



Geological Survey of Ireland Geoscience Research Programme

Postdoctoral Fellowships 2016 - Terms and Conditions

Objectives of the GSI Research Programme

The GSI Geoscience Research Programme is designed to support excellent geoscience and research in Ireland. Applicants are expected to clearly define their project within the scope of the call and the GSI Research Strategy. Applicants are also expected to refer to other relevant GSI, INFOMAR and/or Tellus programmes as appropriate in their applications.

The aim of the programme is to address key scientific questions, build capacity, increase research impact and strengthen geoscience research teams in Ireland. It is expected that the research outputs will be of use to the GSI, the wider research community and other relevant stakeholders. Postdoctoral Fellowships are expected to further research and development/wider applications in the areas funded.

Research Topics

The GSI will support projects specifically related to the following themes;

- Development of methodologies for remote observations/sensing for geo-surveying and site investigations
- Development of remote, real time monitoring systems for environmental parameters; applications for the extractive industries
- Investigating the Pre-Carboniferous basement of Ireland as a structural template and source of metals
- Tsunami hazard assessment and vulnerability around the Irish coast
- Socio-economic impact of geoscience activities (including Ireland)
- Assessing public understanding of geoscience and risk perception in Ireland
- Assessment of geological controls on spatial variability of available phosphorus in soils (to include Tellus geochemistry data)
- Understanding environmental radiochemistry relating to radon soil gas distribution (to include Tellus geochemistry and geophysics data)
- Geophysical and geochemical characterization of gas in marine sediments
- New Earth observation remote sensing techniques for coastal monitoring and bathymetric mapping
- Lithostratigraphy of Ireland's Atlantic offshore Quaternary deposits including a quantitative study of aggregate potential
- A new hydrodynamic model for the Irish Sea; integration and analysis of acquired data*
- Characterisation of glacial sediments using airborne geophysical and geochemistry data (should include Tellus data)
- Characterising Irish groundwater chemistries, ages and temperatures
- Understanding Irish karst: techniques for investigating and characterising karst aquifer systems

* (acquisition of additional essential data may be possible, contact aoife.braiden@gsi.ie for further information)

Type of projects

GSI Postdoctoral Fellowship projects should aim to answer the question posed in the relevant topics above. Members of GSI staff are available to discuss datasets available etc. (contact aoife.braiden@gsi.ie if you require specific information/contact details). All projects must clearly define the research question, methodology, expected outputs, expected impact and dissemination activities.

Duration of project

Postdoctoral Fellowships may be either 24 months or 36 months duration. Applicants who select 24 months may not extend their project to 36 months after applications are received. The duration of the project must be appropriate for the project described.

Definitions

Applicant – the Applicant is the person responsible for leading and managing the project. They must be employed in the host organisation for the duration of the project and will act as the point of contact. They must hold a qualification/have relevant experience in the aspect of the work to be undertaken (this must be demonstrated in their cv).

GSI Fellow – successful applicants will be referred to as GSI Postdoctoral Fellows.

Mentor – the Mentor is the senior academic expert who will host and mentor the Fellow. It is expected that the Mentor will have particular expertise or experience that will benefit the Fellow and the project. They will also provide the necessary support structures to allow the Fellow to carry out their research successfully (this may be personnel, infrastructure etc.). The Mentor must be a full-time member of staff in the host organisation for at least the first 50% of the term of the Fellowship.

Host organisation – this must be a Higher Education Institute in Ireland. Valid tax clearance certificates must be supplied on request.

Authorised person – the application must be signed by the Research Office of the host organisation. The signature indicates the organisation's willingness and ability to host the award in terms of financial, human and physical resources required.

Eligibility

For Postdoctoral Fellowships, Applicants must have a contract of employment with the Host Organisation for the duration of the award (though this is not necessary at the time of application). Applications from researchers who are currently outside the Republic of Ireland are only eligible if the Applicant will be physically and administratively hosted in an organisation in RoI, full-time, for the duration of the award.

CVs for the Applicant and each Mentor must be submitted with the proposal and must demonstrate the ability of each to carry out their responsibilities within the project.

