2021 Enterprise Partnership Scheme:

Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

All enquiries should be submitted to the research office of the proposed Higher Education Institution. See the Terms and Conditions document for further details and context:

Similar questions have been grouped below in the following themes:
1. Eligibility
2. Applying to the Scheme
3. Application Forms

1. ELIGIBILITY

Am I eligible to apply?

Please carefully read the Terms and Conditions document and Guide to Applicants to ascertain eligibility.

I am registered for a PhD and currently in my first Year 1. I am funded by a HEI bursary. Am I eligible to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme.

You are eligible to apply to the scheme as HEI-funded bursaries are included in the Guide for Applicants (eligibility quiz, see blue text below) and the funding duration for which you would be eligible is specified in the Terms and Conditions document which is dependent upon your date of first registration.

5. Have you completed part of the postgraduate degree for which you to receive Council funding on the basis of any of the following: 1. being self-funded; 2. being in receipt of a Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) grant; 3. being in receipt of a HEI bursary or HEI scholarship; or 4. being in receipt of a Central Remedial Clinic Ciaran Barry Graduate Scholarship?

Is it possible to have two Enterprise partners sharing the cost on one application? Providing they have similar research interest for the project.

It is not permissible to have two separate enterprise partners.

I wish to enquire whether the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Coillte are eligible enterprise partners for the IRC Enterprise Partnership Scheme

Both the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Coillte are eligible to act as Enterprise Partners for the Enterprise Partnership Scheme (EPS), as they would both be considered eligible public bodies, depending on the project proposed. See the FAQ below on 'What type of public bodies are eligible?'.

Is there a limit to how many awards can be supported by an Enterprise Partner?

There is no limit to how many applicants an Enterprise Partner can support, as long as they have the financial capabilities to support the applicant for the entire duration of their Award.

Please ensure that your organisation can adequately support an applicant both financially and as a Mentor in research before agreeing to support their application.

All applications must be distinct and must be written by the applicant who discusses the draft with the supervisor/mentors to enable their input. Any application found in breach of the Council's plagiarism regulations will be automatically deemed ineligible and the applicant may be permanently banned from future Irish Research Council Awards.

What are terms for the new Enterprise Partner contribution waiver for NGOs? *Updated*

Under the 2021 Enterprise Partnership Scheme, eligible charities may avail of a waiver for the first-year enterprise partner contribution for all new applications to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme 2021. The one third contribution applies from the second year onwards for awards greater than one year. They must be on the Irish Charities Regulator here and must be visibly seeking public donations. As per the Terms and Conditions, charities must enquire directly with the Council by 31 December 2020 in relation to the waiver. They should email into schemes@research.ie prior to this deadline. Waiver approval is at the sole discretion of the Council. This is subject to the availability of funding and may be offered on a ranked basis.

Does the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver only cover new applicants to a degree?

No, the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver also applies to applicants who have previously registered for a degree, as long as they are a new Awardee under the Enterprise Partnership Scheme 2021.

For example, if an applicant applies for 36-months funding while in the first year of a 48-month PhD, the first 12 months of their funding period would be covered by the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver. The Enterprise Partner would then be required to finance the remaining 24-months of the degree.

Is the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver only for new Enterprise Partners? And is there a limit to how many applicants with waivers an Enterprise Partner can support

No, the Enterprise Partner contribution waiver applies to both new and previously eligible NGOs. There is no limit, providing the Enterprise Partner could adequately support the applicant following the first 12 months of their award.

Would it be possible to obtain/request a complete or partial list of previous enterprise partners?

Yes, please follow this link to use our searchable database of previous awards – you can search under the three relevant schemes – Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate), Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postdoctoral) and the Employment-Based Programme.

Is there any stipulation with regard to the number of years post-degree i.e. a person that graduated from their primary degree 10-15 years ago? *Updated*

For applicants to the postgraduate award, there is no limit. As long as the applicant has completed their I/II.1 honours degree or Master's by **30 June 2021** they are eligible.

For applicants to the Postdoctoral award, there is a limit. Postdoctoral applicants must have been awarded their doctoral degree within the five-year period before **31 May 2021**. Extension to this five-year period can be considered on provision of documented evidence of an eligible career break; career breaks of up to five years are taken into account. Eligible career breaks include: maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, parental leave, prolonged sick leave, carer's leave. For the purposes of this condition, the date of graduation will be taken into account. Postdoctoral applicants must not have been employed as a postdoctoral researcher for more than five years as of 31 May 2021.

Is there any stipulation with regard to WHERE the Enterprise Partner can be based?

