



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Dr Niamh Mc Loughlin (School of Agriculture and Food Science UCD)

# OVERVIEW

- Individual Fellowships
- Collaborative Project Opportunities



---

# FELLOWSHIPS

# IRC EMPLOYMENT-BASED PROGRAMME AWARD (PHD STUDENT)

- The Irish Research Council's Employment-Based Postgraduate Programme is a unique national initiative linking excellent researchers in all disciplines with workplace experience in an employment partner; ranging from multinational corporations to SMEs, public-sector agencies
- The programme trains early-career researchers for the diversity of employment opportunities in industry, the public sector and the non-government sectors.
- For employers, the scheme brings new talent directly into the organisation and provides a low-risk cost-effective route to research development and innovation in an area closely aligned with its strategic interests.
- The award will support suitably qualified research master's and doctoral candidates pursuing, or intending to pursue, full-time research in any discipline. The duration of these awards ranges from one to four years.
- For the period of the award, the awardee will have dual status as an employee of the employment partner and a postgraduate student at their host institution.

More information: <https://research.ie/funding/ebp/>

# IRC EMPLOYMENT-BASED PROGRAMME AWARD (PHD STUDENT)

FUNDING open annually (open normally early Oct, deadline late Nov)	
IRC Contribution	€19,000 contribution to employment costs €5,750 fees €3,250 research support expenses Total: €28,000
Industry Contribution	Minimum €9,000 per annum  which may be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employment/salary costs (including employer's PRSI)</li><li>• Contribution to cover the cost of expenses incurred by the awardee</li><li>• Additional research costs and/or the awardee's Training and Career Development activities.</li></ul>

# IRC ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME (POSTDOCTORAL)

- The Irish Research Council's Enterprise Partnership Scheme is a unique national initiative linking excellent researchers in all disciplines to enterprise; in the context of this call, enterprise partners can range from multinational corporations to SMEs, non-governmental organisations
- Through this co-funded programme, researchers develop new, advanced knowledge and skills linked with industry and employer needs.
- The programme trains early-career researchers for the diversity of employment opportunities in industry, the public sector and the non-government sectors.
- For enterprise partners, the scheme provides a low-risk, flexible route to research talent and innovation in an area closely aligned with its strategic interests.

More information: <https://research.ie/funding/eps-postdoc/>

# IRC EMPLOYMENT-BASED PROGRAMME AWARD (PHD STUDENT)

FUNDING CALL open annually (open normally early Oct, deadline late Nov)

IRC Contribution

- €23,543 salary in Year 1 of the award
- €23,896 in Year 2 of the award
- employer's PRSI contribution
- eligible direct research expenses of €5,000 per annum

Industry Contribution

- contribute €16,480 in the first year of the award
- €16,687 in the second year of the award towards the cost of funding a researcher



# SFI INDUSTRY RD&I FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

- The Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme 2023 seeks to support academia-industry interactions in order to address industry-informed challenges.
- Awards under this programme can be made to academic researchers (at faculty and postdoctoral level) wishing to spend time in industry worldwide through the temporary placement of academic researchers with an industry partner.
- Fellowships can have a duration of between 1 and 12 months if full-time, and between 2 and 24 months if part-time.
- The SFI funding rate will vary from 25% to a maximum of 80% of total project costs depending on the size of the industry partner company and the category of research being undertaken, with the industry partner contributing the remainder of the project costs.
- Call A (Academic, open June 2023) and Call B (Postdoc, open Oct 2023)



# SFI INDUSTRY RD&I FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

- The maximum SFI contribution to the Fellowship costs is €100,000 direct costs.
- A LinkedIn group called [SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme\(opens in a new tab\)](#) has been set up by SFI to facilitate networking between academic and industry researchers.
- The SFI [researcher database\(opens in a new tab\)](#) and the [KTI Expert database\(opens in a new tab\)](#) list potential academic research partners. Postdoctoral researchers do not appear in these databases – companies can identify the appropriate team leader from the database and contact them to discuss whether there are eligible researchers in their group (faculty and/or postdoctoral researchers).
- Location Fellows are expected to be embedded in the industry partner's premises and located there for the duration of the placement. Start date. Successful applicants will be expected to start the Fellowship within 6 months following notification of funding from SFI.

