



UKRAINIAN RESEARCHERS SCHEME 2024

CALL DOCUMENT

The Irish Research Council reserves the right to amend this call document.

Call Document amended on the 2nd of May 2024.

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However, it is important to note that as the allocated budget is currently exhausted, a
reserve list is in operation.***

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1. Overview of the scheme

The mission of the Irish Research Council (IRC) is to support excellence in research talent, knowledge and engagement, including by responding to research and societal challenges and proactively assisting stakeholders to address these complex issues.

Our [Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#) seeks to enable excellence in people, skills and ideas across all disciplines for discovery and enterprise research. It also emphasises the importance of promoting the highest ethical and governance standards for the investments we make, reflecting international best practice, and of working with other research funders and key stakeholders to develop and implement policies that promote diversity and inclusion in the research community.

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine and the resulting refugee crisis, Ireland's research funders have been engaging collaboratively on developments, in particular relating to how researchers from Ukraine who are arriving in Ireland due to the war can be supported by the Irish research system. Among the first steps taken by the IRC, the Health Research Board (HRB) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) was to issue a statement on 19 March 2022 supporting the government adding its signature to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) statement condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In June 2022, the IRC launched the Ukrainian Researchers Scheme to facilitate Ukrainian researchers supported by the Government under the [Temporary Protection Directive](#) (TPD) to join research projects of IRC-funded principal investigators aligned to their individual research interests. 12 awards have been made since the Scheme opened in 2022.

Under this round of the Scheme, IRC-funded principal investigators (PIs) on current PI level awards will be able to apply to the IRC for funding to add an eligible individual (falling within the TPD) to the project where the individual's research interests are aligned with those of the project. Eligible-IRC funded PIs can apply to add displaced researchers and research-related technical staff across the research career framework, including postdoctoral fellows and more experienced investigators, to their awards.

Principal investigators interested in enhancing their projects by including a Ukrainian researcher as part of their research team must inform the research office in their institution in advance of progressing an application. Having regard to the limited funding available, the research office is required to inform the IRC of the intention to develop an application by completing an [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) form](#). Applications will only be accepted in instances where a completed EOI form has been received and approved by the IRC. As soon as an EOI form has been approved, PIs will have 28 days (four weeks) to submit the application.

2. Call description

Under this Scheme, PIs of eligible IRC awards (see section 5 below for more information) can request additional funding for a named individual who is a Ukrainian researcher displaced by the war in Ukraine, unable to return to Ukraine, and who is being supported by the Irish Government under the TPD. Funding can be requested for more than one named individual. The researchers supported by the Scheme need to be located in the Republic of Ireland and to provide documentation showing that they are covered by the TPD as part of the application process.

The Scheme is open to support researchers and research-related technical staff across the research career framework, including postdoctoral fellows and more experienced investigators. Proposals should be proportionate and appropriate to the original award in terms of scale and ambition and the skills of the supported individual.

Activities funded should relate, and add value to, the original award objectives. Funding must be associated with clearly identified individuals and activities and cannot be reallocated later to other cost headings in the original award as these will be treated as individual awards in terms of budget. Monitoring and reporting of additional funded activities supported under this scheme will be in line with the associated original award.

3. Duration and eligible costs

The budget requested and the award duration must reflect the scale and nature of the proposed research.

All costs sought must be detailed and fully justified. PIs must clearly demonstrate that the costs sought are necessary for the additional researcher to be supported on their award. Only eligible costs as set out below will be considered. Applicants should ensure that their budget calculations are correct and seek guidance from their research office when preparing their budget to ensure that they are adhering to institutional guidelines and policies.

Salary costs

- The level of salary should be based on the level of seniority of the researcher. Applicants should use the [IUA's researcher salary scale](#) for research assistants and postdoctoral fellows or other relevant scales as appropriate for technical staff. The point on the scale should be determined by the researcher's qualifications and experience and the rationale for selecting this point should be explained in the budget justification. The requested costs must include provisions for pension (up to 20% of gross salary) and employer's PRSI (at 11.05%

of gross salary). These costs can be pro-rated where appropriate. See section below on the pension costs for IRC awards¹.

Materials and consumables

- Costs for materials and consumables are eligible up to a total of €2,000 per researcher.

Equipment

- A contribution of €1,000 can be requested towards the purchase of a computer/laptop.

Overheads

- The IRC will contribute to the indirect costs of the research through an overhead payment of 25% of total direct costs (excludes equipment costs).

4. Key dates

The scheme will continue to remain open throughout the course of 2024. However, it is important to note that as the allocated budget is currently exhausted, a reserve list is in operation.

Applications will be reviewed in real time. Research offices must notify the IRC of the intention to develop an application before it is progressed by submitting an [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) form](#) to ukrainianresearchers@research.ie. It is important to note that applications will only be accepted in instances where a completed EOI form has been received and approved by the IRC. Once an EOI form has been approved by the IRC, each applicant will have a subsequent 28 days to submit their application form upon receipt of notification from the IRC.

5. Eligibility

Applicant

- Applicants must be based at an [eligible higher education institution \(HEI\) or research-performing organisation \(RPO\) in Ireland](#).