No, Enterprise Partners do not have to be based in the Republic of Ireland to be eligible for the Enterprise Partnership Scheme. However, international Enterprise Partners must be internationally credible, and all Enterprise Partners are subject to a background credit check. Furthermore, international Enterprise Partners may be asked to fulfil their Enterprise Partner contribution (one-third of the overall funding budget per annum) as one payment at the start of the award term. In the event that an Awardee terminates or otherwise completes their Award early, all outstanding funding will be returned to the Enterprise Partner on a pro-rata basis.

A prospective applicant is presently: carrying out a 2 year research masters which is being funded by a company. He would like to turn the masters into a PhD by adding an extra 2 years. Is he/she eligible to apply?

If the PhD would not funded without a successful EPS award or would be self-funded, then the applicant would be eligible to apply – see the Guide for Applicants (eligibility quiz). Note the

eligibility and funding duration is influenced by date of first registration, see table in Clause 5.4 in the Terms and Conditions document.

Is it possible for a non-EU student or postdoc to apply this call? *Updated*

Yes, though please note the strict award start date of 1 September 2021. Arrangements with respect to immigration will be a matter between the applicant, his/her HEI and the relevant immigration authorities of the state.

I have a question regarding supervisory roles and postgraduate/postdoctoral fellowship applications.

We have a lecturer who is under contract for the duration of his current funding, but who is not a permanent member of academic staff. The researcher wants to supervise a postgraduate student and a postdoc under the respective IRC Enterprise Scholarship and IRC Postdoctoral Fellowship schemes.

Is he/she eligible to be a named supervisor as long as his current contract will extend beyond the completion dates of these programmes?

Yes, as long as this fits with HEI or RPO guidelines, this lecturer would be eligible.

The lecturer needs to be registered by a Research Officer as both a supervisor and a mentor in order to allow them to be associated with applications for EPS (Postgraduate) and EPS (Postdoctoral) respectively.

What type of public bodies are eligible?

An eligible public body is a public service body with specific scientific or cultural infrastructure that is integral to the conduct and completion of the proposed research. As such it depends on the proposed project as to whether the body is eligible.

It should be clearly explained in both the main application form and in the enterprise mentor form, exactly what the public body is making available that is required for the research project that it cannot obtain elsewhere. The Council retains the right to query this at any point in the assessment process, awarding process or during maintenance of the award.

HEI/RPOs are not eligible enterprise partners.

Does the IRC consider applications which are outside the eligibility criteria under provisions 3.1.1 of the Terms and Conditions of the Enterprise Partnership Scheme? All applicants: 3.1.1. must have completed an honours bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree by 31 June 2021. If an awardee does not have a first-class or upper second-class honours bachelor's, or the equivalent, degree, they must possess a master's degree. *Updated*

You would not be eligible for our Enterprise Partnership Scheme, though you may be eligible on these criteria for our similar Employment-Based Postgraduate Programme.

Degree results as entered in the application form and endorsed by the HEI must be the applicant's overall results and be verifiable as such on official transcript(s). If official transcripts do not confirm

the applicant's overall result and date of award exactly as detailed in the application, any conditional offer will be withdrawn. All transcripts must be appropriately stamped or endorsed confirming that they are official documents of the institution.

If a final grade is not available at the time of application, an indicative grade can be included in the application form as long as it clearly states that this is an indicative grade. If you are using an indicative grade, please list details of your grades from the previous years in the section on 'additional information relating to the degree'. These must match the transcripts.

Can the applicant be an existing employee of the enterprise partner?   *new*

Yes, employees of the Enterprise Partner are eligible to apply to the Enterprise Partnership Scheme. For successful applicants, postgraduate scholars will be registered as full-time students with the HEI and receive the stipend from the HEI, and postdoctoral fellows will be employed by the HEI/RPO.

I am wondering if there is a rule preventing a potential PhD student applying for funding under the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme and the Enterprise Partnership Scheme? *new*

An applicant may submit to the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Programme in addition to either the Enterprise Partnership Scheme or the Employment-Based Programme.

2. APPLYING TO THE SCHEME

If my application is successful, is it possible to start my award earlier/later? *Updated*

All Enterprise Partnership Scheme awards are required to start on 1 September 2021.

I am currently undertaking a Master's degree, however my final results (full academic transcripts) might not be released before the application deadline. What documentation can I use to indicate my academic qualifications? *Updated*

In the event you are applying before the completion of your degree, you are asked to provide an indicative grade based on your progress to date, previous grades from coursework, etc, and academic transcripts from previous degrees (where applicable). Please ensure that this indicative grade is as accurate as possible – differences in results stated during the application versus actual final grade will result in your application being deemed ineligible, as will significant differences between expected and actual. Ensure that it is clear on your application that this is indicative.
You will need to have a completed first-class or upper-second class honours bachelors, and if not a Master's, by **31 June 2021**.

