Health Research Charities Ireland/Health Research Board (HRCI/HRB) Joint Funding Scheme 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (Applicants)

Scope

Does my proposed research fit with this call?

This award exists to fund competitive and innovative research in **areas of strategic relevance to each individual charity participating**. As such this call *may* be open to research across basic, clinical, population health and health services research. A list of the charities participating in this call can be found here **https://hrci.ie/joint-funding-scheme/**. If you are unsure whether or not your application fits within the scope of the call please contact the relevant charity.

Please note there are areas which are **excluded for this call**: please refer to the Guidance for Applicants document (p.g.4). Please note studies aimed at evaluating a full scale, definitive intervention to provide high quality evidence on the efficacy, effectiveness, cost and broad impact of the intervention, **and** stand-alone feasibility studies[1] conducted in preparation for a future definitive intervention, are out of scope. Such studies are supported through the HRB Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards (DIFA) scheme which will open in November 2019, details will be available on the HRB website.

How do I apply for the HRCI/HRB Joint Funding scheme?

All applications must be made to the HRCI-registered research charity on or before their own set closing dates.

The application must have been reviewed and approved by the signatory approver at the research office (or equivalent) in the host institution **before** it is submitted to the charity. Therefore, applicants should ensure that they give the signatory approver sufficient time before the scheme closing date to review the application and approve it. Please note that many host institutions specify internal deadlines for this procedure.

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[1] *Sandra M. Eldridge et al. Defining Feasibility and Pilot studies in preparation for Randomised Controlled Trials: Development of a conceptual Framework. PLoS ONE 11(3): e0150205*

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that applications are completed in full and all the necessary documentation is received by the charity **on or before** the closing dates indicated (please see the individual charity pages for details).

Applicant/Eligibility

Can a Lead Applicant submit more than one application?
Only **one application** per Principal Investigator to this scheme will be considered. Multiple applications as co-applicant or collaborator are allowable – attention should be paid to total time spent on projects should multiple applications be funded.

Can I be Lead Applicant on one application and Co-Applicant on another?
Yes, it is worth bearing in mind however that should both applications reach review Panel stage the amount of time you are spending on both will be scrutinised so this should be realistic.

Does a Lead Applicant need to have peer-reviewed publications?
Lead applicants must have a proven track record in producing original research for publication in peer-reviewed journals. At least **three** publications of this kind are required. Conference participation in poster format and other formats **do not** contribute to this number but will be considered as further evidence of output.

Does a Lead Applicant have to have previous peer reviewed funding?
Yes**,** the Lead Applicant must demonstrate research independence through securing at least **one** peer-reviewed research grant for a research project/s as the **lead applicant** or **co-applicant**; Funding received for travel to seminars/conferences and/or small personal bursaries **will not** be considered in this regard. Fellowships may be eligible. For further queries please contact the HRB.

I am an early career researcher; can I apply for this award?
Applications are invited from researchers with the appropriate experience, skills and supports to carry out the **proposed research** to completion. In addition to the criteria outlined above, lead applicants must demonstrate the ability to effectively mentor, supervise and manage more junior researchers. Experience and skillset must be outlined clearly and concisely within the application to demonstrate the competitiveness of the lead applicant.

Co-Applicants and Collaborators

Can a Co-Applicant receive payment for their role in the project?
Co-Applicants who are contract researchers may receive a salary. A Host Institution Letter of Support is required for co-applicants who are contract researchers **and** are applying for their own salary. Please note the HRB does not fund the salary and related costs of academic staff within research institutions (including buy out from teaching time etc.).

A Co-Applicant may also receive funding for items such as running costs and personnel.

Does a Co-Applicant's contract have to cover the duration of the award?
Where a Co-Applicant is applying for salary their contract must cover the duration of the award or the Host Institution must be willing to issue/extend a contract should the award be successful; this should be contained in the Co-Applicants letter of support.

How many Co-Applicants can I have?
The maximum number of co-applicants allowed is 5.

Can the lead applicant be based outside the Republic of Ireland (ROI)?
The lead applicant can be based outside of the ROI. In these cases the lead applicant will be expected to demonstrate how their work impacts on the health and wellbeing of patients within Ireland. Where the PI is based outside of Ireland, where possible they should seek Co-applicants or Collaborators in Ireland in order to build capacity here. PIs based outside of Ireland must ensure that a **signed Warrant** is submitted at the time of application, confirming that their institution will sign up to HRB Terms and Conditions (see section 2.6 of Instructions to Applicants).
Examples of applications include: rare diseases which are not currently being researched here or projects with ROI co-applicants/collaborators to build research capacity in the ROI.

Can a co-applicant/collaborator/other personnel be based outside of the Republic of Ireland?
Co-applicants and collaborators from outside the Republic of Ireland are allowed – for example in cases where there is not established research capacity in Ireland. However, their participation in terms of added value for the project and the expected relevance of the call must be very clearly justified.

All researchers outside of Ireland must be affiliated with a Host Institution.

For international Host Institutions that are **public or private universities** a warrant must be provided at application stage (as part of application documentation) that they can comply with HRB terms and conditions (available on the HRB web page at **www.hrb.ie).** For international Host Institutions that are **not public or private universities**, the Host Institution will agree that as part of the acceptance documentation if successful they will have to provide information as per the HRB Host Institution application form.

Funding

How much can I apply for?
HRCI/HRB awards provide funding up to a maximum award value of:
- **€300,000** for projects of 12-36 months duration.

Are overheads included as part of this award?

This applies only to the HRB-funded part of the award. The HRB will therefore add the correct overhead contribution for successful applications during contract negotiations. In accordance with the HRB Policy on Overhead Usage, the HRB will contribute to the indirect costs of the research through an overhead payment of 30% of Total Direct Modifiable Costs (TDMC excludes student fees, equipment and capital building costs) for both lab/clinical and desk-based research

The following items are included in the overhead contribution: recruitment costs, bench fees, office space, software, contribution to gases, bacteriological media preparation fees, waste fees, bioinformatics access.

What costs are excluded from this award?

The scheme does not fund the salary and related costs of tenured academic staff within research institutions (including buy out from teaching time etc.).