More Information: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/sfi-industry-fellowship-programme/>

# INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH DEFINITION

## Industrial Research:

- planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services.
- comprises the creation of component parts of complex systems and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.

# EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

- means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services.
- this may also include, for example, activities aimed at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services.
- may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions, where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set.
- this may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product, and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes.
- experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.

# SFI INDUSTRY RD&I FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The below table summarises the maximum aid intensity that can be granted by SFI.

Category of Research	Industry Partner Company Size		
	Small Company	Medium Company	Large Company
<i>Industrial Research with wide dissemination of results</i>	80%	75%	65%
<i>Experimental Development with wide dissemination of results</i>	60%	50%	40%

The applicant, in conjunction with their industry mentor, and Technology Transfer Office as appropriate, is responsible for selecting a research category which appropriately reflects the proposed project activities, however SFI reserves the right to final assessment of project research categorisation.

Company Size	Number of employees AND	Annual Turnover OR	Annual Balance Sheet
Small	1-49	<€10 M	<€10 M
Medium	50-249	<€50 M	<€43 M
Large	>250	>€50m	>€43 m



---

# COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

# SFI STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

- The Strategic Partnership Programme is a flexible mechanism for academic researchers to build strategic collaborations with key stakeholders such as industry, other funding agencies, charities, philanthropic organisations, higher education institutes (HEIs), or a combination of any of these.
- The co-funding partner(s) must commit to providing a minimum of 50% of the direct project costs in cash.
- The SFI budget for the Strategic Partnership must be a minimum of €400,000 meaning the total award size (SFI and co-funding partner budget) is a minimum of €800,000 (direct costs).
- There is no maximum request level. Co-funding partner 'in kind' contributions should be specified in the application but cannot be counted towards the required 50% cash contribution from the co-funding partner(s).
- Rolling Call, duration 1 -5 years

# PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To build strategic national, and international partnerships to drive economic impact and to address societal challenges
- To build stronger, more direct relationships with co-funding partners from industry, charity and academia
- To transfer technology, through licences, to Multinational Companies (MNCs) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- To support enhanced training of researchers in areas of importance to the industrial sector
- To maximise the state investment in research through leveraging of non-exchequer funding, including funding available through philanthropic and charitable sources
- To enable alliances with industry/charity/philanthropy that enhance competitiveness in securing European funding
- To support the development of test beds of national strategic importance that harnesses academic knowledge with industrial know-how and experience
- To support the attraction and retention of talented researchers
- To build stronger links with other key stakeholders and end-users of research
- To engage the general public and equip them with the tools to confidently participate in, understand and debate science, technology and engineering research in Ireland



# SFI STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

- Applications to the Strategic Partnership Programme consist of a 2-stage process. Interested parties are requested to complete an Expression of Interest (EoI), as outlined in the call document. Potential applicants to the programme should contact SFI (partnerships@sfi.ie) to discuss their proposed programme of research and any queries they may have. The EoI application template will be made available to the Lead Applicant on SESAME following these discussions.
- EoIs will be reviewed by SFI. Applicants who submit EoIs that are reviewed positively will be invited to submit a full proposal application, which will be evaluated by international peer review.
- The duration of the programme can range from a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 60 months.

Website: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/sfi-strategic-partnership/index.xml>

# ENTERPRISE IRELAND SCHEMES

- **Innovation Vouchers:** All small companies, in every sector of the Irish economy, can apply for a €5,000 to pay a registered knowledge provider to solve a technical or business challenge. For more information, go to [Innovation Vouchers](#).
- **Innovation Partnership Programme** offers financial support to companies who engage in collaborative research projects with Irish universities and Institutes of Technology. For more information, go to [Innovation Partnership Programme](#).
- **Technology Centres Programme:** Technology Centres are market focussed, industry collaborative research centres serving markets of scale, identified by industry and validated by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. For more information, go to [Technology Centres Initiative](#).
- **Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund:** The Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation DTIF facilitates collaboration between Ireland's research base and industry that demonstrate technology-based disruptive innovation. For more information, go to [Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund \(DTIF\)](#).

