

## **IRC PD Application: Reasons for choosing the proposed Irish Research Body and Academic Mentor for the Project**

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Excellence of research environment is very important for a funding application to be successful. This is your opportunity to demonstrate relevant strengths of the University, your proposed department/research institute and your mentor – and to gain some extra marks for your application! Also, remember the Council's mission as outlined in the scheme's terms and conditions which includes to ***“facilitate the career development of researchers...to associate with established researchers who have achieved international recognition for their work”***.

Content of this section very much depends on your research project – if Maynooth University is the only institution in Ireland where you can do your research your task is little bit easier but do not assume that you do not need to justify your choices; you still have to explain what are your mentor's/institution's strengths.

### **Consider addressing the following points:**

- What are the University's strengths in the relevant discipline – research outputs, partnerships, commercialisation of research outputs, success in obtaining research funding from Irish/EU/international funding agencies etc.
- Why is the proposed mentor particularly suited to act as your mentor?
  - his/her research expertise and that of his/her research group where applicable, or department/research institute. Perhaps you can give some examples of important projects/funding awards/publications, in some disciplines you can include information about impact factors of publications.
  - his/her collaborators (in Ireland and abroad) – especially if they are leaders in the relevant area
  - his/her expertise as mentor, success of his/her former PhD students and postdocs; how many postdocs do they currently work with if this information is relevant (do not worry if you feel this is not relevant in your discipline)
  - how you and your mentor complement each other when it comes to research experience and knowledge?
  - will there be co-mentors or external advisors, to bring additional expertise (especially relevant for multi-/cross-disciplinary research projects)?
  - how can your mentor/department/university facilitate activities specified in your career development and training plan?
- How will you interact with your mentor – regular formal meetings, informal interaction.
- Maynooth University library offers great services – also some of their LIST courses might be of interest to you, especially if you would be new to MU - check their website <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>
- How will your integration into department and University be facilitated?
- If you are a non-EU applicant: HR will help you to obtain visa.

- Explore the University's website to see what else you might actually include as strength in the context of your application – even if you are current/former student/contract staff member you might be surprised what services and supports are available!