



## **Geological Survey of Ireland Geoscience Research Programme**

### **Griffith Geoscience Award - Terms and Conditions**

#### **Objectives of the GSI Research Programme**

The GSI Geoscience Research Programme is designed to support excellent geoscience research in Ireland. Although the research themes are broad ranging, individual applications are expected to clearly define their research activities within the scope of the call. Applicants are expected to refer to the GSI Draft Research Strategy ([www.gsi.ie/research](http://www.gsi.ie/research)), and any relevant GSI programmes (e.g. INFOMAR, Tellus etc.) that may be appropriate, in their applications.

The aim of the **GSI Griffith Geoscience Awards** is to provide teaching cover and support to allow excellent researchers to pursue novel research ideas and advance pioneering scientific discoveries. It is expected that the research outputs will be ambitious; projects moving into new areas of research or developing new synergies with other disciplines/area of expertise will be prioritised. Proposals should include either proof of concept studies for a novel and innovative research idea or application of existing expertise in a new area of research.

Ultimately the outputs should help build expertise and capacity, increase research impact and improve the quality and sustainability (through diversification) of geoscience research in Ireland.

It is envisaged that all research funded under the Griffith Geoscience Awards will lead to an extended programme of research and development in the areas funded. It is also expected that the research to be undertaken is not currently being funded by other Irish funding agencies (either due to exclusion of the specific topic or the high risk/high gain nature of the research).

#### **Research themes**

The GSI will support *groundbreaking* research. Areas include (but are not limited to);

- Geology
- Geochemistry
- Geophysics
- Remote sensing and Earth Observation
- Earth resources (including water)
- Marine geology
- Palaeoenvironmental and palaeoclimatology
- Geoinformatics

If your proposed programme does not easily fit into one of these categories, please contact [aoife.braiden@gsi.ie](mailto:aoife.braiden@gsi.ie) to confirm eligibility of your research area before advancing with your proposal.

#### **Duration of project**

The maximum duration of the Award and proposed research programme is 12 months. Award programmes must be completed within this time. Expected start date is August 2017.

## Definitions

*Applicant* – the Applicant is the person responsible for leading and managing the proposed award. They must be employed in the host organisation at the time of application and for the duration of the award and will act as the point of contact for the Award. They must hold a PhD and relevant experience in the aspect of the research proposed (this must be demonstrated in their cv).

*Key research partner* – is a key partner essential to the proposed research programme. Partners cannot receive funding but can provide support through access to facilities and/or expertise to the research activities; in this case, a letter of support outlining the contribution should be included. The teaching staff to be employed on the award should not be included as a partner.

*Awardee* – Successful applicant under the Griffith Geoscience Award Programme

*Host Organisation* – this may be any University or Institute of Technology in the Republic of Ireland as listed on the HEA website<sup>1</sup>. Valid tax clearance certificates must be supplied on request.

*Host Organisation approval* – the application must be signed by the authorised person in the Institute's Research Office. The signature indicates the organisation's willingness and ability to host the award in terms of any financial, human and physical resources required. A letter of support from the Head of School/Department is also required.

## Eligibility

Applicants must have a contract of employment with the host organisation at the time of application and for the duration of the award.

CVs for the Applicant, and any essential partner, must be submitted with the proposal and must demonstrate the ability of each team member to carry out their responsibilities within the research programme.

All applications must be accompanied by a letter from the Head of School/Department (i) supporting the proposal and agreeing to the proposed programme and (ii) confirming that the applicant has a contract including teaching duties and has been assigned teaching duties for each semester included the duration of the Award and (iii) that a Griffith Geoscience Award will significantly and positively impact the Applicant.

## Researcher profile and cvs

To ensure a fair review process, applications will be assessed against their peer group and rating will be commensurate with their experience; i.e. research outputs and achievements to date since awarding of their PhD.

