

HRB Research Leader Awards 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

How to apply

How do I apply for the Research Leader Award?

Applicants are strongly advised to carefully read the Guidance Notes prior to application.

The Research Leader Awards scheme will use a two-stage application process consisting of:

1. Open call for Pre-application stage (Stage 1)
2. Invitation of selected applicants to submit a Full Application (Stage 2).

All applications must be made using the HRB online Grant E-Management System GEMS <https://grants.hrb.ie>

Once the Lead Applicant starts the application s/he will be asked to go through a check list of mandatory questions prior to completing the form. In order to continue with the application the Lead Applicant must satisfy the conditions of this check list.

What is the closing date for submission of applications?

The closing date for the call is the **09 May 2019 @ 1pm.**

Lead Applicant

I am an established investigator and already a Professor, can I apply to the scheme?

Yes. The Guidance Notes state we envisage individuals to be at senior lecturer level. However, there is no specific eligibility criterion excluding individuals based on their current academic position, as they can vary among Irish institutions and even more if applying from abroad. Page 9 and 10 of the Guidance Notes explain the type of suitable applicants we are targeting in this scheme and page 10 highlights the criteria for eligibility.

Does a Lead Applicant need to have a minimum of publications as senior author?

There is no minimum amount of publications or other research outputs required for eligibility. However, Lead Applicants must be able to demonstrate a record of significant research contribution to scientific knowledge demonstrated by several relevant research outputs as independent investigator.

If the Lead Applicant has a fixed-term academic contract for less than the duration of the award, can s/he apply?

Yes, once the Host Institution has confirmed it will provide an employment contract to the Lead Applicant for the duration of the award if successful.

I have received several peer-reviewed research grants but never as Lead Applicant, am I eligible to apply?

No, a Lead Applicant must clearly demonstrate, at a minimum, to have, been awarded a research grant which was independently peer-reviewed by a competitive source as Lead Applicant of a value equal or higher than €200K. This also includes being a work package leader of a research grant from the European

Commission with a value equal or above €200K. *For the purposes of this scheme, fellowships or other personal awards directly awarded to the Lead Applicant are eligible. However, PhD studentships, travel bursaries/awards or other small bursaries as well as personal awards where the lead applicant was the named supervisor are not eligible.* In addition, **two** independently peer-reviewed research grants from competitive funding sources as Lead Applicant (or Co-Lead Applicant) and/or co-applicant are required.

I have received a postdoctoral fellowship with a value above 200K, am I eligible to apply under this eligibility criterion?

Yes once you were also awarded an additional **two** independently peer-reviewed research grants of unspecified value from competitive funding sources as Lead, Co-lead or Co-applicant.

My only award above 200K is as supervisor in a fellowship award, am I eligible to apply?

No, personal awards where the lead applicant was the named supervisor (e.g. PhD or Post-doctoral fellowships) are not eligible.

I am currently working abroad; can I apply to the scheme?

Yes, once you have the support from the Host Institution who will recognise you upon receipt of the HRB Award as a member of the academic staff and will cover the salary which is not bought out through the HRB award (up to 50%).

I don't have a joint academic position, can I apply to the scheme in order to protect clinical time for research?

No, clinical time is not eligible to be bought out through these awards

I was previously recipient of a HRB Research Leader Award, am I eligible to apply?

No, you are not eligible to this scheme.

I was awarded a non-HRB grant but there is no mention of the leadership, can I apply?

Please contact the HRB office to check eligibility.

I was recipient of a Clinician Scientist Award, am I eligible to apply?

Technically yes because we did not exclude these awards under the eligibility criteria of the Lead Applicant. However, please note that those awards, similarly to the HRB research Leader Awards, targeted the leadership stage so your career stage is beyond the scope of this scheme.

Can I apply for more than 50% protected time?

No, you cannot. However, we encourage you to negotiate with the Host Institution or the health partner to provide additional support to your salary in order to reach 70 or 80% research protected time during the award. This can also be finalised at stage 2 application or a contract stage.

I have already protected time for research in my current academic position, will the award buy that out?