# EI INNOVATION VOUCHER

- The Innovation Voucher Programme was developed to build links between [Ireland's publicly funded Knowledge Providers](#) (i.e. higher education institutes, public research bodies) and small and medium-sized businesses.
- Innovation Vouchers worth €5,000 are available to assist a company or companies to explore a business opportunity or problem with a registered knowledge provider
- Each Innovation Voucher gives you €5,000 worth of time with an expert, third-level researcher to help you tease out an idea, develop a new product, or crack an important business or technical challenge.
- Two types of vouchers €5,000 standard (only use three) and €5,000 co funded (company contributes €5,000)
- Rolling call

More information : <https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Research-Innovation/Companies/Collaborate-with-companies-research-institutes/Innovation-Voucher.shortcut.html>

# INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

- The Innovation Partnership Programme can provide up to 80% of the cost of research work towards the development of new and improved products, processes or services, or generate new knowledge and know-how.
- The company must be a registered client of one of the following state development agencies: Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Local Enterprise Office, Údarás na Gaeltachta.
- Funding from Enterprise Ireland will normally not exceed €200,000. Exceptions to this limit may be made for established clients of Enterprise Ireland and other State development agencies where the Innovation Partnership project and the follow-on activity will clearly lead to a significant increase in the company's employment and/or sales and exports.
- Grant funding to projects involving early stage companies and High Potential Start-Up (HPSU) clients will normally be capped at €100,000.

# INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Two step application process

- Step 1 Option 1 Innovation Partnership Outline Proposal

Prep application form & company partner will discuss with Develop Adviser/Agency Contact

PI submits form to Enterprise Ireland & receives feedback on

- a) eligibility of proposed research
- b) appropriate next steps (i.e Full application or Feasibility Project application)
- c) appropriate grant rate

# INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Two step application process

- Step 1 Option 2 Innovation Partnership Feasibility Study

Short Term study designed to enable the PI to develop a proposal for full Innovation Part. app

Maximum funding is €9,000 for 100% study

Proposal submitted to Enterprise Ireland by research institute upon completion of an

Innovation Partnership Feasibility Study report

# INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Two step application process

- Step 2 Full application
- After successfully completing step 1 the company must discuss this proposal with their Development Adviser/Agency Contact
- Full application can be submitted by research partner
- Funding decisions 11 times per year and proposals need to be submitted 6 weeks before the Industrial Research and Commercialisation Committee (IRCC) funding decision



# INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Full Proposal Submission	IRCC Funding Decision
7th March 2023	➤ 26th April 2023
4th April 2023	➤ 17th May 2023
30th May 2023	➤ 19th July 2023
4th July 2023	➤ 23rd August 2023
1st August 2023	➤ 20th September 2023
5th September 2023	➤ 18th October 2023
3rd October 2023	➤ 15th November 2023
31st October 2023	➤ 14th December 2023

# DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION FUND (DTIF)

- DTIF is seeking investment in the development and deployment of disruptive innovative technologies, on a commercial basis, targeted at tackling national and global challenges. The fund is driving collaboration between our world class research base and industry as well as facilitating enterprises to compete directly for funding in support of the development and adoption of these technologies and seeding a new wave of start-ups.
- The main eligibility criteria for DTIF Call 6 include:
  - a) all projects should be seeking minimum funding of €1.5 million over three years
  - b) each project to have at least three independent partners seeking funding from DTIF, including at least one SME and one other enterprise partner
  - c) SMEs can claim up to 50% of their eligible costs, large companies can claim up to 40%
  - d) research organisations (including colleges) can claim up to 100% of the eligible costs but can receive no more than 50% of the total DTIF grant aid per project

# DTIF FUND

- Call 6 is a general call seeking projects that address one of the six national [Research Priority Areas 2018-2023](#).
- to draw down funding under DTIF, project partners:
  - must be a current client of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta or an eligible Research Performing Organisation (RPO), and
  - must be based in Ireland
- the type of eligible research to be carried out by all partners, must include “industrial research” and/or “experimental development”, that is, within Technology Readiness Levels 3-9
- The deadline for receipt of applications for Call 6 is **3pm on 31 May 2023** and the eligible applications received will go through a two-stage evaluation process.