Researcher profile and cvs

Each Applicant must attach a cv which should be no longer than 4 pages and must include;

- Contact details
- Recent employment history
- Academic qualifications or equivalent experience
- Publications
- Other information relevant to the proposal

Academic Mentors must attach a cv which should be no longer than 2 pages and must include;

- Contact details
- Recent employment history
- Academic qualifications or equivalent experience
- Key Publications
- Other information relevant to the proposal

A 2 page (max.) cv may be included for other *essential* academic or industry partners involved in the project.

Submission

Applications must be made using the template provided and applicants must adhere to the formatting rules. Submissions must be received by 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 before the assigned deadline (**5pm, November 14th 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. Maximum allowable budget per year is €75,000 (including up to 10% contribution to indirect costs).

Projects can be co-funded by cash/in-kind contributions from 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 existing data etc.

A maximum of 10% of eligible direct costs may be added as a contribution towards indirect costs.

Eligible costs

- Total salary costs of the Fellow (including all pension, taxes etc.)
- Consumables (e.g. access fees, lab consumables, consumable items for fieldwork)
- Software licenses
- Publication fees
- Travel (including fieldwork travel costs)
- Max 10% indirect costs

Examples of non-eligible costs (not exhaustive)

- Protective clothing
- Salary/staff costs for other staff in the Host organisation (including Mentors, students etc.)
- Maintenance contracts
- Office equipment/furniture
- Durable equipment

If there are any queries regarding eligible and non-eligible costs please contact aoife.braiden@gsi.ie before submitting your proposal.

Financial reports signed by the Institute finance office will be required annually. Payments will only be made once these are received and approved by GSI.

Budget Justification

This section should clearly justify the planned expenditure including expected timings.

Reporting

The project must be completed within the designated time (i.e. either 24 or 36 months). A mid-term review will be scheduled before the start of the project. This will include a written report and possible site visit. A final report must be submitted before the end of month 25 or 37 as relevant. Failure to submit these reports on time will result in exclusion from subsequent calls. 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.

If the mid-term review indicates that the project is not adhering to the terms and conditions, and/or is significantly behind schedule, the GSI reserves the right to withdraw funding.

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 addressing the issue now. Projects relating to GSI programmes should clearly demonstrate how the results of the research will be incorporated into the relevant programmes and/or how the research will bring added value to the programme.
- (ii) Objectives and scientific/engineering targets beyond the state of the art. This should outline how the project will expand our knowledge beyond current understanding and clearly outline the objective of the planned work.
- (iii) Methodology & Implementation plan should include the approach to be used along with 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 realistic. They should link clearly to the milestones and timing of the project as well as the budget.

Outputs/Deliverables should include a final report (including financial report), open-access peer-reviewed publications and at least two of the following:

- Presentations at international conferences (clearly including work funded by the Postdoctoral Fellowship programme). A copy of the presentation should be submitted to the GSI following the conference and/or with the final report.
- Submission to Horizon2020 or similar research call
- Maps and digital data set(s)
- Development of new methods, equipment, techniques, technology or cross-disciplinary applications
- Patents, trademarks, copyrights, database rights
- Knowledge transfer or exchange e.g. partnerships, networks, events, resources
- University level short course

Expected impact/value

The outputs of the project should impact one or more of the following;

- Scientific discovery

- Development of new methodology/toolkits
- Development of new software/prototypes
- Initial studies from which the results are expected to be used for Horizon2020 applications (in this case, the relevant Horizon2020 calls or programmes should be identified)
- Positive societal impact
- Contribution to policy and governance
- Research training and development of research group
- Economic development and employment
- Communications and dissemination of geoscience

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 under the following criteria;

- Quality of Scientific/Engineering project described (40%)
- Impact/value (30%)
- Quality of Applicant and suitability of Mentor (20%)
- Implementation, management plan and value for money (10%)

Please remember, reviewers will be international peers so may be unfamiliar with specific Irish geology, acronyms etc.

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 initial review stage) or funding will be withdrawn (at mid-term review or after).

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 aoife.braiden@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.

Where data is collected 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 will be determined before the start of the project on a case by case basis.

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

www.gsi.ie

www.tellus.ie

www.infomar.ie

For clarification on any issue raised above please contact Dr Aoife Braiden, research@gsi.ie