions, a representative from DFA should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering group or advisory structure being convened to support the research project. A specified member of DFA will be available to participate on the project steering group, if requested. At least one meeting with the awardee will be required per year. DFAT will receive progress reports submitted by awardees and must be acknowledged as co-funder (along with the Irish Research Council) on all publications, reports and outreach activities. Please see Appendix 3 of the Terms and Conditions for further information on this strand.

Could you please expand on how "research consortia" and "international project" are defined for the purposes of this call? For example, would a project which involved a collaboration with an international NGO count? Would a collaboration with a foreign RPO count? Or, does it have to be

a large-scale EU-style consortia to be considered? Can a collaboration with one other institution count, or must the consortium have consisted of multiple institutions?

Applicants should refer to the strand descriptors, eligibility criteria for the lead applicant and mandatory co-PI in one of the Department of Foreign Affairs' partner countries and the evaluation criteria in the [Terms and Conditions](#). It is a matter for applicants to evidence their experience and capability to undertake a proposed project. It is not expected that applications would-be large-scale consortia. Yes, a collaboration with a foreign RPO may count.

A prospective partner for the strand 2B completed her PhD in August 2019. Before completing her PhD she was a Senior Researcher in a research organisation in South Africa for 10 years and has publication record to reflect that. I understand the T&Cs mention that the Co-PI "be at least three years post PhD (or possess equivalent research qualifications/ experience). Would the 10 years of research experience be considered as having equivalent research experience?

The co-applicant will, at minimum:

- Be at least three years post PhD (or possess equivalent research qualifications/experience).⁵
- Have experience of international research collaboration with an international development focus and/or international project/s.
- Have a track record in research under one or more of the DFA themes for this strand.

⁵The co-PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2018. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.

In light of the research experience, and without prejudice to future Terms and Conditions, the Council will waive the 3 years post PhD rule.

The application form seems to only allow for one partner/collaborator country for Strand 2B. Can you please advise if applicants are permitted to collaborate with multiple partner countries? If so, how should this be presented in the application form?

From the COALESCE 2020 Terms and Conditions: 'The mandatory Co-PI (co-applicant) must be employed by an HEI or research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of the Department of Foreign Affairs partner countries...'. While the principal partner country is an anchor for the Co-PI and project activities, collaborators from multiple partner countries are welcomed and may be included in the Project Description and under 'Identify any Project Partners'.

1.3 Strand 1K Eligibility

Can applicants make one Strand 1K application, *as well as* a Strand 2B application?

Applicants may apply to more than one strand, and the same applicant may also submit one application as lead PI to Strand 2B. In the event that an applicant is successful in more than one strand of COALESCE, the applicant must clearly indicate a time-management strategy for simultaneously conducting the projects. Additionally, the applicant must receive approval for the same from the Irish Research Council in order to be permitted to accept multiple awards on this call.

Under Strands 1K, would it be possible to have a lead PI and a Co-PI?

Co-PIs are not permitted on applications to strand 1K.

If someone is named as a collaborator on an application, does this exclude that person from applying for a position on the project should it be successful?

The recruitment of staff (e.g. research assistants, postdoctoral researchers) must be done openly, through public advertisement. Staff must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only. Recruitment of staff can commence before the start date of the project and costs for

recruitment can be charged to the project (outside the official start date) with the prior approval of the Council.

2. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME

Under Strand 2A is co-funding a mandatory requirement? If so, is a cash contribution required or are in-kind contributions allowable

Co-funding is not mandatory. It may add value to a project where matched with activities which support evidence-based outcomes. In-kind contributions are acceptable where they support the evidence-based impact of the project.

Is there any guidance on how much match funding needs to be provided (e.g. a percentage of the total amount requested from IRC)?

Funding provided by partners on open call Strand 2A is not obligatory. It may add value to a project where matched with activities which support evidence-based outcomes.

Can you please also confirm if an AHSS PI or STEM Co-PI is not a permanent staff member or does not have a contract of sufficient duration, would a letter of commitment from the Head of Department committing to the continuation of the individual's contract (should the award be successful) be sufficient to meet this requirement?

