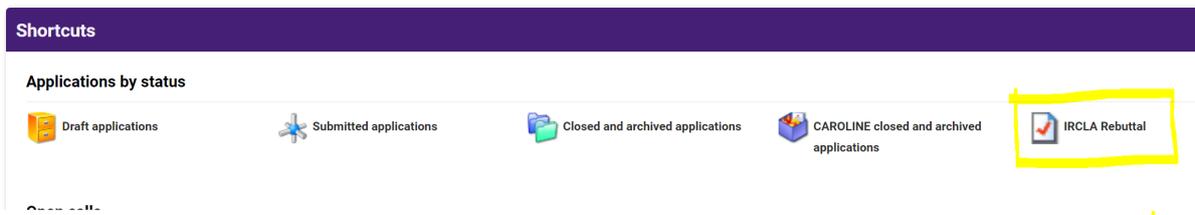


FAQs for Laureate Starting and Consolidator Awards 2021 (Stage 2 & 3 FAQs – 24/02/2022)

A. Rebuttal

Q: Some of the applicants were not sure if they are required to submit a response to the reviewer comments as they cannot see any tabs on the SmartSimple portal to create and submit the response. Would the rebuttal tab be made available only where applicants need to provide a feedback?

A: The rebuttal icon will be available to all applicants in stage 2. It can be found on the homepage of your SmartSimple portal and is highlighted in the image below.



Q: One of the questions asked is if they will get to see detailed comments from reviewers or only the summaries provided to them already. In one specific case, a reviewer has said, "Please see my detailed comments on the research project", but the applicant is not able to see them at this time.

A: Reviewers were asked if they wished to make any additional comments for the purposes of the rebuttal, at their discretion (three was a 300 word limit). In a small minority of cases reviewers have used the rebuttal section to make reference to particular comments made elsewhere in the review. Where this has occurred, we will provide applicants with access to those particular comments on a case by case basis, subject to the 300 word limit.

All applicants will see the detailed feedback once the process is concluded.

Q: Are references to be included within the 1600 word limit in the rebuttal?

A: Yes, and the rebuttal template on the website has been updated to reflect this.

Q: Can applicants add a table or figure to their rebuttal if warranted?

A: Yes, in addition to the 1600 words, applicants can upload **ONE** A4 page containing supporting figures (including figure legends) and tables. Anything in addition to this will be deleted.

Common errors that render this page ineligible include:

- List of publications
- Additional letter of support
- References
- Additional narrative

Q: How many reviewers reviewed each application (someone asking if you have only included comments from reviewers that provided an answer)

A: Some reviewers may have chosen not to submit commentary in the rebuttal section. See question 2 above.

Q: Are there any scores associated with the comments? or are we supposed to reply to the comments without knowing the scores that have been assigned to the project?

A: There are no scores associated with the rebuttal.

Q: Will our rebuttal be re-read by the reviewers? or will this just be read by the evaluation panel?

A: The rebuttal will not be re-read by the remote peer reviewers. It will be considered as part of the work of the panel in stage 2 evaluation.

Q: : in relateion to the rebuttal window “ 2 weeks from today” is 8/9th March which is fine but they are asking about the time - is it 5pm on 8/9th March?

A. The rebuttal is time stamped by the system once triggered, therefore is will countdown exactly two weeks from the time the emails are issued. To ensure your rebuttal is received on time, we advise all applicants who received an email notification on Tuesday 22 Feb to return their rebuttal by the end of the day on Monday the 7 March. All applicants who received their email on Wednesday the 23 Feb should aim to return their rebuttal by the end of the day, Tuesday 9 March. The system will automatically close the upload field at the end of the 2 week period and we have no capacity to extend the rebuttal period due to the short lead in time to the stage 2 panels.

B. Panel meetings and interviews

Q: One of our researchers has asked me about the Laureate interviews. Is it expected that they will be held virtually or in-person?

A: All Laureate interviews will be held virtually.

Q: I was hoping for an update on timelines for the Laureate programme. We are having a lot of queries from applicants in relation to the timeframe for the next phase. Q: Will the stage 2 results be released in a phased manner so that Social Science applicants in particular have time to prepare for interview?

A: The stage 2 panel meetings will take place on the following dates:

- PE 21-22 Mar
- SS 24-25 Mar
- H 28-29 Mar
- LS 31/03-01/04

The outcome of the panels will be released in a staggered fashion to allow applicants as much time as possible to prepare for the stage 3 interviews.

Q: Is there any information you can give us about the format of interviews? In particular, how long the presentations will need to be? Whether slides can be used? And if so, will there be a limit on the number of slides?

A: Interviews will last approximately 25-30 minutes in total. The applicant should expect questions related to all aspects of the proposal including the budget and questions on how the Laureate award would support future application to ERC funding calls. Applicants will be informed in due course as to the duration of presentations, and use of slides and/or a maximum number of slides,