



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowships 2018

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Agenda

- **IRC postdoctoral fellowships**
- **Application process & IRC's Online System**
- **For Maynooth University mentors**
- **Tips for proposal preparation**
- **Q&A**



IRC created in 2012 - IRCSET & IRCHSS merger.

- Mission – to enable and sustain a vibrant and creative research community in Ireland.
- Core function – to support excellent frontier research across all disciplines and career stages, with a particular focus on early-stage researchers.
- Promotes diverse career opportunities for researchers by partnering with enterprise & supports research with a societal focus.

IRC Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Government of Ireland Fellowships (GOI)**
- **Collaborative Research Fellowships for a Responsive and Innovative Europe (CAROLINE) – now closed**
- **Enterprise Partnership Scheme (EPS)**

Can apply twice to each scheme

IRC PD fellowship schemes

Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowships	CAROLINE Postdoctoral Fellowships	Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postdoctoral Fellowships
Open - deadline 30/11/17	Call closed - deadline 12/10/17	Call closed – due to open in Spring 2018
€31,275 + PRSI + pension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Allowance €55,800 p.a. (x country correction co-efficient) Mobility Allowance €7,200 pa (2 yrs) Family Allowance €6,000 p.a. 	€31,275 + PRSI + pension
up to €5k p.a. for research expenses - must justify in application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Research Training & Networking Costs €9,600 p.a. Indirect Research Contribution €1752 p.a. to main partner organisation/ home host in certain circumstances 	up to €5k p.a. for research expenses - must justify in application
1 or 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 year (Irish Fellowships) 3 years (international fellowships) 	2 years
100% IRC funded	Marie Skłodowska Curie Action Co-fund (funding from IRC & EC)	Funding: IRC 66%, Enterprise partner 33%
Mobility requirement for 2 year fellowship	Mobility requirement for both fellowship types	
Researcher employed by & based in Irish HEI	Researcher employed by Irish HEI; secondment to main partner (NGO/IO) & placement opportunities	Researcher employed by & based in Irish HEI, placement opportunity in Enterprise Partner (based anywhere)

IRC Government of Ireland (GOI) Postdoctoral Fellowships



Important Notice

- Familiarize yourself with [call documents](#) (Guide for Applicants, Terms & Conditions, Guide to online system etc.) before starting your application
- It is responsibility of each applicant to refer to & to comply with IRC's Terms & Conditions and other published documents
- Applicants should monitor IRC's website (www.research.ie) for updates, especially in FAQ document
- Applications submitted by ineligible applicants, outside of online application system, or after application deadline will not be considered
- A question not answered in FAQ document? Email shona.leith@mu.ie by 20th Nov 2017.

GOI Postdoctoral Fellowships Key Dates

- **IRC Deadline for Applicants:** 4pm on 30th Nov 2017
 - **IRC FAQ Deadline:** 4pm on 21st Nov 2017
 - **Deadline for Mentors & Referees:** 4pm on 7th Dec 2017
 - **Deadline for institutional endorsement:** 14th Dec 2017
 - **Results expected** in April 2018
 - **Fellowships start date: 1st October 2018 (no flexibility)**
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- **Internal Deadline for Applicants:** 4pm on 17th Nov 2017
(upload to OLS & e-mail shona.leith@mu.ie to request review)
- **DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATION TO IRC AT THIS POINT!****

Why apply for a GOI fellowship?

- Aim is ‘...to support suitably qualified applicants in all disciplines intending to pursue a research project.’
- You dictate your research project (in conjunction with Mentor)
- Open to all disciplines
- Separate funding streams for Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS) and Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM); each stream is assessed independently on a competitive basis.

GOI Postdoctoral Fellowships

Eligibility

- before 31st March 2018 must not have already been employed as a postdoc for more than 5 years
- must not be a permanent member of HEI staff in Ireland or abroad

GOI Postdoctoral Fellowships

Eligibility

Before 31st March 2018

- no more than 5 yrs post PhD; or
- viva completed

and

- must have authored/co-authored at least one published peer-reviewed research publication/equivalent intellectual property output
- or provided samples of their written research work

GOI - Eligibility of new PhD graduates

* Has your doctorate been awarded?:

No ▼

If you have not yet already graduated, in order to apply **YOU MUST**

- have formally submitted your thesis for examination
and
- have examiners appointed to your viva/thesis defence examination
and
- have a viva/thesis defence scheduled for a date that is **NO LATER THAN 31st March 2018**.

Select yes in the box below if you comply with **ALL** of the above eligibility requirements (Note: it is important to provide accurate information at this point. Should your application be recommended for funding you will be asked to provide evidence that your viva/thesis defence took place no later than 31st March 2018. Should it subsequently emerge that the information provided was inaccurate at the submission deadline, the application will be withdrawn from the process).

GOI 1 year Postdoctoral Fellowships

- In order to prepare a doctoral dissertation for publication through a variety of high quality published outputs e.g. monographs, peer-reviewed articles, edited volumes
- No mobility requirement – can be held at the HEI where PhD degree was awarded/current appointment held

GOI 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships

- In order to develop either a new research project or a research project that demonstrates a significant development of the subject of the doctorate through a variety of appropriate, feasible and clear published outputs.
- Mobility requirement – requests for exception will require detailed academic justification as to why this is the preferred option.

Applying for GOI Postdoctoral Fellowships

- No subject quotas
- No favoured topics/disciplines
- No bias towards 1 or 2 year GOI postdocs
- Entire application process including references online
- 2 referees
- **Mentors cannot act as referee for the same applicant**

What are evaluators looking for?

- Excellence
- Originality
 - ” Originality (relationship to the ‘state-of-the-art’) and innovative nature of the project is a key evaluation criterion and therefore an important consideration”*
- Potential

GOI Evaluation Criteria

- Track record/Research Potential of the Applicant **30%**
- Training and Career Development Aspects and Impact of the Fellowship **25%**
- Quality of the Research Project **35%**
- Suitability of Mentor/Implementation of the Fellowship **10%**

Details in “Guide for Applicants” p. 45 - 46

Value of Fellowship

- Gross salary of €31,275 per annum
- Employer's PRSI & pension contributions
- Direct research support expenses of €5,000 p.a.

Research Expenses

Only vouched expenses incurred in carrying out the research project during the agreed funding term are permissible eg.

- materials and consumables;
- equipment costs;
- essential software and hardware critical for the proposed research
- pay-as-you-go access to national research infrastructures;
- archival research costs;
- reasonable travel, subsistence and conference costs²⁰;
- skills training directly related to the objective(s) of the fellowship;
- publishing and write-up costs;
- reasonable travel and refreshment costs for subjects & volunteers in studies

Assistance provided by RDO

- Internal pre-submission review
- Help Pack
- Docs on:
 - Training and career development plans
 - Reasons for choosing Maynooth as a host institution
 - Dissemination

Career Training & Development Plan

- **Career Training and Development Plan** must be drawn up by the fellow and mentor – 2 pg pdf upload
- Comprehensive work plan for life of fellowship
- The Vitae website and Researcher Development Framework is an excellent career development resource: (www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development)
- Read guidance on application form closely
- MU website – document on preparing plan.

Research Ethics Statement

- Read MU Research Ethics & Research Integrity policies – <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies/research-policies>
- Consult with your mentor
- Application for ethical approval to relevant MU Research Ethics Sub-Committee only if funded
- Where required, ethical approval confirmation to be received by IRC within three months of start date.

Sex/Gender Dimension

- Follow Guide for Applicants Appendix II
- Consult with your mentor
- If your proposed research project has sex/gender dimension, you have to provide a relevant statement
- If you conclude that there is no sex/gender dimension, demonstrate in the relevant section that you followed the Guide (refer to individual phases on the “checklist”)

IRC's Online Application System

Online application system available at: <https://irishresearch.smartsimple.ie>

Or from IRC's website:



You are here: [Home](#) / [Funding](#) / [Postdoctoral](#) / [Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2018](#) ↓

Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2018

Online Award Application



Call documentation +

Application guides +

Indicative forms +

Before you create your online application

- Application process entirely online
- Mentor must be registered as such in the system – if not on the list contact shona.leith@mu.ie
- 2 Referees required (Mentor cannot act as referee)
- Contact all Mentors/Referees early on and add to application. Use correct email addresses!
- Mentors and Referees will be automatically notified by the system and they must submit references via online system.

Online fellowship application

- SAVE your draft regularly
- Must save information entered into fields on one tab before moving to another tab – if not changes lost
- Can cut & paste but formatting will be lost
- Can upload a pdf with a chart etc.
- NO CHANGES possible after you submit!**
- Submit early – don't leave it to the last minute
- Technical assistance for online application system:
schemes@research.ie

For MU Mentors

- If Mentors support more than one Applicant, Research Projects should be distinct and original with no significant overlap.
- Please complete “Intent to Submit” form
<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/research/research-development-office/ris-guide/intent-submit-form>
 - Applicant’s name as co-applicant
 - Mentor’s name in first section
 - Please provide applicant’s email address
- Please submit your statement/references well ahead of deadline!

