

Health Research Awards 2010 **Frequently Asked Questions**

Applicant/Eligibility

Can a Principal Investigator submit more than one application?

No, only one application per Principal Investigator will be considered in this round.

Does a post-doctoral fellow applying for their own salary have to have last author publications?

No not necessarily, a post-doctoral fellow applying for their own salary is required to have senior author publications; for the purpose of this call senior author is defined as first, last or corresponding author on an original research publication. Please note, post-doctoral fellows applying for their own salary must provide a statement of support regarding their independent investigator status (i.e. own office and research space for duration of award, have previous senior-author publications).

If an applicant has a joint contract with the HSE and an academic institution can they still apply?

Yes, applicants with a joint contract with the HSE and an academic institution are eligible to apply.

Can a Principal Investigator in an academic post request a salary?

The HRB does not fund the salary and related costs of academic staff within research institutions (including buy out from teaching time etc.). If Principal Investigator's who are in an academic post request salary the application will be deemed ineligible.

Co-Applicants and Collaborators

Can a named researcher who will be employed on the project be a co-applicant?

Yes, a named researcher who will be employed on the project may also act as a co-applicant. Please note the HRB does not fund the salary and related costs of academic staff within research institutions (including buy out from teaching time etc.).

Can a post doctorate researcher be a co-applicant?

Yes a post doctorate researcher may be a co-applicant.

Does a co-applicants contract have to cover the duration of the award?

No, there are no requirements for the duration of a co-applicants contract.

Can there be more than two co-applicants?

No, the maximum number of co-applicants allowed is two.

Do co-applicants need to have support letters?

No, co-applicants are not required to send in a letter of support.

Can a co-applicant/collaborator be from outside Ireland?

Yes co-applicants/collaborators from outside Ireland are welcome.

Will the HRB pay for visits from or to co-applicants/collaborators?

Yes visits to or from co-applicants/collaborators may be included under running costs.

Can a collaborator be from private enterprise?

Yes, a collaborator may be from private enterprise. Applications from a private enterprise are encouraged where they add value to the project for example in terms of access to expertise, technologies or reagents. The HRB does not have the capacity to broker these arrangements. The terms of the collaboration should be determined early and relevant agreements must be in place by the onset of the project. Consideration should be given to issues such as relative responsibilities, governance arrangements, intellectual property rights, reporting and access to data and samples.

Can a collaborator receive payment for their role in the project?

No, a collaborator will participate in some aspect of the proposal but will not draw salary or receive any form of compensation for their role in the project.

Can a co-applicant receive payment for their role in the project?

A co-applicant may receive a salary only if they are also the named researcher who will be hired to carry out the project. Please note the HRB does not fund the salary and related costs of academic staff within research institutions (including buy out from teaching time etc.) thus if the co-applicant is already in receipt of a full time salary then they can not draw salary from the award. Co-applicants cannot receive any other form of compensation for their role in the project.

Does a collaborator's letter of support have to be signed?

Yes, collaborator letters must be signed, dated and sent in hardcopy to Aoife Crowley, Health Research Board, 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 no later than Thursday 26 November 15:00. All signatures must be originals. Electronic signatures or faxed copies are not accepted. Failure to comply with this and failure to submit by the deadline will result in your application being deemed ineligible.

Personnel

Can I hire a PhD student to carry out the project?

Yes, however please note applicants must demonstrate clearly that the level, expertise and experience of proposed research personnel matches the ambition and scale of the project and that they possess the necessary breadth and skills in all methodological areas required to deliver the proposed programme of work. Unlike the HRBs fellowships programmes, this scheme is not framed as a training initiative, and where junior personnel registered for a higher degree are proposed to work on projects, reviewers will thoroughly assess the level of baseline experience matched with the supervisory and up-skilling arrangements proposed in scoring the proposal.

Can I hire more than 1 person to carry out this project?

Yes, please note the type and number of research personnel hired should be the most appropriate to successfully carry out the proposed project.

Budget

How do I determine what gross salary to pay?

Applicants should use the IUA website scales for the most up-to-date recommended salary scales for researchers (<http://www.iua.ie/iua-activities/research.html>). Pay scale used and the level and point on the scale must be stated and justified. No annual salary increases will be paid.

Does the HRB pay pension contributions?

The HRB will pay an employee pension contribution of 5%; this has already been incorporated into the gross salary figure as per the IUA guidelines. As of 1 September 2009, the HRB will cease paying a pension contribution for all awards except where Circular letter 6/2007 applies. Circular Letter 6/2007 states that the pensions contribution of all Public Health Service employees who, on or after 1 June 2007, are granted secondments or periods of special leave with pay to enable them take up appointments with other organisations, including other Public Health Sector organisations, will be increased to 25% of gross pensionable pay. The rate of 25% of gross pensionable pay referred to in this context is the pension contributions to be paid by the body to which the employee is seconded – it does not include any pension contributions which employees make themselves. Where no such arrangements are in place, the HRB will not be liable for costs.

Can I go over the €95,000 cap in one year if my over all budget will still be €295,000 for 3 years?

No, the maximum value of an award is €95,000 per annum.

What is the 30% overhead contribution calculated from?

The overhead payment is 30% of Total Direct Modified Costs excluding student fees, equipment and capital building costs.

What costs are included in the overhead contribution?

The following costs are included in the overhead contribution: recruitment costs, bench fees, animal maintenance, software, contribution to gases, bacteriological media preparation fees, waste fees, bioinformatics access. A copy of the HRB overheads policy can be found at the following link:

http://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/Staging/Documents/RSF/PEER/Policy_Docs/Grant_policies/Policy_on_Usage_of_HRB_Overheads_240108.pdf

The student fees have been set at 2008/2009 levels but the student will be commencing in October 2010?

The HRB pays a contribution to fees for students registered for a higher degree and due to budgetary constraints this contribution has been set at the 2008/2009 fee levels.

I would like to hire a salaried researcher to carry out this project and they would like to register for PhD will the HRB pay their fees?

No, only personnel in receipt of a stipend are eligible to receive a student fee contribution.

Can I hire a consultant to carry out part of the project?

Yes, this cost should be included under running costs.

Submission

I have submitted my application but have just realised I have amendments to make; can I amend the application?

No, once you have submitted your application, you cannot edit or unsubmit it.

I submitted my application but didn't send in my signature page/collaborator letters/letter of support on time, is my application still eligible?

No, signature pages, collaborator letters and letters of support must be signed, dated and sent in hardcopy to Aoife Crowley, Health Research Board, 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 no later than Thursday 26 November 15:00. All signatures must be originals. Electronic signatures are not acceptable. Failure to comply with this and failure to submit by the deadline will result in your application being deemed ineligible.