As per the Terms and Conditions of COALESCE 2020 both the lead AHSS PI and the named STEM co-PI must hold contracts of sufficient duration with an eligible HEI or RPO to carry out the proposed research **from the project start date until project end.**

If a PI is not a permanent staff member or does not have a contract of sufficient duration, would a letter of commitment from the Head of Department committing to the continuation of the individual's contract (should the award be successful) be sufficient to meet eligibility requirements?

As per the Terms and Conditions of COALESCE 2020, the PI must hold a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible HEI or RPO to conduct the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

'Has a Steering Group or Advisory Committee for this project been identified?' is a question in the application form. Do you have any advice on the expectation of this scheme for such a group or committee including its composition?

The Strands composing COALESCE Research Fund 2020 provide guidance on steering groups and advisory structures for proposed projects:

Strand 1K: A representative from DAFM should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering group or advisory structure being convened to support the research project.

Strand 2B specifies that a representative from DFA should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering group or advisory structure being convened to support the research project.

Is the emphasis on showing engagement with sectoral interests, or is it on securing scientific advisers?

Steering groups and advisory structures are vehicles to enable relevant engagement with key stakeholders and scientific advisers. The complexity of the project may give rise to a need for

scientific advice in areas outside of the applicant's expertise. Where necessary, the composition of any steering group or advisory structure should include a scientific adviser/s whose areas of expertise enable the provision of support and guidance to the project.

In the online form there is no mention of "Research Strategy". Can you advise how we can complete a section on research strategy if it's not mentioned in the online form?

Research strategy forms part of the Detailed Project Description section, which takes the form of a single PDF upload. The precise contents of this section are not prescribed and will vary depending on the project being proposed. Recommended contents are outlined in the online form and Indicative Application Form.

Can you please confirm for the project description which must be uploaded by applicants, what the font size, margins and spacing should be?

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

Does the 14 page limit for the Detailed Project Description include references?

The 14 pages is the maximum length for the 'Detailed Project Description' including references.

Can you please advise if there any word count requirements for the 14 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 a 14 page limit. Images may be included, but must be within the 14 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

Could you please clarify what kind of information is expected to be included in the section on 'research strategy'

Applicants should outline the step by step plan of action for their proposal which demonstrates how the research questions will be answered.
In addition to the Research Office online endorsement from the PI's institution for applications to Strand 2B, is endorsement required from the HEI in the partner country?
Endorsement by the Research Office at the lead host institution is required for the completion of the application process. The online endorsement process does not require the participation of a partner HEI or RPO.
Are projects previously submitted to COALESCE 2018 but which were unsuccessful eligible for resubmission?
Projects previously assessed under COALESCE 2018 and COALESCE 2019 but which were unsuccessful may be resubmitted to COALESCE 2020. Details of changes made to the proposal should be included in the new proposal application.
Q: Strand 2A - Can you confirm that the Detailed Project Description (maximum 14 pages) refers only to the AHSS PI?
The detailed project description should be formulated jointly by the AHSS and STEM PI.
Please confirm that the details of academic qualification are for the Principle Investigator only? The application does not need to have the GPA, etc for identified project partners?
The requested academic qualifications are for the lead PI identified on the applications who is submitting the application.
Can I please ask if, given the timing of the notice and the sometimes-protracted process to obtain transcripts, our applicants could give classification (first class honours) in lieu of GPA.
Applicants should provide their final grade or GPA average. Classification will be accepted in lieu of GPA.
Can I confirm that the IRC will not require transcripts or copies of parchments at the application stage? These will be required upon conditional offer of the award?
Transcripts of academic results will be requested from successful awardees only upon conditional offer of an award.

3. BUDGET

One of our researchers is interested in applying to 2B but is concerned that the limit of €5000 is too low for any required lab work. Is there any flexibility on this?

Consumables of up to €5000 only may be requested on Strand 2B.

Would it be possible, in order to recruit a suitably qualified applicant, to recruit and remunerate at level 3 'research fellow' point on the IUA scale for this individual?

All costs sought must be detailed and justified in the application form. HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. 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.

