



Frequently asked questions

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Q: Which schemes can I apply for?

A: A full list of Wellcome grant schemes covered by the Partnership is listed on Wellcome's site: <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/biomedical-research-partnership-science-foundation-ireland-and-health-research-board> . Each of these schemes has different eligibility criteria, which are listed on Wellcome's website. Eligibility may be affected by, for example, the type of employment contract you hold or the length of time you have been involved in research.

Q: Will funds be ring-fenced by Wellcome for awards under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership?

A: No; applications from the Republic of Ireland will be considered in competition with applications from other countries (including the UK) that are eligible to apply.

Q: Can I apply for an award under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership if I have previously received an award from Wellcome?

A: Yes.

Q. Will my current grant or grant application be affected by these changes?

A: The partnership agreement will only apply to applications submitted to Wellcome after 1 October 2010. Current Wellcome grants, or applications already under consideration with Wellcome, will not be party to the agreement.

Q: Will Wellcome, SFI and the HRB share information about my application?

A: Yes; where an application is made under the Partnership, Wellcome may share some or all of the information within this application, on a confidential basis, with SFI and the HRB. By submitting an application to Wellcome, an applicant from the Republic of Ireland accepts that

Wellcome has the right to share information with SFI and the HRB in this way, without the need to obtain any further consent.

Q: If my application is successful, from which agency will the funding be awarded?

A: Awards under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership will be made by Wellcome to the awardees' host institution. Eligible research bodies are those deemed as such by the HRB and SFI. The grant award will be subject to and administered in accordance with Wellcome grant conditions.

Q: Which agency will manage the award?

A: Wellcome will manage all awards made under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership. Contact points within SFI and the HRB will also be available for assistance with queries at contact@wellcome-ireland.com

Q: Will the progress of awards made under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership be formally reviewed?

A: Yes; grants will be formally reviewed by Wellcome. SFI and the HRB will be informed of the review outcomes as deemed appropriate.

Q: Can I hold more than one award under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership at one time?

A: This may be possible, depending on the type of grant. In the case of certain current large awards, applicants may be requested to justify and explain how they would propose to manage multiple work programmes.

Q: Will the progress and outputs of my previous awards from SFI, the HRB or Wellcome be considered when my application for an award under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership is being assessed?

A: Yes; SFI, the HRB and Wellcome will exchange information regarding the outcome of previous awards where it is considered appropriate.

Q: How many applications under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership can I submit?

A: Applicants may have only one application per award category (e.g. Fellowships, Investigator Awards) under review at any time (including the stage of expression of interest for PRFs).

Q: If my application is declined following full review at Wellcome, can I reapply?

A: Applicants declined for funding following full review of their application at Wellcome may

reapply according to the eligibility criteria specific to the Trust funding scheme applied for. PRF applicants, who are declined a letter of endorsement from SFI and the HRB, may resubmit after 12 months of the date of the decision.

Q: Is there any grant that replaces the former Wellcome Trust Project Grant which facilitated collaboration between investigators?

A: The Wellcome Trust Project Grants are no longer available but collaboration between investigators is possible through other mechanisms.

Q: How do I apply for an Investigator Award?

A: Investigator Award applications should be submitted directly to Wellcome as per instructions on the website (<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/>).

Q: Which criteria distinguish candidates suitable for New Investigator Awards and Senior Investigator Awards?

A: New Investigator Awardees will be within 5 years of their first established academic position and have a demonstrated ability to innovate and drive advances in their field. Senior Investigator Awardees will have held an established academic post for more than 5 years; they will be exceptional researchers at the forefront of their field and have a compelling long-term vision for their research. Further information is available from the Trust <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/investigator-awards-science> .

Q: Will a New Investigator Awardee be funded at the lower end of the allowable funding range and a Senior Investigator Awardee at the upper end?

A: Not necessarily; budget requests should be suited to and justified by the proposed research. Applicants are advised to discuss the scope and scale of their applications with the Trust prior to submission.

Q. Can an applicant on a short-term contract apply for an Investigator Award?

A: Yes; however the host institution must have already offered the applicant a contract of indefinite duration to be continuous from the end of the short-term contract.

Q: How do I apply for a Fellowship Award (other than Principal Research Fellowship)?