Applicant cvs should be no longer than 6 pages and must include;

- Contact details
- Recent employment history
- Academic qualifications or equivalent experience
- Publications (minimum of 5 as senior author<sup>2</sup>)
- Other information relevant to the proposal including current teaching load

Any partner cvs included must be no longer than 2 pages

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.education.ie/en/Learners/Information/Providers-of-Higher-Education/List.html>

<sup>2</sup> Senior author is defined here as having contributed significantly to the intellectual content and/or held the primary responsibility for experimental design, collecting and analysing data, and contributed to the writing of the manuscript, usually as lead author or first or second co-author.

Applicants should include previous examples of innovative, international research, preferably demonstrating interdisciplinary applications.

Maternity/Paternity leave or career breaks may be excluded from the time since the PhD award however evidence of such leave must be included.

### **Submission**

Applications must be made using the template provided and applicants must adhere to the formatting rules.

Applications must be submitted to the GSI before the call deadline. Any applications not adhering to submission and formatting rules, or received after the deadline, will be deemed ineligible and will be returned without review. All applications should be submitted by email to [research@gsi.ie](mailto:research@gsi.ie) before the assigned deadline (**5pm, November 30<sup>th</sup> 2016**).

### **Format and Layout**

Text font should be no smaller than Aerial 11 with page margins no less than 2.5cm (please do not alter the layout of the template file). All word limits outlined in the application template must be adhered to. Only PDF files will be accepted. All documents and appendices must be included in one file which may not exceed 5MB.

### **Budgets**

All values must be in presented Euro. The maximum budget available per award is €100,000.

Projects can be co-funded by cash/in-kind contributions from host/partner organisations though this is not a requirement; in such cases, the total cost of the project including the partner contributions and GSI funds requested must be included. In-kind contributions can include personnel time, access to facilities, access to data etc.

Salary costs should include gross salary plus any additional staff costs such as PRSI and Pension contributions.

Indirect costs may be charged to the budget but this must be included within the €100,000 total cost and must be a maximum of 10% of direct costs.

### Eligible costs

- Personnel costs for teaching cover
- \*Consumables (e.g. access fees, lab consumables, consumable items for fieldwork)
- \*Software licenses
- \*Publication fees
- \*Travel (including fieldwork travel costs)
- \*Conference fees (participating in or hosting)
- \*Max 10% of total direct costs can be indirect costs

\*The sum of non-personnel costs must not exceed 20% of the total cost of the project.

### Examples of non-eligible costs (this list is not exhaustive)

- Protective clothing
- Staff costs of researchers/staff other than a teaching replacement (e.g. student stipends, fees, technicians etc.)
- Maintenance contracts
- Durable equipment
- Salary of the Applicant

If there are any queries regarding eligible and non-eligible costs please contact [aoife.braiden@gsi.ie](mailto:aoife.braiden@gsi.ie) *before* submitting your proposal.

### **Budget Justification**

This section should clearly justify the planned expenditure including expected timings of significant, 'once-off' expenditure.

### **Hiring of staff**

Teaching replacements must be hired through the Host Organisations existing rules and regulations and in accordance with relevant employment law. All competitions must be open and fair with advertisements through the Host Organisation's, and other, appropriate websites.

### **Reporting**

The Award must be completed within 12 months. A mid-term review will be scheduled before the start of the project. If the research programme is deemed to have made insufficient progress at this point, the GSI reserves the right to withdraw/withhold the funding.

A final report, including financial report, must be submitted before the end of month 14. Failure to submit these reports on time will result in exclusion from subsequent GSI calls and the final payment being withheld. Reporting templates will be provided.

As part of the reporting procedures, successful applicants may be asked to present their results (oral or poster presentation) at a GSI event.

### **Project information**

#### Project description

This section is a maximum length of 3000 words excluding figures and references. This should comprise:

- (i) Strategic context and rationale for the project including background information, state of the art and reasons for undertaking the research now.
- (ii) Objectives and scientific/engineering targets beyond the state of the art. This should outline how the research activities will expand our knowledge beyond current understanding, help build capacity in the area proposed and clearly outline the objectives of the planned work. This section should also include a clear methodology and outline the potential risks versus gains for the research project.
- (iii) Implementation plan should include timelines, milestones for the project and any information relevant to the efficient management of the project.
- (iv) Outputs. The outputs should be well defined, ambitious and considered 'game changers' in the relevant area of research. They should link clearly to the milestones and timing of the project as well as the budget.

