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GSI Geoscience Research Postdoctoral Fellowships 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are salaries eligible costs?

Personnel costs for the Postdoctoral Fellow carrying out the research are eligible. The total cost should include all pensions and PRSI contributions but not indirect costs (these are listed separately in the budget). For pension and PRSI information please contact your Host/Mentor.

2. Are overheads/indirect costs an eligible cost?

Yes, up to a maximum of 10% of total direct costs

3. Can the GSI staff be named partners on a project?

Yes, GSI staff can provide expertise, supervision, data etc. but cannot receive funding for their contribution.

4. Can researchers outside the Republic of Ireland be funded?

Researchers who currently reside outside the RoI are eligible to apply but must be living in the RoI for the duration of the projects and physically based at the Host Organisation (excluding short term academic visits to other institutes).

5. Can researchers outside Ireland be collaborators/partners?

Yes, there is no limit to the number or type of collaborator but they cannot receive funding.

6. Can the host organisation apply for the Fellowship and then advertise the position?

No, the award is made to an individual applicant, not the institute.

7. Can the award be moved if the Fellow changes Institute?

Yes, but only with the agreement of both Host Organisations and the GSI. The new Host Organisation must also fulfil the criteria as per the Terms and Conditions.

8. Are agencies (e.g. Teagasc, EPA) or companies eligible to host fellows?

No.

9. What if my project is not covered by themes outlined?

All applications for GSI funding should comfortably fit within the themes outlined in the Terms and Conditions.

10. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has external co-funding?

No. Assessors will be asked to consider the overall project proposed and whether resources are appropriate.

11. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has a GSI partner?

No. Assessors will be asked to consider the overall team composition in the context of the project proposed. However collaboration with GSI staff and use of GSI datasets is encouraged.

12. Is VAT an allowable cost?

Yes.

13. The budget limit is €75,000 per year, can underspend from an individual year be carried forward?

A maximum of 15% of the budget for an individual year can be carried. For example, if the total budget for year 1 is €63,359, a maximum of €9,504 can be carried forward to year 2. The GSI must be informed of any changes to the budget.

14. Is a computer considered durable equipment (and therefore not an eligible cost)?

If the Host Organisation considers computers a consumable or assigns a lifespan of less than one year, then it is an eligible cost.

15. What are 'references' in the template?

These are any publications, papers, published documents etc. that you have referred to in your text and project description, not personal statements from referees.

Additional clarification – added 17.10.2016

Applicant definition:

The Applicant must be the person who will carry out the project and who will hold the Postdoctoral position in the host institute. The Mentor cannot be the applicant (i.e. they cannot apply for a project and subsequently hire a researcher of choice for the position).

Application eligibility:

The Applicant is expected to have, at minimum, evidence of passing his/her PhD *viva voce* at the time of signing the contract (this is expected to be end March 2017) and must take up the position no later than June 1st 2017.

Recommendations to applicants

- Read the call documents and FAQs carefully.
- Do not change the templates you are given. Do not go over the limit in terms of page length etc. (including for cvs)
- Do not go over the maximum budget– any application with a budget over €75,000 per year will be returned without review.
- Do not leave text in the budget justification vague. If the expenditure is unclear or not justified, it will be given low marks for implementation and management.
- Remember your reviewers are unlikely to be from Ireland so may not understand acronyms or the context/geology described.
- Think big – even if this is a project with limited resources, you need to think about how the results could be scaled up or applied somewhere else. Research is rarely about solving a problem in isolation or a small scale/local problem. For example, when using Irish datasets such as Tellus, are you developing a methodology that could be applied elsewhere? How is it useful in another context? Can the results be compared to a similar study elsewhere (not necessarily by you...).
- Link the research to geoscience activities in Ireland and the GSI Research Strategy/GSI programmes.
- If any part of the application process is unclear, please contact Dr Aoife Braiden before submitting.