



DOROTHY Co-fund Programme: Frequently Asked Questions

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Primary Changes
1.0	20/09/2021	IRC	

Overview:

This FAQ document is intended to support the DOROTHY Programme, funded by three leading Irish national agencies, the Irish Research Council (the lead agency, which operates under the aegis of the Higher Education Authority), the Health Research Board (HRB) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and co-funded by the European Union, which aims at creating solutions to public health crises and their legacies.

It is anticipated that these FAQs will be a 'living document' that will be regularly updated in response to questions received by the IRC, HRB and/or EPA. Changes will be recorded in the version control table above. It is therefore recommended that applicants refer back to the document regularly during the application process.

Where the information provided below or in the Call Guidance Document raises further questions, applicants should contact the IRC by emailing dorothy@research.ie.

1. Eligibility and Mobility

a. *Do I classify as an Experienced Researcher (ER)?*

The definition of ER in the H2020 MSCA programme will be applied: ERs must, at the call deadline, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when an applicant obtained the degree that would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in Ireland, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged.

- b. *I obtained both my masters and PhD from an Irish HEI. Am I eligible for DOROTHY?*

Yes. The mobility rule applies to the outgoing phase only (see Q&A 2.g), not to the return phase (back to Ireland).

- c. *Are successful applicants obliged to engage in international mobility?*

Yes, it is a requirement of this programme that successful applicants must engage in international mobility. Non-Irish HEIs (based anywhere in the world) will host and train fellows during the outgoing phase (months 1-18 of the fellowship).

The role of Irish host institutions will be significant throughout the programme, growing in importance during the return phase (months 19-36 of the fellowship). Eligible HEIs are located throughout the Republic of Ireland, giving the programme true national outreach; thereafter, they will continue to offer mentoring and institutional support to DOROTHY fellows.

- d. *How should the fellowship be structured?*

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Ireland will hire, host and train the fellows. Each fellow will implement a 36-months individual research project at two host institutions of their choice, comprising of an Outgoing and Return phase (respectively, abroad and back to Ireland), and optionally a non-academic secondment.

All DOROTHY projects start with an outgoing phase in an institution **outside** of Ireland. Fellows must relocate to the country of their proposed outgoing phase, integrating themselves in the outgoing-phase host team.

- e. *Are applicants from all nationalities eligible to apply to DOROTHY?*

DOROTHY welcomes applicants from all over the world. In line with the successful experience of CAROLINE COFUND, if the outgoing phase is to a country other than a Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC¹), the applicant must be a national or long-term resident² of a MS or AC. If the outgoing phase is to a MS or AC, the applicant can be of any nationality. If in doubt, applicants can contact the DOROTHY team to check their eligibility (AFTER the launch of the call). Before that, only eligibility queries from research officers will be answered.

- f. *I am a Brazilian researcher, based in Brazil. Can I spend my outgoing phase in the US?*

No. As you are not a MS or AC national, and you don't seem to qualify for long-term residency, in line with Q&A 2.e (above), you are not eligible to choose a third-country as an outgoing-phase host. Please consider outgoing-phase host institutions based in MS/AC countries.

¹ The H2020 associated countries are: Albania; Armenia; Bosnia & Herzegovina; Faroe Islands; Georgia; Iceland; Israel; North Macedonia; Moldova; Montenegro; Norway; Serbia; Switzerland; Tunisia; Turkey; Ukraine.

² Long-term residence means a period of legal and continuous residence within one or more EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries of at least 5 consecutive years. Periods of absence from the territory of the Member State or Horizon 2020 Associated Country shall be taken into account for the calculation of this period where they are shorter than 6 consecutive months and do not exceed in total ten months within this period of five years.

- g. *I am currently employed on permanent basis by an Irish HEI. Can I apply for DOROTHY (with my employing HEI as host organisation) and ask for a career break if successful?*

No. Permanent employees of an eligible HEI cannot apply to DOROTHY listing their employer as the Irish host organisation.

- h. *I am a French researcher, currently based in France. Can I structure my fellowship to spend 18 months in France and 18 months in Ireland?*

No. The applicant cannot have resided or carried out their main activity in the **outgoing-phase** country for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays, attending conferences/meetings/workshops, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention (see equality section) are not taken into account.

- i. *Is it compulsory to include a non-academic secondment?*

While it is not compulsory, applicants are encouraged to include a non-academic secondment (between 3 and 6 months, at any stage of their fellowship) in their project, which can take place at any stage of the project. Non-academic partners will offer training and secondment opportunities to DOROTHY fellows. This is a secondment to any non-academic socio-economic actor fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013.

- j. *Is it possible to add a secondment to my proposal after the application has been submitted?*

Yes. Should a secondment not have been envisaged at proposal stage, it can be inserted at a later stage, in agreement with the supervisory panel. A non-exhaustive list of interested placement hosts will be available on the project website.

- k. *Am I entitled to submit multiple applications?*

You can submit only ONE application per call (two calls anticipated).

2. Proposal planning

- a. *What do I need to secure in order to plan for my fellowship?*

You are required to secure two supervisors, one based in Ireland and one abroad. Both the main and outgoing supervisors must be staff of the selected HEI, and they both need to be experts in their field and have appropriate supervisory experience. At proposal stage, applicants should highlight the research track-record and supervision experience of their chosen supervisors.

A secondment host is not obligatory at application stage, however it is encouraged. When a non-academic secondment is foreseen (either at proposal submission stage or at a later stage), a secondment supervisor must be identified.

The suitability of all supervisors will be evaluated at remote peer-review stage.

- b. *When should I start to contact supervisors and HEI's?*

You should begin reaching out to potential supervisors and HEI's as soon as possible.

- c. *In addition to my supervisors, do I need to secure references?*

No.

3. Research Topic

- a. *The theme of my proposal is literature during the Black Death Plague in the mid-1300s. Would this topic be accepted as fitting the theme of public health crises?*

Yes. The funders welcome applications from all disciplines, provided they fall within the remit of public health crises. Research areas will include, but will not be limited to, epidemiology, engineering of materials, environmental sciences, health psychology, health sciences, health economics, social history, medical and health humanities, and philosophy. Research topics that tackle diversity and inclusion are also welcome, as long as the project relates to public health crises. All proposals are peer reviewed by independent experts.

- b. *How will evaluators understand that my proposal falls within the remit of public health crises?*

Applicants will be asked to address this point in a dedicated section of their application.