



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL

An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

NEW FOUNDATIONS 2022: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Version 4

Updated: 17/06/2022

Newly submitted Queries/Answers highlighted in yellow.

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:

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The New Foundations 2022 Call Document can be found at [New Foundations | Funding | Irish Research Council](#).

1. Strand 1a-related queries

I have found a partner, but my contact is currently working at home due to a long-term illness and doesn't have access to a stamp. Would their signature on the attached endorsement form suffice or must the form have a stamp?

A signature from the relevant authority at the organisation will suffice.

<p>Are charities expected to provide financial input themselves to projects funded under this strand, and if so, what level of financial input and under what terms and conditions?</p>
<p>Civic society partners are not required to financially contribute to the project. This may however be a feature of some proposals, where appropriate. The charity and researcher will work out an agreement between them where both parties are satisfied. This is additional funding to the award provided by the IRC and would not be governed by our terms and conditions, rather it is at the discretion of the civic society partner.</p>
<p>Does Strand 1a dictate that the project must be nationally focused or is it permissible to focus on an international human rights issue? I am considering working with an Irish NGO on an international human rights issue related to the UN SDGs.</p>
<p>Strand 1a sets out to enhance civic society within a <i>national</i> context, between researchers and civic society partners.</p> <p>This Strand supports applications from researchers in partnership with a CVO/NGO. As per the Call Document, the civic society partner must be a charity with a CHY number and registered with the Charities Regulator.</p> <p>Proposals under Strand 4 support collaboration between Irish and partner research institutions. Eligible partner countries are Vietnam, Palestine, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and any country on the African continent.</p>
<p>I have been approached by three of our researchers who wish to apply to strand 1a as co-applicants and with a civil society partner of course. Is it possible for more than one researcher apply to strand 1a as part of one application/project?</p>
<p>This Strand supports applications from researchers in partnership with a CVO/NGO. The latter must be a registered charity. The proposal may include the involvement of other groups; however, only one may be named as the partner in the proposal. No more than one applicant/HEI can be named on the application.</p>
<p>Can you please clarify if the following can be included in a budget or not? For strand 1a the type of training equipment that is required for skills development would be 4/5 laptops and a 3D printer, as these are equipment and not covered under the scheme. Would it be possible to lease the equipment and if so, would they be classified as consumables?</p>
<p>The HEI/RPO is responsible for providing the facilities and access to the equipment needed for the awardee to carry out the research, ensuring that all items of equipment and materials provided for the award are adequately maintained.</p>

<p>An applicant to Strand 1a wishes to add the National Women’s Council (NWC) as their partner, although NWC is not a charity – it is a Company Limited by Guarantee (the legal form of not-for-profit companies in Ireland). For last year’s cycle, it was determined that the IRC would consider NWC an eligible partner on the basis that they have sister charity organisation, and the application went to be funded. Does that decision still stand this year, and can NWC be added again as a partner for Strand 1a? If so, will it be sufficient to put “N/A” for the CHY number section of the application form? Or would it preferable to put the NWC’s CRO number instead?</p>
<p>NWC are considered eligible as a branch of the Women’s Council meets the criteria. CHY Number 11760 should suffice.</p>
<p>In terms of eligible costs, is it possible to budget for costs related to open access publications?</p>
<p>Expenditure incurred through the dissemination of outputs and outcomes can be included. Publication costs relevant to networking activities and academic publication are eligible.</p>
<p>An applicant is engaging with a CHY registered community group as a partner. Additionally, the applicant wishes to recruit an essential member of their research team who is an independent/contract researcher. I note that under eligible costs it states that staff salaries are subject to open recruitment. Can you advise how best to approach this?</p>
<p>The recruitment of staff must be done openly, through public advertisement. Recruitment policies should be in line with local HEI institutional practices.</p>
<p>In terms of eligible costs, can a charity partner be paid for their time involved in a project? Also, in strand 1a, is it possible to list as a partner a researcher in another HEI and if that is possible can they budget for teaching buyout too?</p>
<p>Where fully justified, costs for partner involvement can be included on the award in accordance with HEI/RPO institutional rules.</p>
<p>2. Strand 4-related queries</p>
<p>I have identified a colleague at the University of Zimbabwe to join me on my application. She is a Lecturer but does not hold a PhD. Is she still eligible to be the partner on the proposal?</p>
<p>For clarity, New Foundations is a single-PI scheme. Collaborators are permissible and should be included under ‘Identify any project partners’.</p>

Is the co-PI is required to have a PhD, or can they show that they possess equivalent research qualifications/experience?

New Foundations is a single-PI scheme. Collaborators are permissible and should be included under 'Identify any project partners'.

Applicants must hold a doctoral degree.

3. Strand 4b-related queries

Can proposals for Strand 4b identify a domestic project conducted in Ireland? Or, must applications involve a partner organisation in a developing country that receives Irish Aid funds (like in Strand 4)?

Projects should focus on research which contributes to building awareness and understanding of Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development issues in *Ireland* (the applicants should refer to the Irish Aid GCE strategy again). The targets groups for the work of both DFA on Global Citizenship Education and DoE and DFHERIS is people living in Ireland. However, looking at building links with communities or schools or youth groups (for example) in the Global South could be a component of the research but it is not compulsory.

4. Strand 8-related queries

Is an HEI considered as a statutory body and could it be a partner under Strand 8?