A: Fellowship Award applications should be submitted directly to the Wellcome Trust as per instructions on the website (<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/>).

Q: How do I apply for a Principal Research Fellowship?

A: Firstly please **review the full information** for Principal Research Fellowships on Wellcome's website <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/principal-research-fellowships> All prospective applicants are asked to contact Wellcome with a full CV and a brief outline of plans for the fellowship (see section on "how to apply").

Additionally, prospective Principal Research Fellowship candidates from a Host Institution in the Republic of Ireland must submit a concise expression of interest for endorsement (5 pages maximum) to SFI/HRB via contact@wellcome-ireland.com.

The expression of interest should include:

- Brief CV & track record of achievements, which substantiates the candidate's suitability for a PRF;
- Research programme outline & how it will develop within the proposed host institution;
- Justification of the strategic alignment of the candidate's research focus with that of the proposed host institution, including the expertise gap to be addressed;
- Explanation of the relevance of the research programme to the strategic ambitions of SFI, the HRB, & Wellcome, as laid out in their respective Strategic Plans;
- Letter of support from the proposed host institution.

Q: In the case of PRFs, how will my expression of interest be evaluated?

A: Expressions of interest will be evaluated internally by the SFI/HRB Joint Executive Committee, and externally as deemed appropriate.

Q: How will my application be assessed?

A: Information on the review process, decision-making bodies and the assessment criteria is provided for each scheme on Wellcome's website (<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/>).

Q: What is the deadline for applications made under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership?

A: Fellowship applications (except PRFs) should be submitted directly to Wellcome according to the deadlines indicated on the Trust website for the specific scheme applied for. Investigator Award applications will be accepted by Wellcome on a rolling basis. Applicants interested in applying for these schemes should first contact Wellcome to discuss their proposal.

Endorsed applications for Principal Research Fellowships will be accepted by Wellcome on a rolling basis. Applicants interested in applying for this scheme must contact SFI/HRB to seek endorsement prior to submitting applications/preliminary applications to Wellcome.

Q: What are Collaborative Awards, and how do I apply?

A: Collaborative Awards provide flexible support to excellent groups of independent researchers with outstanding track records. Proposals must address important scientific problems that can only be achieved through a collaborative team effort. Please note that the SFI-HRB partnership only supports applications for Collaborative Awards under the Science division. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Wellcome at an early stage of the process for informal advice. In addition, for financial forecasting purposes, collaborative award applicants **must contact** the HRB and SFI after the Wellcome preliminary application deadline date for a given round by submitting their preliminary application form (latest version from Wellcome). The preliminary application should be submitted via email to contact@wellcome-ireland.com and the host institution copied on the email.

Q: How long does the application and review process take?

A: Specific details on the application and review processes for Fellowship (except PRFs) and Investigator Award schemes are available on Wellcome's website (<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/>). The entire application and review process, including application for endorsement, for Principal Research Fellowships may take 12 months or more, depending on the timing of the application.

Q: In the case of PRFs, will relocations from the UK to Ireland be considered?

A: Principal Research Fellowships are particularly suitable for exceptional senior research scientists, currently based overseas, who wish to work in the UK or the Republic of Ireland. Where a prospective PRF candidate holds an established post in the UK or the Republic of Ireland, he/she will be required to make a strong case to justify the requested relocation. This justification should be explicit in the expression of interest for endorsement from SFI/HRB.

Q: Will Wellcome pay overheads under the Partnership? What about pension contributions and VAT?

A: No; Overheads will not be covered by the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership. VAT and pension arrangements will adhere to Wellcome policies.

Q: What is the IP policy related to the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership?

A: Wellcome's policy on intellectual property and patenting will apply.

Q: Can I move my grant to another host institution during the lifetime of the award?

A: Grant holders who wish to transfer their grant from one institution to another should first contact Wellcome to discuss their proposal.

Q. Can the same or similar proposal be concurrently under review for schemes under the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Trust Biomedical Research Partnership, and those of SFI or the HRB?

A: In certain circumstances, Wellcome will accept applications that are concurrently under review with other funding bodies. However, Wellcome advises prospective applicants to contact them directly in advance of submitting any application to confirm the restrictions if any. Where an application under review by Wellcome is subsequently submitted for review under SFI or HRB funding schemes, SFI/HRB will inform Wellcome.