



2024 Enterprise Partnership Scheme  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
a/o 9<sup>TH</sup> November 2023

FAQs will be published every Thursday until 9 November 2023.

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](mailto:schemes@research.ie).

## 1. ELIGIBILITY

**\*\*New\*\* Q:** A potential EPS applicant who is currently in the third year of their PhD is liaising with an enterprise partner to fund the final year of year PhD. They have expressed interest in applying for the EPS therefore for 12 months under the 48-month structured PhD. The student has taken a leave of absence for a year during their PhD so what should they include as the Date of First Registration of their IRC application form, assuming they have the support of the enterprise partner. *(This is with reference to Footnote 8 on page 6 of the [Call Document](#)).* Should they put September 2021 to account for the leave or put the actual registration date September 2020?

A: A new question has been added to the application this year, where applicants are asked to state how many years funding they are applying for. Given the new question, the applicant could state their registration date as it is (2020) and indicate they are only seeking 1 year of funding.

**\*\*New\*\* Q:** We have received an application for review for the PG IRC EPS call from a supervisor and student. The enterprise partner associated with the application is Teagasc; just confirming this partner Teagasc is eligible?

A: Teagasc, as an eligible research-performing organisation, cannot be an Enterprise Partner. Eligible research-performing organisations 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).

**Q:** The Academic Supervisor is a founder of the Enterprise Partner but the Enterprise Mentor is not affiliated with this university. Is it sufficient for the applicant to include this information in the relevant section of the application form?

A: The application form for the Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postgraduate contains a declaration question to prevent conflict of interest, it can be viewed in the indicative form on the website and reads as follows:

**Is there any potential conflict of interest between the applicant, enterprise/employment partner, enterprise/employment mentor or supervisor?** A conflict of interest arises when an individual holds

a direct or indirect personal interest which, in the opinion of a reasonably informed and well-advised person, is sufficient to call into question the independence, impartiality and objectivity that the individual is obliged to exercise in the performance of his/her duties. Conflicts of interest may be financial, non-financial or both. For example, if your academic supervisor is the founder of the Enterprise Partner.

**Q: Can St James’s Hospital be an Enterprise Partner for an EPS Postdoctoral Fellowship if the Enterprise Mentor is full time staff of SJH and holds a non-salaried honorary/adjunct position with the university?**

A: Yes, the nominated enterprise mentor can have an existing connection to the hosting institution provided that the connection does not pose a conflict of interest. The Enterprise mentor must also be an employee of the enterprise.

As above, a conflict of interest arises when an individual holds a direct or indirect personal interest which, in the opinion of a reasonably informed and well-advised person, is sufficient to call into question the independence, impartiality and objectivity that the individual is obliged to exercise in the performance of his/her duties. Conflicts of interest may be financial, non-financial or both. For example, if your academic supervisor is the founder of the Enterprise Partner.

**Q: Could you tell me what is considered an eligible partner under the Enterprise Partnership Schemes and Employment-Based postgraduate?**

A: 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.

## 2. APPLYING TO THE PROGRAMME

**\*\*New\*\* Q: Is it permissible for a current IRC Postdoctoral Fellow to apply for an EPS Postdoctoral Fellowship with the same Academic Mentor?**

A: Yes, it can be the same Academic Mentor.

**\*\*New\*\* Q: Is it OK to have the same person (from Enterprise) as co-supervisor and Industry Mentor?**

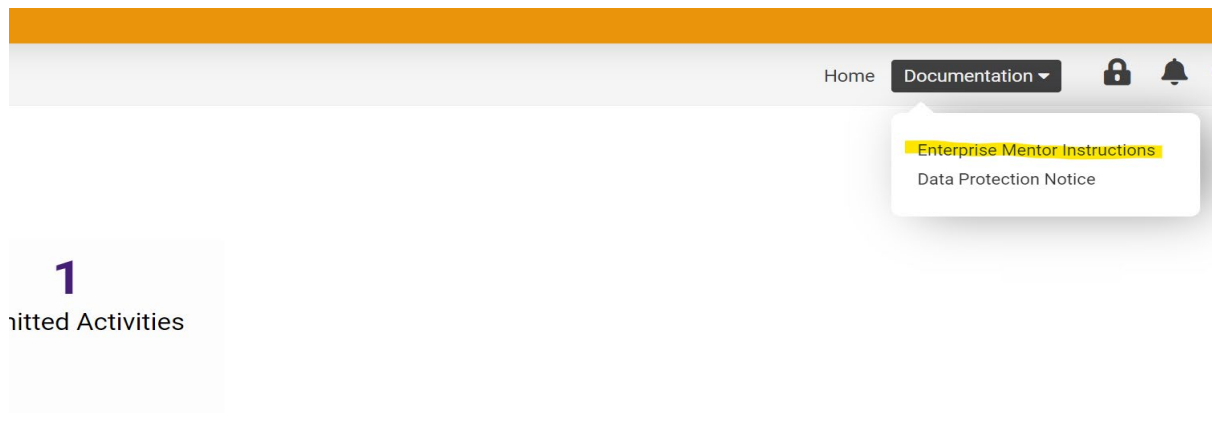
A: No, the co-supervisor should ideally be a member of academic staff, and they cannot be the named industry mentor.

**Q: Would you confirm that we can use the same application which was submitted in October to the GoI scheme as there could be a lot of duplication between the two.**

A: The on-line Application forms for the Enterprise Partnership Scheme ask the question **Have you submitted, or do you intend to submit, the same or a similar application to any other Irish Research Council (IRC), Irish or international award programme?** If answering yes, the applicant can specify which scheme and note any other relevant details.

**Q: I am assisting a potential applicant to the Employment Based Postgraduate Prog (applicant deadline 16/11/23). They have asked about the supporting document/Guide to the online system for employment-based mentors. This is not currently available on the IRC website and as a result the applicant is unsure about how to advise their employment mentor about the application process. Will this guide be available on the webpage for the EBP call soon?**

**A: The system guide for the Enterprise/Employment Partner is available in the system via the documentation tab as seen below.**



**\*\*New\*\* Q: A potential applicant for the EPS has asked whether it's possible to have 2 enterprise partners. This query has actually come via one of the enterprise partner who has links with both companies.**

**A: There can only be one primary enterprise partner. The other partner could potentially be involved in the research, and contribute to the fees via the primary enterprise partner, but this arrangement would need to be agreed independently. The IRC would only be involved with the enterprise partner nominated in the application form.**

### **3. CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

**With respect to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme, in the event of a successful scholarship proposal, would the Enterprise Partner and the IRC would fund a research student in the form of a stipend managed by higher education institution(HEI)?**

Yes, if successful the student would be funded jointly by the IRC and the Enterprise partner. The funds cover a stipend and contribution to fees and research expenses, which will be managed through the host HEI.