For strand 8, the partner must be an organisation that provides an integral and discrete contribution to the proposed research or activities, such as training, advice or support, or may act in an advisory capacity. Partners may be statutory, non-statutory or voluntary organisations involved in developing, promoting or delivering the research or project. Applicants to these strands must include the name of partner as part of the application. Partnerships under strand 8 should reference research partnerships, either on a North/South basis on the island of Ireland, East/West between Ireland and Britain, or through an international collaboration that retains direct relevance to the work of reconciliation on these islands. Partner's may be from HEI's

Is lab-based research with a patient-focus supported under this stand? The applicant is interested in partnering with a PI from Queen's University Belfast in an immunology research project.

Provided the research fits the themes and criteria within the Shared Island strand, it should be eligible.

The call documentation states that the applicant must be based in a HEI in Ireland. Is there scope to have a co-applicant from a HEI in Northern Ireland (i.e., Queen’s University Belfast), given the North-South focus of the Shared Island initiative?
Academics from UK and NI universities are eligible partners. Partners on strand 8 should be named under ‘Project partners’.
Can a government ministry count as an RPO if that ministry produces relevant research?
A list of eligible Irish HEIs is provided on our website here .
My project partner will be on maternity leave through the duration of the award – can you give me some information about the possibility of a no-cost extension? Also, is the Shared Island strand likely to be included in the next call for the New Foundations Award?
Awardees may apply for a no-cost extension which will be granted at the Council’s and funding partner’s discretion, on a case-by-case basis. Restrictions do not apply to eligible career breaks. Eligible career breaks include carer’s, maternity, parental and adoptive leave. Such a request must be made in writing by the awardee and host institution. A project partner who is recruited full time on a project may be eligible for maternity leave. The list of funding partners for the next cycle of New Foundations will be announced on our website in advance of the call opening.
Can a partner's research outputs be added to the application form under the section for selected research outputs?
The selection of research outputs added to the application form should be those of the applicant only. The inclusion of information regarding project partner’s can be added to the strand specific sections dealing with how the proposal is relevant to the strand or how the partner will be incorporated into the project.
5. Strand 10-related queries

6. Strand 11-related queries
7. Strand 12-related queries
8. Strand 14-related queries
9. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE
An applicant wants to purchase voice recorders for the field interviews. Would that be an acceptable cost under this scheme?
These items would be classified as equipment. Please note that equipment is not an eligible research expense under this scheme.
Can an applicant budget for an RA in the partner country to facilitate the workshop and with data gathering?
Any employment costs sought for a partner must be in line with relevant local salary scales and applicable to the career stage of the partner and should be featured in 'Staff costs' category in the budget.
Can academic replacement costs be applied to Research Assistants and/or Postdoctoral Researchers?
All costs sought must be detailed and justified in the 'Project Budget' portion of the online application form. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that any costs sought are necessary to carry out the proposal. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration under the evaluation and assessment process.
Research Assistant and/or Postdoctoral Researcher academic replacement costs are eligible (both can be pro-rata). HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form. As part of the award acceptance process, the Research Office must confirm that the requested salary is in line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.
10. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Is it possible to apply for a New Foundations grant when the individual has previously been awarded an IRC New Foundations grant?

You are not precluded from applying to NF 2022 should you have had a successful project in NF 2021. Current NF award holders are eligible provided their proposal is clearly distinct from their current New Foundations award. Furthermore, applicants must, on the call deadline, hold a contract of sufficient duration with their eligible HEI or RPO to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date and you may only make one application to the scheme in a given year.

Can staff costs include buy-out costs for permanent academic staff? For example, would it be possible to budget for the PI and the project partner (already in post) to spend 2 hours per week on the project.

The civic society partner must be a charity with a CHY number and registered with the Charities Regulator. If the organisation is a registered charity, they are eligible to be a partner on a Strand 1a application. While a higher education institution may indeed be a registered charity, this would go against the spirit of the strand – ‘engaging civic society’. One of the objectives of this strand is to develop networks between academia and civic society partners in the community and voluntary sector.

Teaching buyout is an eligible cost and may be pro rata. While there is no upper limit for teaching buyout under New Foundations 2022 scheme, all costs sought must be sufficiently detailed and justified in the proposed budget. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration under the assessment process.

11. Applying to the Scheme

What constitutes "research" in the "Applicant research outcomes, including publications" on WizeHive and how do they differ from "networking and dissemination".

An animation (intervention, workshop, piece of software and other activities or products) in and of itself is not research, however it may form part of a research project, and then would be part of a research project's output. In this case, it's development would be informed by research, being evidence-based, grounded in the literature, or developed with respect to prior research, with scholarly methodologies used in its formation (e.g., it may have been developed using Design Research or Participatory Research or Action Research methodologies, and so on). Importantly it's impact or outcome would also be subject to evaluation, as part of the overall research project, i.e., it is not typically an end in and of itself, as would be the case for an artistic product. Moreover, the research study should lead to a scholarly publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Finally, non-peer review publications are acceptable as part of research output, and may indicate the important social, cultural and other forms of impact of the research, but a peer-reviewed publication is the gold standard, in terms of research/academic impact.

I am leaving my current HEI at the end of August to take up a post at a new HEI in September, which Research Office do I submit through? (My new contract runs for two years and so will cover the duration of the award)

As per the Call Document, the applicant must be based in an eligible HEI or RPO in Ireland, with a contract of sufficient duration to cover the term of the proposed project. The applicant should indicate the new HEI as institutional affiliation. You are advised to engage with the HEI in advance of the deadline to discuss the application. Please note that formal institutional endorsement will be required.

Should all New Foundations projects start on the 1 November 2022, or can the commencement date vary?

All New Foundations awards must commence on 1 November 2022. Awards may only be deferred for reasons of an eligible career break.