Starting and Consolidator Laureate Awards 2021/22
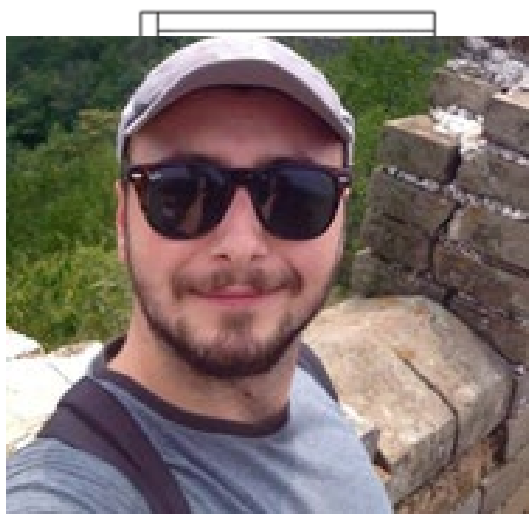
Call Webinar

Agenda

- Programme Overview (incl. eligibility)
- Application Process
- Evaluation Process

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IRISH
RESEARCH
COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um
Thaighde in Éirinn

Aims of the Laureate Programme

- To enhance frontier basic research in Irish research-performing organisations, across all disciplines

- To support exceptional researchers to develop their track record, appropriate to their discipline and career stage

- To build the international competitiveness of awardees and Ireland as a whole

- To leverage greater success for the Irish research system in European Research Council awards

- To retain excellent researchers in the Irish system and to catalyse opportunities for talented researchers working outside Ireland, to relocate to Ireland.

Excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation for both the research project & applicant.

Summary of 2017/18 Starting & Consolidator Call

IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

36 AWARDEES

44% ♀ ♂ 56%

14% OVERALL SUCCESS RATE

SUCCESS RATE

15.5% 👩 👨 12.7%

16.9% LIFE SCIENCES

13% PHYSICAL SCIENCES

12.5% HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Laureate Advanced Grant call to open shortly with a €12 million fund

IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

2017/2018 LAUREATE AWARDS PROGRAMME

258 ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

71 APPLICATIONS PROCEEDED TO THE SECOND STAGE OF ASSESSMENT

NEW RESEARCH **75** POSITIONS CREATED

Total commitment of **€ 17,539,463**

1,447 PEER REVIEWS COMMISSIONED

21 SITTING PANEL DAYS

779 ASSESSORS ENGAGED

15 OF THE LAUREATES ARE FORMER COUNCIL AWARDEES

9 OF THE RESERVE LAUREATES ARE FORMER COUNCIL AWARDEES

31 FUNDABLE RESERVE PROPOSALS

€ 15,345,386 additional budget required to fund these reserve proposals

2021 Starting & Consolidator Call

Award type	Duration	Value	Award start date	Discipline coverage	Location
Starting Laureate Award	2 to 4 years	€250,000 up to a max. of €400,000 (incl. 25% overhead)	Awards must commence by 1 Sept 2022	<u>All</u> disciplines	Eligible Irish HEI/RPO*
Consolidator Laureate Award	2 to 4 years	€450,000 up to a max. of €600,000 (incl. 25% overhead)			

<u>*As</u> of 1 Jan 2019, all HEIs/RPOs are required to hold at least a Bronze Award in the Athena Swan Charter Ireland. The list of eligible HEIs/RPOs can be found at the following link: https://research.ie/funding/eligible-higher-education-institutions-and-research-performing-organisations

Eligibility

Laureate Starting Grant	Laureate Consolidator Grant
aimed at researchers who have been **awarded their PhD at least 3 and up to 8 years** prior to 10 November 2021.*	aimed at researchers who have been **awarded their PhD at least 8 and up to 15 years** prior to 10 November 2021.*
aimed at researchers who have already produced excellent supervised work and are ready to work independently	aimed at researchers who wish to consolidate their own independent research programme or team.
applicants should be able to demonstrate a promising track record from an early stage, appropriate to their research field and career stage.	

*For eligible career breaks, please refer to the call document: https://research.ie/funding/ircla/

Eligibility

Employment Status:

Applicants must fall under one of the following categories:

Category 1: be a permanent member of staff in the institution

Category 2: have a contract of employment that covers the duration of the Laureate award

Category 3: not be a member of staff in the institution but who, if successful, will be employed by the institution as host for the duration of the Laureate award

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a **Starting Laureate Award**, applicants cannot have held, or currently hold, any of the following IRC Laureate and/or ERC awards:

- Starting Grant
- Consolidator Grant

To be eligible to apply for a **Consolidator Laureate Award**, applicants cannot have held, or currently hold, either of the following IRC Laureate and/or ERC awards:

- Consolidator Grant
- Advanced Grant

Application Process

- **Expressions of Interest** are used by the IRC to allow for early and accurate sourcing of international peer reviewers.

- The submission of an EOI is **mandatory**. Full proposals will only be accepted from applicants who have submitted an EOI before the **EOI deadline of 16:00 on 27 August**. This will be strictly enforced.

- Submissions will **only** be accepted from **Research Offices**. The template for applicant EOIs is available on the Laureate webpage.