<p>Can you please confirm whether a PhD Student may be costed into the budget for any of Strands, as it is not clear from the guidance whether this is an eligible cost?</p>
<p>Research Assistants and Post Docs are listed as eligible costs in the Terms and Conditions of COALESCE. PhD students are not listed as eligible costings and therefore cannot be included in budget requests.</p>
<p>A query regarding overheads in Strand 2B. The query is of the total project budget of €350k incl. 25% o/h, is there an expected division ratio of € to IRL and co-PI partner?</p>
<p>Overhead applies to all direct costs except equipment costs. Overhead applies to institutions of both the PI in Ireland and the co-PI in the Irish Aid partner country. The ratio should be set-out in the research agreement between the Irish HEI/RPO and the partner country RPO. Per the Terms and Conditions, the PI/institution in Ireland is responsible for the overall coordination of the project, including in the partner country, inclusive of the transfer of funds and the monitoring of expenditure. The maximum 25% of overheads applies to Irish HEI and HEI/RPO in the Partner Country. All costs must be fully justified.</p>
<p>According to the Terms of the Scheme, it is envisaged that one award each will be made for Strand 1K. Will there be more than one award made under Strand 2A and Strand 2B?</p>
<p>It is anticipated that, if a sufficient number of applications received meet the cut off and criteria for funding, more than one award will be made under Strand 2A and Strand 2B. The exact number of awards to be made will be determined by applications' excellence relative to the evaluation criteria and funding available. The Council made five awards under Strand 2A in 2018 and would hope to make the same number under COALESCE 2020. The Department of Foreign Affairs made four last year under COALESCE 2019 and would hope to make the same number this year.</p>
<p>The call document states that academic staff-replacement costs may be included, at a rate of € €24,817 per annum, and the indicative application form states that 'staff replacements ('buy-out' costs) must be accounted for according to approved Irish Research Council staff rates.' Is it sufficient to just include the rate listed, stating that it is for PI replacement costs, or is it expected that FTEs and specific salary scales are referenced in the justification?</p>
<p>A full justification for the costs proposed must be provided using the rates outlined in the call documentation.</p>
<p>Are the budget amounts pro-rated?</p>
<p>Successful applications on Strands 1K, 2A and Strand 2B may run up to the maximum period of months and funding limits specified in the Terms and Conditions. Salary costs can be pro rata, as indicated by the Terms and Conditions.. Only costs requested in the budget submitted with the original application will be awarded to successful projects.</p>
<p>Can you please confirm if there is any minimum or maximum time commitment (percentage of FTE) required of the AHSS PI and STEM Co-PI? If so, does this differ for the AHSS PI and STEM Co-PI?</p>
<p>As per the Terms and Conditions PI must be in the position to devote adequate time to ensure the project's realisation over the course of the project's duration. Subcontracting parts of the contract that cannot be overseen by the PI/s is prohibited. The breakdown of time to be committed by the lead AHSS PI and STEM co-PI is not specified in the Terms and Conditions. The AHSS PI must be aware that as lead PI they are committing to overseeing the realisation of the project from the project start date until the project end date.</p>

Are PhD student costs (fees/stipend...etc.) eligible costs under COALESCE?
Costings for PhD students may not be included in an application under COALESCE.
For Strand 2A can the AHSS and STEM have replacement costs up to €24,817 each or is this the total per project?
The maximum costs that can be requested on Strand 2A for academic replacement is €24,817 per project per annum.
Can you clarify if the collaboration costs are paid under direct costs and, as such, incur overhead?
Collaboration costs are paid under direct costs and incur an overhead. Only equipment is excluded from incurring overheads.
The Irish Research Council Terms and Conditions state that 'The recruitment of staff (e.g. research assistants, postdoctoral researchers) must be done openly, through public advertisement.' Does this public advertisement condition apply to specific expertise research assistant contracts that are part-time and less than six months in duration?
The recruitment of staff (e.g. research assistants, postdoctoral researchers) must be done openly, through public advertisement and must be consistent with the HEI's institutional policies. This applies to all staff to be recruited as part of the project's team and staff must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only.