

# Investigator Led Projects 2024

Monday 31st July 2023

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# House Keeping

- Presentation
- Questions and Answers
- Will follow up on outstanding questions
- Provide contact for project specific questions
- Slides and recording will be available

# Overview

- ILP scheme
- Major changes from previous round
- Application
- Review process
- Timeline

# Investigator-Led Projects

# HRB Objective 1



**Invest in research that delivers value for health, the health system, society, and the economy**

*Research that makes a difference*

**Strategy**  
2021–2025

# Investigator-Led Projects (ILP) Call

The **Investigator-Led Projects** scheme aims to support highly innovative and internationally competitive investigator-led projects that can respond to emerging challenges for health and social care.

## The objectives are to:

- Fund research that addresses important questions for health and social care
- Support high quality, internationally relevant research
- Add to the knowledge base at an international level
- Support research that will lead to an improved visibility and standing for Ireland and Irish researchers

# Scope

The ILP scheme provides funding for clearly defined research projects in:

- I. **Patient-oriented research (POR)**
- II. **Population health research (PHR)**
- III. **Health services research (HSR)**

## Patient-Oriented Research (POR)

Patient-oriented research is defined as research conducted with human subjects, or on material of human origin, such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena. The research generally involves patients, samples and/or data from patient and other people who are not patients (e.g., healthy volunteers).

# Patient-Oriented Research

- Pre-clinical Studies supported
- Important stage of research that occurs before testing in humans to find out if a drug, treatment or procedure is likely to be useful.
- Animal studies or alternative pre-clinical study models can be proposed.
- Appropriate evidence must be provided to justify the choice of species, how it resembles the human condition and describing how the pre-clinical study correlates and aligns with the planned future stages of the research study in humans.
- If unsure, please contact HRB to discuss individual projects



# Scope

## Population Health Research (PHR)

Research with the goal of improving the health of the population, or of defined sub-populations, through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational and economic factors determine health status or through the identification of effective interventions for improving health status and reducing health inequalities.

## Health Services Research (HSR)

Research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system through changes to practice and policy. Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organisational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of healthcare and ultimately health and well-being.

# Not in Scope

- × Basic biomedical research
- × Literature reviews, audits, surveys, needs assessments or technology development
- × Results are not generalisable or actionable beyond the local/national setting
- × Definitive interventions or stand-alone feasibility studies
- × Developing the infrastructure for biobanking or health service developments
- × Relation with tobacco industry
- × Creating human embryos solely for research or stem cell procurement

# Scope

**Where an application is outside the scope of the scheme, the application will be deemed ineligible by the HRB at initial eligibility review or by the review panel at the panel meeting.**

*If in doubt, contact the relevant project officer ([ILP@hrb.ie](mailto:ILP@hrb.ie)).*

# Funding Available, Duration and Start Date

- Awards up to of **€330,000 direct costs** (exclusive of overheads). The maximum total award including overhead contribution will be **€430,000**.
- Duration between **24 and 48 months**.
- The HRB plans to commit in the region of **€12 million** to the ILP 2024 awards.
- Based on budget requested and quality, we expect at least **27 applications** to be recommended for funding.

# Applicant Team and Eligibility Criteria

Applications should be made on behalf of a team made up of:

- **Researchers**
- **Knowledge user(s)**
- **PPI contributors**

**The Lead Applicant must:**

- Hold a post (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the award) in a HRB recognised HI of as an independent investigator. For clinicians, an adjunct position is acceptable.

**OR**

- Will be recognised by the HI upon receipt of an award as an independent investigator who will have a dedicated office and research space for the duration of award, for which they will be fully responsible.

# Lead Applicant – Independent Investigator

- a) Demonstrating a record of research output, with at least **three** publications of original research in peer reviewed journals. Where appropriate, they should also provide evidence of other outputs that have resulted in a significant impact in their field.
- b) Demonstrating record of independence by showing that they have secured at least **one** peer-reviewed research grant for a research project/s, as either the Lead Applicant or a Co-Applicant.
- c) Show evidence that they possess the capability and authority to manage and supervise the research team.

