



Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology

IRCSET INSPIRE: IRCSET-Marie Curie International Mobility Fellowships in Science, Engineering and Technology

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SCHEME 2009/2010

Scheme Objective

The objective of the IRCSET INSPIRE co-funded scheme is to encourage Irish-based Experienced Researchers ('ERs')¹ who have gained most of their research experience in Ireland, to avail of a structured period of overseas mobility with associated career development actions, followed by a return phase in Ireland.

The overall goal of the scheme is to encourage international mobility amongst Irish-based ERs at the early stage of their experienced researcher career (those who have been ERs for no more than 5 years excluding career breaks), particularly those who have not had the opportunity for previous international mobility periods during their career as an ER.

The scheme will add an international dimension to their research experience and overall career development and consequently raise their scientific excellence. The "Return Phase" will allow them to integrate fully back into Ireland, both utilising and transferring the various skills they acquired during the outgoing phase.

The scheme is structured as an "Outgoing Phase" of 1.5 years duration which may be held at any host institution of the Fellow's choice in any country outside Ireland, followed by a mandatory one year "Return Phase" at a host institution of their choice in Ireland. Fellows will not be required to undertake this return year at a different Irish host institution from that where they are currently employed, but can do so if it will benefit their research career.

¹ An Experienced Researcher will, at the deadline for application –

(i) be in possession of a doctoral degree, independent of the time taken to acquire it; or
(ii) have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience (including the period of research training) following the qualification which enabled him/her to embark on a doctorate in the country in which the qualification was obtained or in the country where the Fellowship is taking place.



The general subject areas that will be funded under the IRCSET INSPIRE scheme are: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth/Environmental Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Physics. Interdisciplinary applications will also be supported.

The applicant will identify a host laboratory and research mentor at a host institution outside of Ireland for the outgoing phase, and within Ireland for the return phase, and gain agreement from these laboratories to support their application. The Irish-based mentor will act as a “senior” mentor for the Fellowship, providing advice and support to the Fellow during both phases of their Fellowship. When a Fellowship is awarded to the applicant, the Irish host institution will be responsible for administering the Fellowship award for the entire 2.5 years, particularly with respect to financial matters, social security and pension arrangements. The successful applicant will hold an “*IRCSET-Marie Curie International Mobility Fellowship in Science, Engineering and Technology*”.

Who can apply?

The suitable applicants for this scheme consists of ERs resident in Ireland, who have carried out the majority of their research **after** gaining ER status (termed “ER career period”) at an Irish host laboratory.

Priority will be given to candidates who will benefit most from the mobility afforded by the Fellowship; those who have spent 80% of their ER work period in Ireland will be eligible.

In general applicants would fall into one of two categories:

1) Experienced Researcher Type 1 (ER-1), an individual who at the deadline for applications:

- Holds a doctoral degree (PhD) awarded by any institution worldwide.^{2,3}
- At least 80% of the applicant’s ER career period (after the PhD award) has been spent in Ireland.

2) Experienced Researcher Type 2 (ER-2) an individual who at the deadline for applications:

- Does not hold a doctoral degree, but holds a Masters Degree or an undergraduate degree such as a Bachelors Degree, Diplom, Laurea, Licenciatura, Maitrise or equivalent awarded by any institution worldwide **and**
- Has completed at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience following the qualification which enabled him/her to embark on a doctorate in the country in which the qualification was obtained or in the country where the

² Note: At the deadline for application, the applicant does not have to have formally graduated with their PhD, they just need to provide proof that they have passed their thesis defense or viva voce. This proof will only be requested if the applicant is successful in the competition and offered an award.

³ The doctoral degree should have been awarded based on a substantial piece of original research.

Fellowship is taking place. This 4 years research experience can have taken place at a higher education institution or non-industry-based research centre worldwide.

- At least 80% of the applicant's ER career period (after the degree plus 4 years of research experience) has been spent in Ireland.

An ER-1 or ER-2 must:

- be currently living in Ireland; they do not have to be an Irish citizen or hold permanent residency.
- have been an ER for no more than 5 years (career breaks of up to 5 years in total are taken into account). Applicable career breaks include extended sick leave, parental leave, maternity leave, caring leave, purely teaching posts, or periods working in an industrial setting where the applicant was not able to publish peer-reviewed publications.
- ensure that their research proposal subject falls into one of the 8 subject areas described above, or is interdisciplinary within those 8 areas.

Applicants who currently hold an IRCSET Postdoctoral Fellowship are eligible to apply, subject to the approval of their current host institution. Accepting an INSPIRE Fellowship award would automatically cancel the current award.

The Fellowship value is adapted from the financial regime for the Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships, as outlined in the 2008 Workprogramme. The final total maximum value of the Fellowship will be adjusted slightly for each Fellow and will depend on a) the location of the outgoing host institution (a country-specific coefficient applies) and b) the individual family circumstances of the Fellow. Calculation of the final total maximum for each Fellow is dependent on certain information being provided to IRCSET in the acceptance form below. As an indicative value, the approximate total maximum is €80,006 per annum, broken down as follows:

For the Fellow, an approximate total of €70,936 per annum, including:

- €60,366 per annum to be paid to the Fellow as a salary: the taxation of this will be a matter for discussion with the revenue authorities. Assistance can be provided by your host and from: <http://www.euraxess.ie/Page.aspx?SP=27>. This amount includes living allowance and mobility allowance, and will be adjusted for each Fellow based on the location of the outgoing host institution and their individual family circumstances.
- €1000 per annum (approximately) for general travel expenses. This amount will be adjusted for each Fellow based on the location of the outgoing host institution. The minimum amount is €250 per annum for destinations less than 500 km from the Irish host institution. The maximum amount is €2500 per annum for destinations greater than 10,000 km from the Irish host institution.

- €9600 to contribute to covering expenses directly associated with the research work of the Fellow; eligible costs include conference participation, publication expenses and small consumable items necessary for the research work.

For the Irish Host Institution, an approximate total of €9,070 per annum, including:

- €6,489 to allow the host to meet their employer's commitment to Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) for the Fellow (10.75% of Fellow's living allowance plus mobility allowance).
- €2,581 to assist the host with the overhead and administrative costs of facilitating the Fellowship over the full 2.5-year period.

The duration of the Fellowship award is 2.5 calendar years from the date of commencement.

For more information on the scheme, please contact Dr. Jennifer Brennan, Scientific Officer (contact details below) or visit our website at www.ircset.ie.

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