More Information: <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/innovation-research-development/disruptive-technologies-innovation-fund/>

# HORIZON EUROPE EIC

Call	Who can apply	What for	EIC Open	
			Deadlines	Indicative Budget (EUR million)
<b>EIC Pathfinder</b>	Consortia of at least three different independent legal entities <sup>7</sup> established in at least three different eligible countries. Additionally, single applicants or small consortia (two partners) for EIC Pathfinder Challenges only.	Grants of up to EUR 3 million (open) or EUR 4 million (challenges), or more if duly justified, to achieve the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technology ( Technology Readiness Levels 1-4)	7 March 2023	179.50
<b>EIC Transition</b>	Single applicants (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or small consortia (two partners) or consortia of three to five different independent legal entities established in at least three different eligible countries. Proposals must build on eligible EU-funded project results (see call text)	Grants of up to EUR 2.5 million to validate and demonstrate technology in application-relevant environment (TRL 4 to 5/6) and develop market readiness	- 12 April 2023 - 27 September 2023	67.86
<b>EIC Accelerator</b>	Single start-ups and SMEs (including spin-outs), individuals (intending to launch a start-up/SME) and in exceptional cases small mid-caps (fewer than 499 employees)	Grant component below EUR 2.5 million for innovation activities (TRL 5/6 to 8); EUR 0.5 up to 15 million <sup>8</sup> investment component for scaling up and other activities. Grant only, grant first and investment only component under certain conditions, namely for non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, which have already received a grant-only support.	Short applications: continuous Full applications : - 11 January 2023 - 22 March 2023 - 7 June 2023 - 4 October 2023	611.75

# HORIZON EUROPE EIC

- **EIC Pathfinder (€343 million)** for multi-disciplinary research teams to undertake visionary research with the potential to lead to technology breakthroughs.
- Research teams can apply for up to €3 or €4 million in grants. Calls will open on 7 December (Pathfinder Open) and 20 June (Pathfinder Challenges)
- The bulk of the funding is awarded through open calls with no predefined thematic priorities, while €163.5 million is allocated to tackle five challenges: clean and efficient cooling, construction digitalisation, precision nutrition, responsible electronics, in-space solar energy
- **EIC Transition (€128.3 million)** to turn research results into innovation opportunities.
- Calls focus on results generated by EIC Pathfinder projects and European Research Council Proof of Concept projects, to mature the technologies and build a business case for specific applications. Apply anytime (cut-off dates: 12 April, 27 September)
- €60.5 million is allocated to tackle three Transition Challenges: micro-nano-bio devices, environmental intelligence, chip-scale optical frequency combs
- **EIC Accelerator (€1.13 billion)** for start-ups and SMEs to develop and scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones.
- Grants below €2.5 million, equity investments from €0.5 up to €15 million. Apply anytime (cut-off dates: 11 January 2023 (Accelerator Open only), 22 March 2023, 7 June 2023, 4 October 2023)
- €525 million earmarked for next generation technologies in strategic areas for Europe, including: biomarkers for cancer, decontamination for pandemic management, energy storage, New European Bauhaus, quantum or semiconductor components, resilient agriculture, space technologies and services.

# HORIZON EUROPE DOCTORAL NETWORKS

**Industrial Doctorates.** They train PhD candidates who wish develop their skills and step outside academia, in particular in industry and business. Individual participants must be enrolled in a doctoral programme and jointly supervised by the academic and non-academic partners.

They should include

- at least three independent legal entities, each established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country and with at least one of them established in an EU Member State
- on top of this minimum, other organisations from any country in the world can also join
- Deadline 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023

More information: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks>