

**2022 Enterprise Partnership Scheme
(Postgraduate & Postdoctoral)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 25 November 2021.

New questions will be marked ****New****

Updated questions will be marked ****Updated****

Questions are grouped under the following headings:

1. Eligibility
2. Applying to the programme
3. Conditions of award

If you do not find the answer to your query in the call documentation, you should contact the research office in your proposed institution which will provide information and clarification on the call. Research offices can send any queries they are unable to clarify to schemes@research.ie.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Could you tell me if the Central Bank is an eligible partner under the Enterprise Partnership Schemes and Employment-Based postgraduate?

An enterprise partner can be a company, registered charity, social, cultural or not-for-profit civic organisation, state-owned enterprise or an eligible public body that will co-fund the researcher for the duration of the award. An eligible public body is a public service body with specific scientific or cultural infrastructure that is integral to the conduct and completion of the proposed research.

Can you please confirm if Teagasc is an eligible host for the Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postgraduate Programme?

Teagasc, as an eligible research-performing organisation, can apply to the Irish Research Council's postdoctoral and principal investigator-led funding programmes but not postgraduate programmes such as the Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate). Please see the Irish Research Council's [list of eligible higher education institutions and research-performing organisations](#) for more information.

There are 2 companies looking to co-sponsor an applicant. Would it be possible to have two co-sponsoring enterprise partners who equally divided the €9K per annum (i.e. each would provide €4.5K)?

It is not permissible to have two Enterprise Partners.

Can you please confirm that Geological Survey Ireland is eligible for the 2022 Enterprise Partnership Scheme?

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If a student is currently undertaking their second PhD, but they will not have had their viva for this second degree completed by the deadline of May 2022, can this person still apply for the Enterprise Postdoctoral Scheme considering they have a fully completed prior PhD that was awarded in 2017?

If the applicant's first PhD meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the the Enterprise Partnership Scheme [Call Document](#), as below, then they can apply to the scheme. All applicants must:

- have been awarded their doctoral degree within the five-year period before 31 May 2022. For the purposes of this condition, the date of graduation will be taken into account; or

- have been certified as having fulfilled within the five-year period before 31 May 2022 all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected thesis, but have not yet graduated.

Can you confirm whether Údarás na Gaeltachta is eligible as an enterprise partner?

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2. APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME

Will there be employers added onto the potential enterprise/employment list or is the list on the call pages final?

The list of organisations which expressed interest in funding researchers, which features on the programme call pages, will be updated if, and when, new organisations express an interest.

Could clarify how international applicants should equate their grades to the Irish system.

I have to date advised applicants to contact QQI and ask them to advise on what their qualifications equate to with respect to The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), in terms of the recognition and equivalence of their degree. I just want to confirm with the IRC that this is the correct course of action?

Host institutions are expected to be guided by QQI and the NFQ in terms of the recognition and equivalence of a degree. All degree results as entered in the application form and endorsed by the host institution must be the applicant's overall results and verifiable as such on official transcripts. If such transcripts cannot be presented, or do not verify the information exactly as detailed in the application, any conditional offer of an award will be withdrawn. If degree results refer to a grading system other than the Irish honours system (first class honours, upper second class (2.1) honours etc.) or the 4.0 grade point average scale, the grading system being referred to should be explained in the free text box provided. Any misleading statements will result in disqualification.

****New** Can an Enterprise partner support two separate candidate's applications for IRC EPS proposal or would this make both applicants ineligible?**

There is no limit to how many applicants an Enterprise Partner can support once they have:

- the financial capabilities to support the applicant for the duration of the award.
- the capacity to provide professional guidance and mentoring to the awardee
- access to experimental facilities or data as necessary to completion of the research project.

All Enterprise Partners should ensure they can adequately support an applicant before agreeing to support their application.

3. CONDITIONS OF AWARD

If there is an applicant currently employed by an Enterprise Partner, is it possible for them to remain on their current salary if a partner is willing to pay the excess? Or will they will have to drop that salary to be in line with the €27,500 max award amount as outlined in the IRC's call document.

Where consistent with institutional policies, the stipend of an awardee may be supplemented utilising an alternative source of funding provided the successful completion of their Irish Research Council award remains the awardee's primary focus.

Has there had been any change to the clause that only allows teaching to be carried out in the second and subsequent year of the degree?

An awardee is permitted to engage in additional duties such as teaching, tutoring or demonstration work in their host institution during any period of the award, provided:

- a) the work is relevant to the research project and consistent with the awardee's training and career development plan;

- b) the awardee has the written permission of their academic supervisor or mentor (as relevant);
- c) the work does not exceed a total of 50 hours per academic term, including contact and non-contact hours, and does not prevent the awardee from carrying out their research activities;
- d) such additional duties are detailed as part of the required progress reporting.

Can you direct me to the latest EPS Terms and Conditions?

The Terms and Conditions for Early-Career Awards, which includes the Enterprise Partnership Scheme, can be found at <https://research.ie/funding/information-for-existing-awardees/>

I have an applicant that has previously applied once to the EPS Postgraduate scheme when based in a different HEI. This applicant has also previously applied for GOIPG and Employment Based scholarships. Is this applicant still eligible to apply to EPS Postgraduate or does their previous applications to GOIPG and Employment-Based Programme deem them ineligible?

As per the Call Document, applicants must not have had two previous unsuccessful applications to the relevant programme. This applies regardless of whether the applicant has changed their host institution or research topic since a previous submission. In this case, there was only one previous unsuccessful application to Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate) and thus the applicant is eligible to apply once again.

****New** Can you confirm the IRC reporting requirements for EPS awards - is there a 6-monthly report as well as an annual report and do both the enterprise mentor and supervisor sign off on these?**

The awardee, academic supervisor and enterprise mentor are each required to submit progress reports annually for each year of the award (generally in March/April). Final progress reports are due one month from the end date of the award, and a final financial report from the higher education institution within 60 days of the end date of the award.

The academic supervisor/mentor and enterprise mentor will be required to comply with the progress reporting requirements as set out in section 12 of the [Irish Research Council Terms and Conditions](#).

****New** Do both enterprise mentor and the supervisor have to approve research spending?**

The awardee, in collaboration with their academic supervisor/mentor and enterprise mentor, is responsible for the direction and management of the research project from a financial, legal and ethical perspective. The host higher education institution must ensure that all funds claimed and paid under the award are allowable, necessary and reasonable for the conduct of the research project.