- In the course of recruitment, the **lay abstract** provided in the EOI may be used to ensure sufficient expertise of the peer reviewer. No personal/identifying information will be provided to potential peer reviewers during reviewer recruitment.

Application Process

Applications to the Laureate Awards Programme will only be accepted through the **online grants management system**. The link to the system will be available on the Laureate webpage from the **1 September 2021**.

Applicant deadline:

10 November 2021, 4PM

A full, **step-by-step guide** to creating a profile and logging into the system will be provided on the Laureate webpage when the call opens in September.

Application Process

A **complete proposal** will include the following documents, to be uploaded via the grant management system as PDFs. (Word documents will not be accepted).

- **Detailed Research Proposal** – 15 pages max.

- **CV** – 2 pages max.

- **Track Record** – 2 pages max.

- **Data Management Plan** – 2 pages max.

- **Statement on ethical issues** to be addressed and **Sex/Gender Dimension** in research statement – 2 pages max.

- **One letter of support from the host institution**.

- **PhD certificate or transcript** (and supporting documentation if applicable).

Sex-Gender-Dimension in Research

- An initiative arising from the Council's Gender Strategy is the requirement for all applicants to demonstrate that they have given full consideration to whether there is **a potential sex and/or gender dimension** in their proposed research. Applicants should consult the **Call Document (Appendix 3)** for further information.

- Where applicants have indicated that there is no sex/gender dimension to their research, they will be asked to **justify** this assertion.

- The integration of the sex-gender dimension in research is **commonly mistaken** for the integration of gender balance in research teams. These are two distinct matters, and the gender balance of a team should not be used to answer the sex-gender dimension in research question.

Evaluation Process

For the Laureate Awards Programme, the Council is adopting a **two-stage evaluation** process.

All applications to the programme will be evaluated by an international panel, supported by remote peer reviewers, across **four panel domains**:

- **Humanities (H)**
- **Social Sciences (SS)**
- **Life Sciences (LS)**
- **Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)**

A breakdown of the disciplines included in each panel is available on the Laureate webpage.

Evaluation Process

At the first stage of evaluation, the complete project proposal will typically be evaluated by a minimum of three international peer reviewers.

Rebuttal Phase: The reviewer comments will be returned to the applicant to allow for a short rebuttal phase. Applicants will have two weeks from receipt of feedback to respond to the comments and to provide additional supporting evidence, where necessary.

All peer reviews in addition to the applicant rebuttal will then be reviewed by a sitting panel. Based on the outcome of the panel evaluation, applications will be given **a ranking of either 'A' or 'B'**

'A' rating	**Application is of excellent quality and recommended to pass to stage 2 of the evaluation process.**
'B' rating	**Application is not of sufficient quality to pass to stage 2 of the evaluation process.**

Evaluation Process

- At the **second stage** of the evaluation process, applicants must attend an **interview** to present their project to the panel and answer questions. Interviews will last approximately 30 minutes in total. The applicant should expect questions related to all aspects of the proposal, including the budget, and questions on how the Laureate award would support future application to ERC funding calls.

- Following the interview, each domain panel will **rank the applications** based on all evidence gathered through stage 1 and stage 2. Awards will be made based on this ranked list, and the cut-off for funding will be determined by the budget available.

Evaluation Process

- In the case of a **tied score**, the scoring of the quality of the proposed research will be used as the selection criterion to separate applications. If additional tiebreakers are required, the Council will inform applicants what these tiebreakers are.

- Applications that fall below the budget cut-off will be placed on a **reserve list** for 12 months. The reserve list will be activated in order of ranking if budget becomes available: e.g. in the case of declined awards, or where awards are terminated in the first year.

Feedback

- At the end of the first assessment stage, applicants who received a ranking of 'B' will be provided with their **percentile range**, indicating roughly where their application ranked in relation to others. They will also be provided with a feedback report comprising a **panel consensus statement**.

- At the end of the second stage, applicants will also receive an evaluation report comprising a **panel consensus statement**, a **percentile range** indicating roughly where their application ranked in relation to others, and details of any borderline criteria that were used in determining the final rank of the application.

- The panel statements reflect the **consensus decision taken by the panel as a whole**, based on prior assessments from remote peer reviewers, and on a thorough discussion and on the ranking against other proposals during the panel meeting.

Recap on differences to previous calls

- Expression of Interest stage

- Four Panels (H and SS separated)

- No pre-proposal stage. The full research proposal is required by the deadline.

- Rebuttal Phase

- **DORA:** With the adoption of the **San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA)** principles, reference to Journal Impact Factors is no longer accepted and use of H-Index as part of the publications track record is discouraged. Instead, applicants are encouraged to briefly note the significance of the publications they have chosen to include in the track record.

- **COVID-19 impact** section in the track record, where applicants can outline situations caused by the pandemic that had an adverse effect on their Curriculum Vitae or track record.

FAQ

Please refer to the regularly updated FAQ document on the Laureate webpage for more information.

Further questions after the webinar can be submitted to your Research Office. In the interest of transparency and fairness to all applicants, IRC staff will not discuss queries from individual applicants over the telephone or by e-mail.

Thank you and best of luck with your applications!