# Eligibility Criteria

## **Co-Applicants (maximum of 6):**

- Researcher, Knowledge User or PPI Contributor
- They have a well-defined, critical and substantial role in the conduct and steering of the proposed research

## **Collaborators (maximum of 10):**

- They have an integral and discrete role in the proposed research
- Each collaborator must complete a Collaboration Agreement Form

## **Funded Personnel:**

- The level, expertise, and experience of proposed research personnel matches the ambition and scale of the project

# Major changes since the last round



# Major changes since the last round

- The maximum total value on an award including overhead contribution will now be **€430,000** (previously €370,000), with a maximum of **€330,000** for direct costs (previously approx. €285,000).
- Applicants are no longer asked to include **overhead contributions** into their budget. This will be added by the HRB team during contract negotiations.
- This scheme is **not framed as a training initiative for PhD candidates**. Where candidates for a higher degree are proposed to work on projects, Lead Applicants must show evidence of careful consideration ensuring a good training experience for the PhD candidate.

# Other changes since the last round

- This call is open to HRB Host Institutions from **Northern Ireland**.
- The Budget has now a **dedicated heading for PPI Costs**.
- The HRB support a maximum contribution to **postgraduate fees of €5,500 annually** for individuals registered for a higher degree. Please note that the HRB does not support fees for MD degrees.
- Scheme objectives listed.
- Assessment criteria have been refined to better reflect the scheme objectives.

# Application

# HRB online Grant E-Management System

- **Lead Applicant** creates application on GEMS - <https://grants.hrb.ie>
- Register (new applicants)/log in on GEMS
- Can then be jointly completed with named **Co-Applicants**.
- Add/edit CV details in ***“Manage My Details”*** and ***“My Research Outputs”***:

Dr Sónia Pereira

Welcome to Health Research Board grant application system, Dr Sónia Pereira.

Home

My Applications


**My Research Outputs**

My Reviews

**Manage My Details**

Contact Us

Logout

Technical Guidance Notes 

Please ensure your 'Basic Information' and 'CV' are up-to-date, these can be edited within 'Manage my Details'.


For Principal Investigators who want to access the Interim Report for Emerging Investigator Awards 2017, please click on the link below called 'here' under New Grant Application and then select 'Apply' to the Interim Report for Emerging Investigator Awards 2017

For applicants, co-applicants and sponsors

Please maintain up-to-date information for your 'basic information' and 'curriculum vitae' within 'Manage my Details' as these will be included in your application.

**New Grant Application**

To apply for funding from the HRB click [here](#).



# HRB online Grant E-Management System

- Select the Remit

Grant Type	Funding Round	Closing Date	More Info	Apply
Investigator Led Projects 2024 Investigator Led Projects - Patient Oriented Research	ILP - POR 2024	11 October 2023 13:00 BST	More info	Apply

- Complete mandatory checklist

**Questions**

Please read and enter a response to the following confirmation questions placing a tick next to the question means 'yes', leaving the box blank means 'no'. As a Lead Applicant I confirm, to the best of my knowledge that;


Question	Yes
I have read the Guidance Notes for the ILP 2024 call and reviewed the main changes applied to the ILP 2024.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I have reviewed the remit of the Grant Selection Panels outlined in Appendix II and I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, my application falls within the remit of this Panel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I am clear about the role of the authorised signatory in the nominated Host Institution and I am aware that I need to build sufficient time into the application process for the HI to access, review and approve my final proposal for submission to the HRB through the GEMS system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
By submitting this application, I consent to (a) sharing of my data outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of international peer review, and (b) the use of my data for assessment of my application; monitoring of successful awards; and evaluation of HRB's approach to funding and investment in research, in line with HRB policies and as detailed in the ILP 2024 Call Guidance Notes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Next >>    Close

# HRB online Grant E-Management System

- Start application

Sections as per *Appendix I* of the call Guidance Notes

 Clicking this icon will display help information related to this question

## 4.3 Project Lay Summary

Please provide a P







Test

This lay summary is similar to the Project Abstract in that you are asked to describe what you propose to do, why you think it is important and how you are going to go about conducting, analysing and drawing conclusions from the research. The difference is that it **needs to be written as a plain English summary** such that it is clear, easy to understand, and is easily accessible to a lay audience. It should not be copied and pasted from elsewhere in the application. The lay summary may be used when providing information to the public with regards to the variety of research funded by the HRB and may be posted on the HRB website. A well-written lay summary will enable peer reviewers and Panel members to have a better understanding of your research application.