Who will evaluate your application?

GOI fellowships- AHSS and STEM streams assessed independently

11 “Primary Areas” to categorize proposed research; several sub-categories under each primary area:

Biological Sciences A

Biological Sciences B

Chemistry

Computer Science

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Engineering

Mathematics

Physics

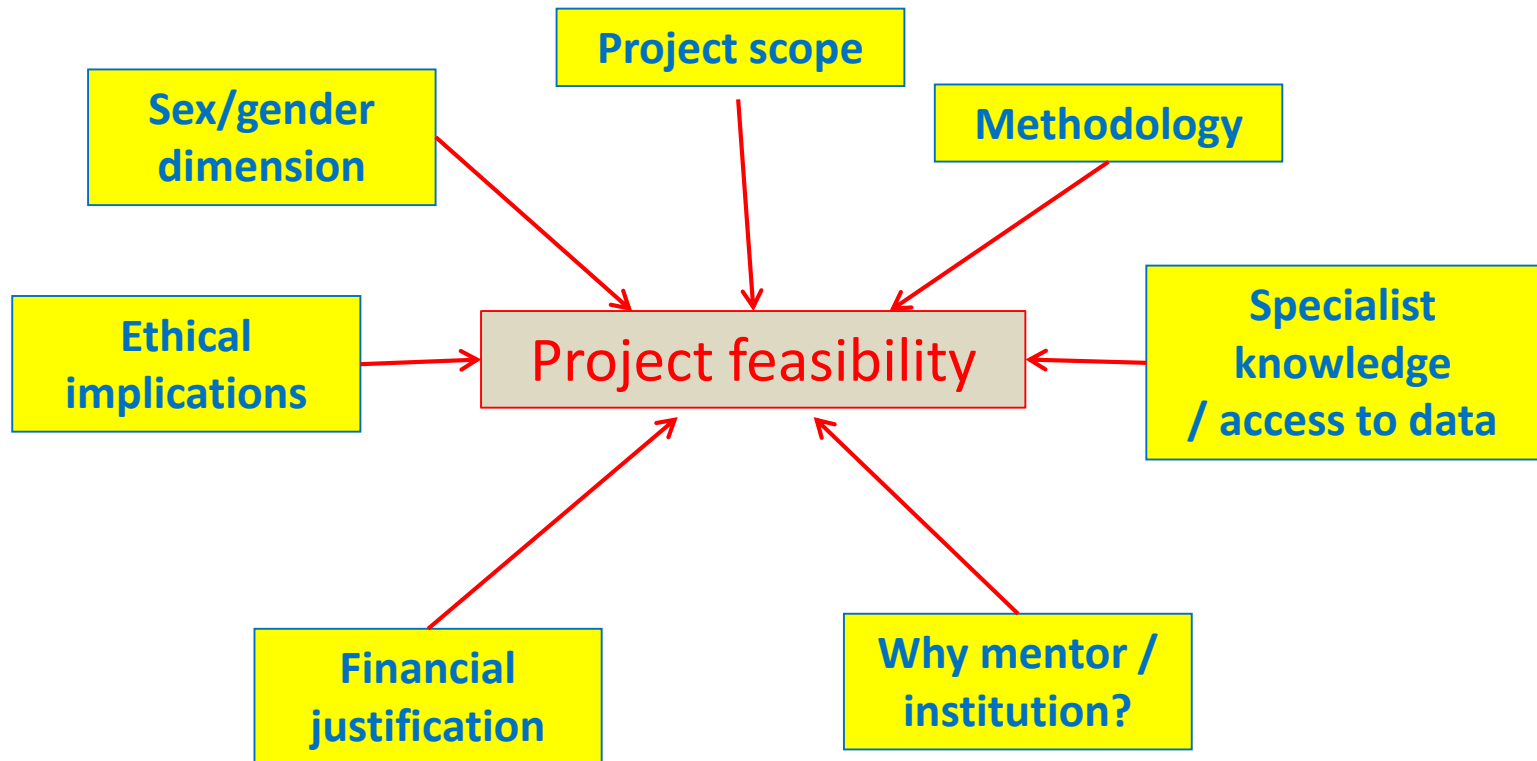
Study of the Human Past

Cultures and Cultural Production

Individuals, Institutions, Markets, Values, Behaviour the Mind & Environment

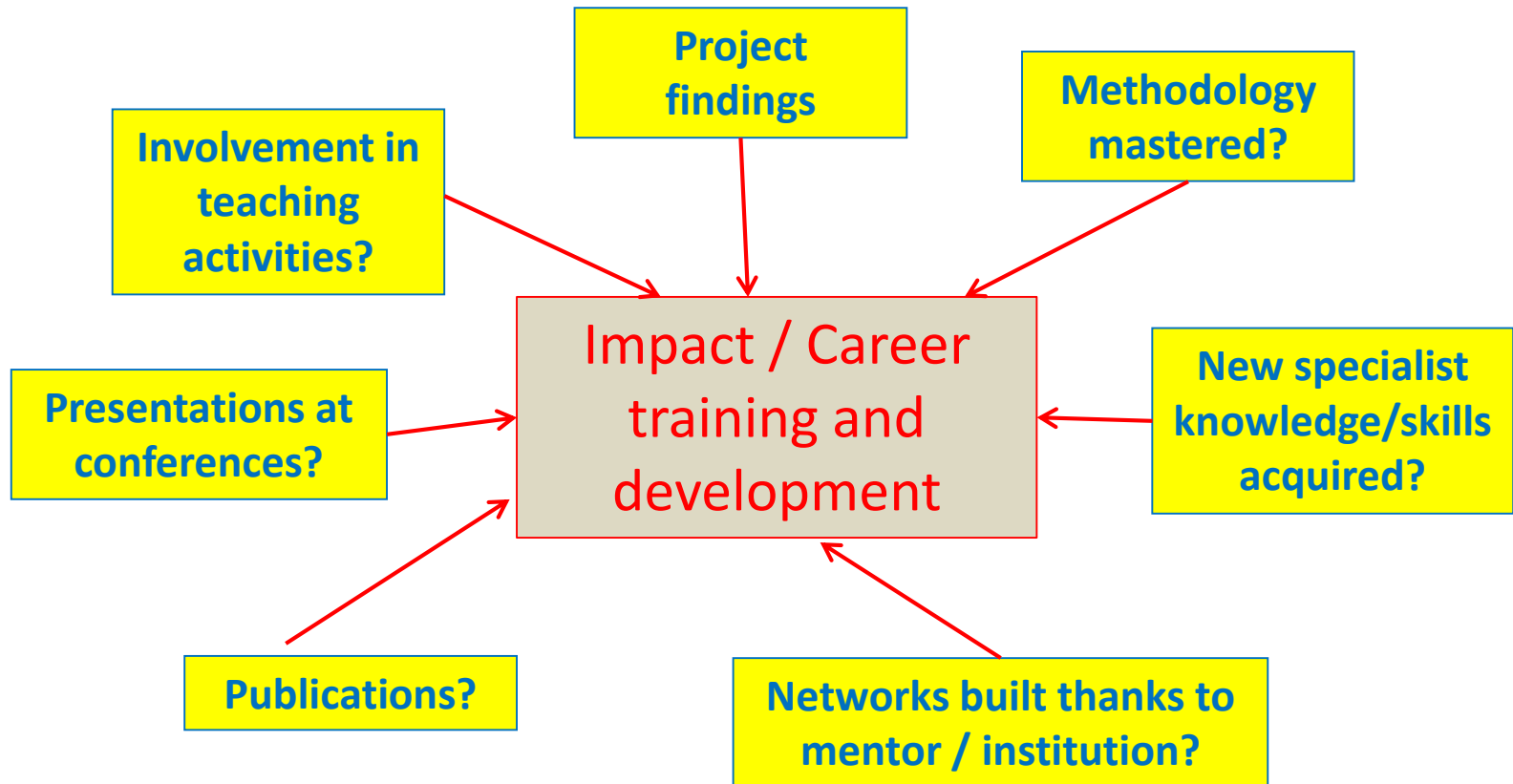
Feasibility

(“Quality of the research project”)



Impact

(“Quality of the research project”)



Last Words

- **Follow call guidelines**
 - Use up-to-date online application form
 - Adhere to word limits and page limits
- **Learn and use the funder's language**
- **Evaluation Criteria**
 - Address all the evaluation criteria!

Last Words

- **Be clear, concise and “a joy to read”**
 - Evaluator may not be an expert in your field; make it easy for them to read and understand your project
 - Make the proposal exciting and interesting
 - Avoid typos, jargon, etc.
 - Define all acronyms
 - Make your proposal visually appealing

Last Words

- **Be passionate about your idea!**
- **What is your unique selling point?**
- **Outline your idea clearly.**
- **Back it up with evidence and defined methodology.**
- **Show off your achievements!**

Thanks for listening!

Any Questions?