How do I register my enterprise partner?

If the partner organisation is not previously registered on the online system, the applicant can prompt the organisation to register by completing the 'REQUEST ENTERPRISE PARTNER REGISTRATION" section in the application form - see the Guide for Applicants."

How can an applicant remove an incorrectly assigned referee?

We do not recommend changing supporting participants (supervisor/mentor, enterprise mentor or referees) on an application. If a participant is changed, it is the responsibility of the applicant to

inform them not to submit a form or an incorrect type of form. There are details on how to change a supporting participant in the Guide for Applicants.

*NB*There can be no alterations to applications once submitted or after the deadline*NB*

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the supporting participants complete their respective forms through the online system by the exact stated deadline. These forms will not be accepted by email, in hardcopy or by any other means. Once an application has been submitted, an applicant can view if the supporting forms have been submitted/completed – see the Guide for Applicants.

I am having a technical error, what should I do?

Before reporting any technical issues, please check the relevant guides available on the webpage (e.g. Guide for Applicants), save your draft and log out of the system. Check that you are using the most up to date browser and a PC/laptop (not a tablet or phone) before logging back in. Take a screenshot of the issue and please email it to schemes@research.ie

The Council is not in the position to respond to emails where the information is readily available in the Terms & Conditions, any of the guides or other documentation.

3. APPLICATION FORMS

I have just started my application but the application process looks a little different to previous years.

Applicants are requested to refer closely to the online guides when making their applications. The Guide for Applicants has been designed specifically to aid each applicant and provides a step by step instruction for each part of the online application form.

During the application process for the IRC postgraduate scholarship, a supervisor is requested. When I try to look up any of my supervisor their names are not present. I asked my supervisors, and they confirmed that they are registered as a supervisor with their research office.

Please follow the Guide for Applicants – you will need to associate a host body with your application form before being able to assign a supervisor/mentor in Ireland.

We wish to confirm who the "primary contact" should be?

The primary contact's role depends on the size of the organisation. The primary contact should be someone who has the authority to agree to our conditions on behalf of the organisation. In the case of a large organisation, a HR/finance person would be suitable as long as they are someone that can confirm that the organisation will agree to the Terms & Conditions including providing the financial and mentoring contribution, or in a smaller organisation a CEO/director may be more appropriate.

It is important to get the Enterprise Partner registered well in advance of the deadline as an application will not be able to have an Enterprise Mentor assigned without this – this is a requirement for submission of an application.

The Enterprise Partner Registration Page asks for a registered company number, however our type of organisation does not have one, what should we do?

If your type of organisation does not have a registered company number, enter '0' please.

I currently hold an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship. Can I continue with the same host and some mentor for this call. Is there any requirement that I should not select the same host and academic mentor what I have had in the past? *Updated*

The sections referring to mobility in the application form have been removed. It is acceptable to continue with the same host and academic mentor.

You may have previously held a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship as long as the funding term will be complete by time the EPS PD award is to commence (Q3 2021) and if you fulfil the other eligibility requirements, e.g. must have been awarded doctoral degree within the five-year period before 31 March 2021 (either graduation date or hardbound corrected thesis submission date).

Can you confirm that the Financial Justification section has been removed from the online application for Employment and Enterprise Schemes?

The Financial Justification section of the Application has been removed from the online application form.

May an applicant apply to both the Enterprise Partnership Scheme and the equivalent Government of Ireland scheme? *Updated*

An applicant may apply to both, although if they accept an offer on one they need to withdraw from the other process.

However, applicants can only apply to either the Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate) or the Employment-Based Programme.

For postdoctoral applications, you may have previously held a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship, while applying for a Enterprise Partnership Scheme Postdoctoral Fellowship but not the converse, i.e. to be eligible for the GOI Postdoctoral Fellowship, you must not have held an EPS Postdoctoral Fellowship.

I understand that NGOs are eligible for fee waivers. Is the fee waiver required to be mentioned on the application form or the budget? *Updated*

As per the Terms and Conditions, charities must enquire directly with the Council by 31 December 2020 in relation to the waiver. They should email into schemes@research.ie prior to this deadline. Waiver approval is at the sole discretion of the Council. This is subject to the availability of funding and may be offered on a ranked basis. It is not part of the main application or budget.