



Research Fellowships 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Question: Is the Research Fellowship for post-doctoral researchers?

Answer: The Research Fellowships are for post-doctoral researchers, medical doctors, nurses and other researchers who meet the eligibility criteria and are committed to developing a career in cancer research.

Question: Can I apply for a Research Fellowship if I have just completed my PhD?

Answer: No, you must have a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years further research experience in order to apply.

Question: Are non-Irish citizens living in Ireland eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, if you are a non-Irish citizen but are eligible to study or work in Ireland, and you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for a Scholarship or Fellowship.

Question: Can I apply to study abroad, such as in the USA?

Answer: No, funding is only available for research being conducted in Ireland.

Question: Is there an upper age limit to the application?

Answer: No, there is no upper age limit.

Question: In terms of research experience, should I consider the date in which I submitted my doctoral thesis or the date in which I graduated with my doctoral degree when calculating my research experience.

Answer: Applicants are required to have completed their doctoral degree (date of thesis submission) within five years of the closing date for applications.

Question: I have applied to the incorrect funding opportunity; can I apply for the correct scheme using my current email address?

Answer: Please contact the Helpdesk (research@irishcancer.ie, 01 2310 583). Your details will be removed from our online system allowing you to apply to the correct funding opportunity.

Institutes:

Question: Are the Research Fellowships tenable in universities in Northern Ireland?

Answer: Fellowships are tenable only for individuals who propose to carry out their research at host institutions in the Republic of Ireland. This is because the money raised for the Irish Cancer Society to fund cancer research is raised in the Republic of Ireland.

Question: Can I only apply for funding at an Irish host institution?

Answer: Yes, funding is only available for research to be undertaken at Irish host institutions.

Question: Must the research be carried out in Ireland?

Answer: Yes.

Mentor:

Question: Can a principal investigator be a mentor to more than one Research Fellowship applicant?

Answer: Yes, a principal investigator can mentor more than one Research Fellowship applicant.

Question: Is it permitted to use your proposed mentor as one of your referees?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you have to be a permanent member of staff in order to be a Mentor?

Answer: A Mentor must hold a post either permanent or on contract basis that covers the duration of the Research Fellowship.

Question: Why does my Mentor need to update their online CV as part of the application process?

Answer: The research track record and the record of supervision of the Mentor will be assessed as part of the overall Research Fellowship application.

Funding:

- Question: Is there an overall target for the amount of funding granted per project?
- Answer: The maximum funding granted for a Fellowship is €75,000 per year for a maximum of three years.
- Applicants may also apply for a further €10,000 for mobility funding to travel to a national or an international research institution for up to a maximum of six months during the Fellowship.
- Question: Is it permitted to request funding for equipment?
- Answer: Large pieces of equipment will not be funded. If small pieces of equipment are necessary this must be clearly indicated in the 'Reasons for support requested'.
- Question: Is the Mobility Element mandatory?
- Answer: The Mobility Element is optional for applicants; however, this funding should be used to strengthen your proposed Training and Development plan. **Please note** that applicants may change the details of the mobility element during their Research Fellowship and for this reason applicants must reapply for this funding at least three months in advance of the period of travel.
- Question: Can I use the Mobility Element funding to visit research institutions within the Republic of Ireland.
- Answer: The Mobility Element funding may be used to visit research institutions based nationally or internationally.
- Question: Will there be a call for project grants in 2012?
- Answer: There will be a targeted call for prostate cancer project grants in 2012. Information is available from www.cri.cancer.ie/ or by contacting the Helpdesk at research@irishcancer.ie or by telephone at 01 2310 583.

Salaries:

- Question: Are there set salaries to adhere to?
- Answer: Please refer to the Irish University Association's salary scale. Your number of years experience will determine your point on the salary scale.
- Question: How much do I need to allow for PRSI and extra expenses etc?
- Answer: You need to allow for PRSI in your financial information. Please contact the research office at the proposed host institution for advice in relation to these costs.

Question: Do I need to seek my own salary when applying for a Research Fellowship?
Answer: You should apply for at least part of your salary when applying for a Fellowship. If you are receiving part of your salary from another funding source, please specify the time you propose to allocate to each research project.

NOTE:

When entering your financial information, you must allow for an adequate consumables budget to cover the costs of your research proposal. Typically, this ranges from €18,000 to €20,000 per annum.

Number of Awards:

Question: How many fellowships are available?
Answer: This is dependent on the amount of funding available.
The Irish Cancer Society funded three Research Fellowships in 2009, three in 2010, and four in 2011.

Date of Awards

Question: When will applicants find out if they are successful?
Answer: Applicants will find out if they have been shortlisted for interview or not in early April. Applicants will be informed if they have been successful in early May.

Commencement of Research Fellowship

Question: When do successful Research Fellowships commence?
Answer: The Research Fellowships will begin in October 2012.

Grant Deadline

Question: When do applications need to be in by?
Answer: The online application form (including completed electronic Declaration of Support) must be submitted by **3pm on Wednesday 1st February 2012**.
The hardcopy Declaration of Support, which includes original signatures and institutional stamp, must be received by the Irish Cancer Society by 5pm on Wednesday 8th February 2012.
Please note that Declarations of Support received after this date will not be accepted and as a result your application will not be reviewed.

Question: Where should I send my hardcopy Declaration of Support?
Answer: The hardcopy version of the Declaration of Support should be sent to:

Dr Eilish Lynch, Assistant Research Officer, Irish Cancer Society, 43/45 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. This should be received by the Society by 5pm on Wednesday, 8th of February 2012.

The Application Form:

Question: I can't edit my Mentor's information in the application section?

Answer: You cannot directly edit information in the tab for 'Proposed Host Institution and Research Mentor' in 'My Application'. This information comes directly from your CV and from your Mentor's CV. If you want to change information in this text box, you will have change this information in your CV or ask your Mentor to amend their information within their CV.

Question: How often should I save my application?

Answer: Please note that you should save your information regularly, **at least every 30 minutes**, as the online system automatically logs out after 45 minutes. We recommend that you type and save your information in a word document before inserting it into the online application form to reduce the risk of losing any of your work.

Question: Can I enter additional words in excess of the word count limit for sections of my application?

Answer: Applicants must strictly adhere to the word count limits for each section of their application.

Question: Can I edit my application after submission?

Answer: Once you have pressed the 'Submit' button, you can no longer edit your application.

Question: I applied for the wrong type of funding, can this be changed?

Answer: If you want to change to apply for the other scheme in advance of the deadline, we can delete your account and you can re-register. Please email research@irishcancer.ie with your request.