

# ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 Joint Transnational Call (2021)



Next generation cancer immunotherapy: targeting the tumour microenvironment

## HRB Frequently Asked Questions

**Document revised April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Modifications in red)**

This FAQ is specific to applicants based in Ireland and should be read in addition to the full call information: <http://www.transcan.eu>

**Q: Will HRB fund all research areas under this call?**

**A:** No. Aim 2.3 is explicitly out of scope for HRB funding as it seeks applications for Phase I&II clinical trials. Furthermore, HRB will not support clinical trials and interventions as an approach in any of the other aims. See the HRB Guidance Notes for full information on scope.

**Q: Do Principal Investigators have to be permanent staff members or can senior post-docs apply?**

**A:** No, contracted researchers can apply but the award will not support the salary of the lead applicant/Principal Investigator and two issues apply. (i) relates to the nature of the contract – applications are not limited to those on permanent contracts - individuals on contracts are welcome – but they must have a contract with a host institution for the duration of the grant award or assure the funders that they will be offered a contract for the period of the award if successful, and their application must be endorsed accordingly at application stage by the Host Institution. (ii) relates to the track record and the experience of any applicant relative to the scale, the ambition and complexity of the proposed project – the seniority and experience of any candidate is assessed against the proposed project, which again is not at all related to the nature of the contract but completely linked to the CV of the candidate themselves.

**Q: The country-specific information document suggests that two awards are expected with applicants from Ireland. What will happen if Irish applications score high enough to get funded for more than two awards? Will HRB only fund two?**

**A:** The maximum amount that the HRB can award is €370,000 for researchers based in Ireland in shortlisted proposals, irrespective of the number of proposals shortlisted. It is anticipated that this amount could fund one-two successful projects with participants from Ireland.

**Q: Since €370,000 is available from Irish funds but prioritisation will be assessed internationally, is it possible for projects with researchers based in Ireland not to be funded if they do not rank sufficiently high in the international assessment?**

**A:** Yes. The maximum €370,000 Irish fund will only be spent if researchers based in Ireland form part of a proposal that has been shortlisted for funding based on international peer review.

**Q: Does the maximum contribution from HRB of €370,000 in total include pension costs?**

**A:** Yes, the maximum amount of €370,000 has to include pension costs.

**Q: How should salaries be calculated?**

**A:** For each salaried personnel the following should be taken into account: Gross Annual Salary (negotiated and agreed with host institution). Applicants should use the [IUA Researcher Salary Scales](#). Please state the pay scale used and the level and point on the scale. This should be justified accordingly. No annual salary increases will be paid. For employees who are not academic researchers the relevant pay scales should be used for their profession. Employer's PRSI contribution is calculated at 11.05% of gross salary. Pension provision up to a maximum of 20% of gross salary will be paid to the host institution to enable compliance with the Employment Control Framework (in addition employees will have to contribute 5% of their salary towards pension). The level of employer contribution should be in accordance with the model adopted by the host institution. If applicable, state the amount of employer contribution based on the pro rata salary and note the % of pro rata salary used to calculate this for reference. Exceptions apply 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.

Applicants should use the [IUA Researcher Salary Scales](#). In line with the proposed new pay agreement for State employees please apply a salary contingency of 1% per annum from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021 and of 2% from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 onwards. Please note this contingency should be applied cumulatively year on year.

**Q: What is the overhead rate on an award successfully funded through this scheme?**

**A:** The overhead payment for desk-based research is 25% of Total Direct Modified Costs (excludes student fees, equipment and capital building costs). Otherwise an overhead rate of 30% applies. Please see [HRB Policy Usage of Research Overheads](#)

**Q: Can equipment be funded in this call?**

**A:** Small items of equipment can be included in the budget. Only equipment purchases that are directly required for the research and are deemed not to be easily accessible elsewhere in Ireland are appropriate. All costs must be inclusive of VAT, where applicable.

**Q: Are there any ineligible costs?**

**A:** The following are examples of ineligible costs: external training courses/workshops, inflationary increases, cost of electronic journals, maintenance contracts on equipment, hospitality and entertainment costs; technology transfer or patent costs; conference costs; journal subscriptions; relocation expenses.

**Q: Where will intellectual property generated by the project reside?**

**A:** The management of Intellectual Property (IP) is the responsibility of the host institution. If more than one research body is involved, a joint IP agreement should be in place between the relevant institutions. In the absence of a joint agreement, the management of any IP remains the responsibility of the host institution.

**Q: Are signature pages/letters of support required by the HRB at application stage?**

**A:** Due to the nature of this call, which involves a single submission procedure from transnational consortia, signature pages/letters of support are not required by HRB at time of submission. However, it is the responsibility of the applicants in each country to ensure that their host institution(s) have reviewed and approved all costings prior to submission. Please allow sufficient time for these additional processes.

**Q: Will further information for participants from Ireland be required?**

**A:** At full proposal submission participants from institutions in Ireland will be asked to submit supplementary information to the HRB on the budget, which will justify the budget requested for the partner from Ireland. In addition applicants will be requested to clarify deliverables for the partner from Ireland. This will expedite contract negotiations with HRB in the case of successful consortia with applicants from Ireland. A template requesting this further information required from applicants from Ireland will be provided by the HRB.