¹ Pensions costs

Government is continuing to examine the provisions of the Single Pension Scheme and the implications for research funders in relation to the provision of pension costs as part of the total employment costs of researchers. In the context of budgeting for 2023 (when the awards under this call will start), and in order to ensure that budgets are complete, applicants are requested to include pension costs in the calculation of employment costs. HEIs/RPOs should note that further changes to guidance may occur when a definitive position is issued or confirmed by government. If such definitive guidance confirms that pensions are to be paid centrally, the IRC will require any pension costs budgeted in each proposal to be returned to the IRC. In this scenario no adjustment to overheads will be required.

- Applicants must be PIs on current Laureate Awards (Starting, Consolidator and Advanced) or COALESCE awards with sufficient time remaining on the award to take on a Ukrainian researcher for one year. PIs of eligible awards will be alerted by the IRC via the research offices. Where awards are co-funded with another organisation, the IRC will provide the full cost associated with this Scheme.
- The applicant will be the primary point of contact for the IRC during the application and award process. If the application is successful, the applicant, as PI on the award under which the Ukrainian researcher is supported, will continue to be the main point of contact for the IRC, and will have full responsibility for all expenditures, and for ensuring the research is carried out according to the terms and conditions of the original IRC award.
- Existing awardees from the 2022 and 2023 Ukrainian Researchers Scheme are eligible to apply.

Ukrainian researcher

- The individuals supported by this Scheme need to be located in Republic of Ireland and provide documentation showing that they are covered by the TPD as part of the application process. They should provide an outline of their discipline/project specific research-related skills and experience and outline how the Scheme will benefit them and add value to the project.
- Applicants must demonstrate that the level, expertise, and experience of the proposed researcher matches the ambition and scale of the project and that they possess the necessary breadth and skills in all methodological areas required to deliver the proposed programme of work. Alignment between the researcher and the proposed project should be demonstrated. Roles and responsibilities of the supported researcher must be differentiated and clear. The applications will be thoroughly assessed to ensure the level of experience matches with the up-skilling arrangements proposed.

Host institution

- The host institution for these awards will be the same as for the original IRC award under which they are being supported.
- Responsibility for determining the Ukrainian researcher's academic and professional qualifications, in addition to checking the legal requirements for the integration of the named researcher, rests with the host institution.
- The host institution must ensure that all award funding received is used for the purposes for which it is provided, as set out in the terms and conditions for the award, and that value for money is achieved. The host institution is fully responsible for the award and for the adherence of the awardee and, where applicable, each member of the research team, to these terms and conditions and

the IRC's policies and procedures. The host institution will manage and administer the award.

- For first time applicants to the Scheme, a letter of support from the host institution must be provided for the Ukrainian researcher who is seeking financial support, laying out the arrangement to be put in place to support them. This letter should:
 1. be on headed paper, signed by the vice-president or dean of research (or equivalent) in the host institution and contain the host institution's stamp;
 2. confirm that, where relevant, a contract of employment will be put in place for the Ukrainian researcher for the duration of the award; and
 3. outline the arrangement for office space and facilities for the duration of the award.

6. Applying to the scheme

Once the [EOI form](#) has been received and approved by the IRC, applicants will be given approval to submit a full application.

All applications must be submitted by the research office of the host institution via email to ukrainianresearchers@research.ie. The application form is available [here](#). The completed form must be endorsed by the vice-president or dean of research (or equivalent) in the host institution before it is submitted to the IRC.

In addition to the completed application form, the following documents are also required:

1. A [permission letter from the Department of Justice in Ireland](#) confirming TPD under the EU Directive has been granted to the displaced Ukrainian researcher named in the proposal. Where applicable, Ukrainian researchers can download a confirmation notice confirming their TPD extension via [the Irish immigration website](#).
2. In the case of first-time applicants to the scheme, a letter of support from the host institution as outlined above; and
3. A [CV outlining the displaced Ukrainian researcher's experience and background](#), including a list of publications, if appropriate. The researcher's CV should be in English. In the case of Ukrainian researchers previously supported under this scheme, an updated CV should be submitted.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that applications are completed in full and all necessary documentation is received by the IRC.

7. Evaluation process

Applications will be checked for eligibility by IRC staff. Following this check, eligible applications will undergo an in-house review. As the original awards have already been peer reviewed, the application for an additional researcher under this Scheme will be assessed based on information as to how the individual will be incorporated into the project and the case for how this will add value to the award and to the individual.

Applications will be reviewed in accordance with the following criteria:

- The suitability of the supported individual (relevant CV).
- How the additional researcher will enhance the objectives of, and add value to, the original award.
- The plans to support and integrate the researcher into the team and project, and details of other relevant supports such as language classes, skills development, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Applications from existing awardees who were successful in 2022 and 2023 will be reviewed in accordance with the following criteria:

- The achievements in relation to the initial award under the Scheme, with reference to benefits to the project and to the Ukrainian researcher.
- The measures taken to integrate the researcher or technical staff member into the research team and the supports provided to date.
- The further supports which are planned in respect of the additional work being proposed.

8. Further information

Any queries should be sent to ukrainianresearchers@research.ie.