No the award will protect academic non-research time only.

I have considerable research experience but no PhD. Am I eligible to apply?

No. You must have a PhD to be eligible to apply for a Research Leader Award.

Partners and Collaborators

How many partners can I have?

The maximum number of partners, including the health partner, allowed is five.

Do I have to have a health partner at pre-application stage?

Yes, this is a requirement of the scheme and one of the main requirements that will be checked at eligibility after submission of pre-applications.

Can a Partner receive funding for their role in the project?

Yes, a partner may receive funding for items such as running costs and personnel but will not receive support towards his/her own salary if they are in salaried positions.

Can an international partner receive funding for their role in the project?

Yes, an international partner may receive funding for items such as running costs and personnel but will not receive support towards his/her own salary if they are in salaried positions.

Will Partners approve my applications before submitting it?

No.

Will the HRB pay for visits from or to Partners?

Yes, visits to or from Partners where justified may be included under running costs.

Do I need collaborators at pre-application stage?

No, information will not be requested on collaborators until full application stage, but you are advised to start identifying and working with key collaborators at an early stage. A Collaborator agreement form must be signed by each Collaborator and uploaded with your application at full application stage.

Can a Collaborator be from private enterprise?

Yes, a collaborator may be from private enterprise. Collaborators 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. Please see the HRB Guidelines on Intellectual Properties <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/hrb-guidelines-on-intellectual-property/>

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

Yes, collaborators are eligible to receive funding from the award when properly detailed and justified in the application. Please see the HRB Guidelines on Intellectual Properties <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/hrb-guidelines-on-intellectual-property/>

Scope

I'm not sure if my application fits with the scope of the call.

Guidance and details of the research areas covered in page 6 and 7 of the guidance notes. If you are still unsure after reading this please contact the HRB for further guidance.

Please note that the Lead Applicant must propose a research programme addressing a research topic relevant to a national strategy in Ireland (please see <https://health.gov.ie/policy/>).

Can Pre-clinical research be included as part of the research programme where justified?

No, pre-clinical research is out of scope for RL awards.

Duration

Awards are up to 60 months duration.

Funding

Please note that more details on the budget will be provided at full application stage.

How much can I apply for?

Awards will up to €1.15M for direct costs

- 50% FTE salary and related costs for the Lead Applicant
- Research-related costs

How much can I apply for overheads?

Overheads contribution will be calculated during contract negotiation stage.

The maximum value of the award inclusive of overheads is €1.5M

Supporting Documents

What documents should be uploaded with my application form?

At Pre-Application stage there are no supporting documents to be submitted

Submission

Do I need to contact the Dean of Research to sign off on my application?

As part of the online application process you will be asked to select the **Dean of Research or equivalent person** authorised to endorse research grant applications for your Host Institution. Their approval is necessary to allow the application to be submitted to the HRB. **Please note that as part of the online system the Host Institutions will approve and submit each application on behalf of the applicant.**

Submission process using GEMS

Prior to final submission to the HRB, all applications must first be reviewed and approved within GEMS by the signatory approver at the research office (or equivalent) at the Host Institution (see Appendix V of Guidance Notes). It is critical therefore that Lead Applicants leave sufficient time in the process for the Research Office (or equivalent) in their nominated Host Institution to review, seek clarifications and approve applications prior to the final submission date. This may involve being aware of and complying with any internal Host Institution deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline.

What is the closing date for submission of applications?

All pre-applications must be submitted to the HRB by using HRB GEMS by **Thursday, 09 May 2019 at 13.00**.

How will I know that my application has been successfully submitted?

Once the HI endorses your application it will be sent automatically to the HRB to be considered for funding, a grant application number will be assigned to the application and you will receive a confirmation email.

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.

Stage 2 Application (Full application)**When will I know if I have been short listed for stage 2?**

The Panel will meet to discuss all eligible applications at the end of June. We plan to notify you by early July 2019 and if shortlisted the full application stage will be opened then.

Will I receive feedback from the panel?

Yes, all applicants will receive brief feedback after the panel discussion.