



**Workshops to cultivate Interdisciplinary Research in Ireland-  
Call for Proposals from Research-Performing Organisations:  
FAQs 5 November 2015**

**NOTE THAT THIS DOCUMENT (dated 5 November 2015) SUPERCEDES ANY VERSIONS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED**

***Can an institution submit more than one workshop proposal?***

Proposals will not be accepted from individual institutions. Only proposals from consortia of institutions will be considered. Individual institutions can be part of more than one consortium and therefore the matter of how many proposals it is part of, either as a lead applicant or other member is a matter for the institution to decide having explored the possibilities with potential partners.

***Does the proposal submitted by the lead applicant need to be signed by a college officer?***

Yes. Consortium proposals must be signed by the Registrar or Vice-President for Research

***Who needs to sign the letter of support? Guidelines say ‘senior representative’. Is this the Head of Department or the Research Office?***

For RPO partners, the Vice-President for Research or Registrar must sign the letter of support. For non-RPO partners, the Chief Officer of the organisation should sign the letter of support.

***Who should the contact point be? The Principal Investigator, someone in Department or someone in the Research Office? (Page 9 “Proposals will include a nominated person within the lead applicant’s RPO who will act as a contact point for the Council”)***

This is a matter for the consortium/lead applicant, depending on the implementation structure in place. The person should be capable of representing the consortium as a single point of contact for the Irish Research Council over the duration of the project.

***I have a query regarding the recent call for Creative Connections. Is it aimed at institution (HEI) level applications which aim to generate new ways to incite interdisciplinary research in Ireland or is it for academics who already have a research area in mind, but who want to use the funding to host events which will explore the potential for networks and synergies? Essentially do you expect applications from a group of academics or from institutes and their research offices?***

The call is aimed at institutional-level applications and is designed to support national, inter-institutional progress on the cultivation of interdisciplinary research. Proposals for workshops can be thematically organised, but should be of sufficient scale to be inclusive and impactful. If academics have ideas or proposals for workshops it is advised that they contact the relevant personnel in their research office.

***Is student hourly help an eligible cost?***

Up to €15,000 is available to contribute to the costs of any one workshop. It is a matter for the consortia to decide how the funding is utilised, consistent with the policies and procedures of the member institution(s).

***Does the Principal Investigator need to be a permanent full time member of academic staff? Can a Research Office put in a bid?***

Proposals are sought from consortia of institutions. This is not a Call for Interdisciplinary Research and therefore the need for a named PI does not arise and the issue of contractual status is not relevant. Research Offices may be the responsible party within institutions in relation to the submission of a proposal and, if successful, the implementation of a workshop.

***On page 6, what does 'regionally-balanced' mean?***

The IRC will, in assessing proposals, have regard to the need for reasonable regional coverage in the roll-out of this initiative, in the interests of optimising participation and impact across the higher education and research community

***The guidance mentions "sufficient critical mass and scale" but did you have an optimal consortium size in mind?***

The minimum consortium size is two eligible institutions. Regardless of the size of the consortium, the proposal should be for workshop(s) that have broad appeal to the research-active community, across all disciplines, in order to maximise impact and the stimulation of interdisciplinary thinking and development.

***Can a single application involve more than one workshop if resources allow; for example, could one workshop take place earlier in 2016 and one later?***

Yes. Consortia can propose more than one workshop in 2016.

***Can the focus of the workshop be as broad or as specific as desired?***

The scope and content of each workshop is a matter for each consortium. Proposals should provide a rationale for the planned approach, and how the approach makes a substantial contribution to the overarching objectives of the Call.

***Does the workshop content have to map directly on to current H2020 priorities?***

This approach is not mandatory.

***Can partners include statutory and voluntary service organisations/groups/committees and is there a limit on the number of partners?***

Yes, consortia can include statutory and voluntary organisations. There is no limit on

partners, however the consortium must include at least two eligible research-performing institutions, one of whom must be the lead applicant.

***Can an academic/co-applicant join more than one application if so desired?***

Proposals are accepted from consortia of eligible research-performing institutions. Individual institutions can be part of more than one consortium.

***How are STEM and AHSS defined for this call? Would it be the same as for the New Horizons call?***

Yes. The Council's list of STEM disciplines is available here:

[http://www.research.ie/sites/default/files/annex\\_b\\_stem\\_disciplines.pdf](http://www.research.ie/sites/default/files/annex_b_stem_disciplines.pdf)

The Council's list of AHSS disciplines is available here:

[http://www.research.ie/sites/default/files/annex\\_a\\_ahss\\_disciplines\\_0.pdf](http://www.research.ie/sites/default/files/annex_a_ahss_disciplines_0.pdf)

***What is an ideal consortium size in this instance?***

The minimum consortium size is two eligible institutions. Regardless of the size of the consortium, the proposal should be for workshop(s) that have broad appeal to the research-active community, across all disciplines, in order to maximise impact and the stimulation of interdisciplinary thinking and development.

***Should all workshops funded in this call take place in Quarter 1 of 2016?***

No, workshops can be proposed for different times of the year.

***As the aim is a 'regionally-balanced set of workshops', would it be preferable for collaborating institutions to be within the same geographical region?***

The Council will assess each proposal on its merits and the rationale outlined for the approach(es) proposed.

***I am interested in applying for this call with some partners from other RPOs (and SMEs), but I wanted to confirm: are such partners only to be based in Ireland and Northern Ireland?***

Consortium partners can be drawn from outside the island of Ireland, however consortia must include at least two Irish eligible RPOs, of whom one must be the lead applicant.

***Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by the RPO?***

Proposals will not be accepted from individual institutions. Only proposals from consortia of institutions will be considered. Individual institutions can be part of more than one consortium and therefore the matter of how many proposals it is part of,

either as a lead applicant or other member is a matter for the institution to decide having explored the possibilities with potential partners.

***The eligibility document lists three eligible RPOs (other than HEIs) as follows: ESRI (The Economic and Social Research Institute), Teagasc and The Discovery Programme. Is this a comprehensive list or would you consider other organisations such as the HSE to be an eligible RPO?***

The Council's list of eligible RPOs is a comprehensive list. The HSE is not an eligible RPO. Entities such as the HSE or other types of organisations can still be partners in the consortium. The funding for successful awards can only be transferred to the lead RPO.

***Is it possible for organisations such as the HRB-TMRN to apply to become an eligible RPO in time for this call or for any subsequent workshop calls you may have in 2016?***

Additions to the Council's list of eligible RPOs are not envisaged pending the outcome of the Call. Further information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/nm4el23>. If the HRB-TMRN or indeed another similar type of entity is independent of an eligible RPO, the entity could be a partner in a consortium, but not as an RPO.

***I am managing an IDR project which involves another partner and am wondering if we are eligible to apply to host the IDR workshop.***

Proposals are sought from consortia of institutions. The call is aimed at institutional-level applications and is designed to support national, inter-institutional progress on the cultivation of interdisciplinary research. If academics have ideas or proposals for workshops it is advised that they contact the relevant personnel in their research office.

***Is it possible for consortia members that are non-eligible RPOs to receive some funding?***

Where a consortium proposal is successful, funding will be allocated by the Council to the lead RPO. How the consortium wishes to apply the funding received, including to non-RPO partners in the consortium, is a matter for the members of the consortium.

**ENDS**

**5 November 2015**