Outputs/Deliverables should comprise development of new, ground breaking methods, equipment, techniques, technology or cross-disciplinary applications. Specific outputs should include;

- High impact publications in international peer review journals (clearly including work funded by the GSI Griffith Geoscience Award and acknowledgement of GSI funding). Proof of an article in press is sufficient for the final report but a copy of the final publications should be submitted to the GSI once published. These should also be made available through an open access repository
- Presentation(s) at peer-reviewed international conference(s) (clearly including work funded by the GSI Griffith Geoscience Award and acknowledgement of GSI funding). A copy of the presentation should be submitted to the GSI following the conference or as part of the reports

- Coordination of a submission to Horizon2020 or equivalent international, collaborative research call, or
- Submission of an ERC proposal or
- Submission of a large scale/high impact grant proposal of similar to scale and status of Horizon2020 or ERC

Proof of submission of a significant grant proposal(s) will be required.

Optional additional outputs could include;

- Hosting of a significant international research meeting/conference
- Development of new methodologies available to the research community
- Patents, trademarks, copyrights
- Knowledge transfer or exchange e.g. development of formal partnerships, networks (e.g. COST Actions), events, resources
- Contribution to improved public understanding of the proposed area of research

Expected impact/value

The outputs of the Award should impact more than one of the following;

- The advancement of scientific discovery in the area outlined
- Strengthening the Irish Geoscience research base and diversification of research groups
- Development of new software/prototypes or applications to new disciplines
- Provide capacity for longer term research programme development (e.g. by securing additional research funding)
- Identifiable impact on national/international policy and governance
- Improved communications and dissemination of geoscience research

This section should clearly show how the project will impact these areas and whether the expected impact is short, medium or long term.

### **Review process and criteria**

Once received, all applications will be checked for eligibility. Projects that are deemed ineligible, or beyond the scope of the call, will be returned without review. Eligible applications will be reviewed and assessed by experts (outside Ireland) under the following criteria;

- Quality of Scientific/Engineering research described (40%)
- Impact/value (25%)
- Quality of Applicant (25%)
- Implementation, management plan and value for money (10%)

### **Ethics**

All proposals are expected to adhere to reasonable ethics rules (e.g. IAPG or IGI ethics guidelines, national rules and procedures). Where organisational ethics guidelines are in place, the Applicant is expected to adhere to their ethics committee guidelines.

### **Non compliance**

Where proposals or awards are found to be non-compliant as per these Terms and Conditions, projects will be deemed ineligible (at review stage) or funding will be withdrawn.

**Confidentiality**

All applications and subsequent correspondence with applicants will be treated as confidential.

**Acknowledgement**

The GSI Geoscience Research Programme must be clearly acknowledged in all activities and outputs including publications, conference presentations, reports, events etc. High resolution image files of the relevant logos will be made available and must be included.

All dissemination and communication activities must be recorded and included in the final report.

**Programme management**

The programme will be managed by the GSI Research Manager, Dr Aoife Braiden. Any queries should be submitted by email to [research@gsi.ie](mailto:research@gsi.ie)

**Intellectual property and data management**

IP will remain with the researcher, however, where commercial product(s)/service(s) result from GSI Geoscience Research funding, the product/service will be provided free of charge to the GSI if requested.

Where data is collected/generated as part of a GSI Geoscience Research funded project, a copy of the data must be provided to the GSI and, where relevant, standard data formats should be used (e.g. INSPIRE). Specific terms and conditions relating to data use and data storage can be discussed on a case by case basis.

**Relevant information on GSI programmes can be found on the following websites:**

[www.gsi.ie/research](http://www.gsi.ie/research)

For clarification on any issue raised above please contact Dr Aoife Braiden, [research@gsi.ie](mailto:research@gsi.ie)