Close

94.0% complete

- ✓ Preface Definitions
- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Host Institution
- ⚠ Signatory Notification
- ⚠ 1. Lead Applicant's Details
- ⚠ 2. Co-Applicants' Details
- ✓ 3. Collaborators' Details
- ✓ 4. Project Details
- ✓ 5. Project Description

       
Page read however some actions remain

# Notify Host Institution

- **Identify a Host Institution (from HRB approved list)**

institutions. The host institution name on this list is the only one the GEMS system will recognise. Although there are other Irish institutions listed on GEMS, only the recognised host institutions listed on the PDF should be selected. If your Host Institution does not appear in this list, please contact the HRB at [gemshelp@hrb.ie](mailto:gemshelp@hrb.ie).

  
University College Dublin (UCD)

- **Signatory Notification**

The signatory's details are pre-populated. Click **'Notify'**

*\*Prior to submission, applications must be reviewed and approved by the HI. Leave sufficient time for this prior to the submission date. Be aware of any internal HI deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline.*

# Budget

## Personnel costs

### a) Salary

- Gross annual salary as per IUA scale
- Include annual pay increments + 3% contingency
- Health and Social Care Practitioners 4-year PhD degree (not MD)
  - \* *max of Lvl3 Pt1 IUA scale*
  - \*\* *taxable and cannot be changed to Stipend*

### b) Employer's PRSI

- 11.05% of gross salary

### c) Employer Pension Contribution

- Max of 20% of gross salary



# Budget

## Personnel costs

### d) Student Stipend

- In line with current government guidelines as a flat rate
- Currently €19,000 per annum
  - \* *up to two years for MSc degrees and four years for PhD degrees*
  - \*\* *tax exempt and cannot be used to support postgraduate fees*
  - \*\*\* *paid in euro only*

### e) Student Fees

- Max contribution of €5,500 annually
  - \* *up to two years for MSc degrees and four years for PhD degrees*

# Budget

## Non-Personnel costs

### Running Costs

- Costs required to carry out the research (e.g., consumables, surveys, participants travel)
- Maintenance costs of animals (pre-clinical animal models only)
- Access to special facilities or services (as detailed in **Infrastructure Agreement Form**)

*Ineligible: training courses/workshops, inflationary increases, cost of electronic journals; overhead costs*

# Budget

## Non-Personnel costs

### PPI Cost

- All PPI-related costs (e.g., PPI contributors time compensation, travel, training, conferences)

### Equipment

- Justified equipment (expect max €10,000 inc VAT)
- Dedicated laptops required specifically for the project because of the nature of the research (max €1,200)
  - \* *high spec computers may be eligible provided justification*

Ineligible: personal/stand-alone computers

# Budget

## Non-Personnel costs

### Dissemination Costs

- Costs for dissemination of results as detailed in knowledge translation plan (e.g., publications, seminar/conference attendance, reports, data sharing)
- Publications - €1,750/per article or **HRB Open Research**
- Conferences - €500 for national and €1,500 for international conferences per person and year

### FAIR Data Management Costs

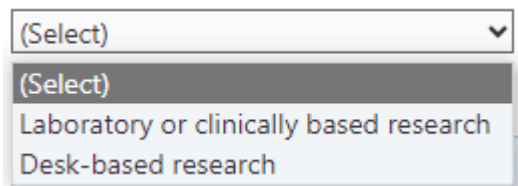
- Data-related and data management activities in line with best practice and FAIR principles  
*\*incurred during the lifetime of the project*

# Budget

## Non-Personnel costs

### Overhead Contribution (Not requested at this stage)

- 30% of TDMC for laboratory or clinically based research
- 25% of TDMC for desk-based research



A screenshot of a web form dropdown menu. The menu is open, showing four options: "(Select)", "(Select)", "Laboratory or clinically based research", and "Desk-based research". The first two options are greyed out, while the last two are active and highlighted in a light blue color.

- Recruitment costs, bench fees, office space, software, contribution to gases, bacteriological media preparation fees, waste fees, bioinformatics  
*\*For more info, refer to the [HRB Policy on Overhead Usage](#)*

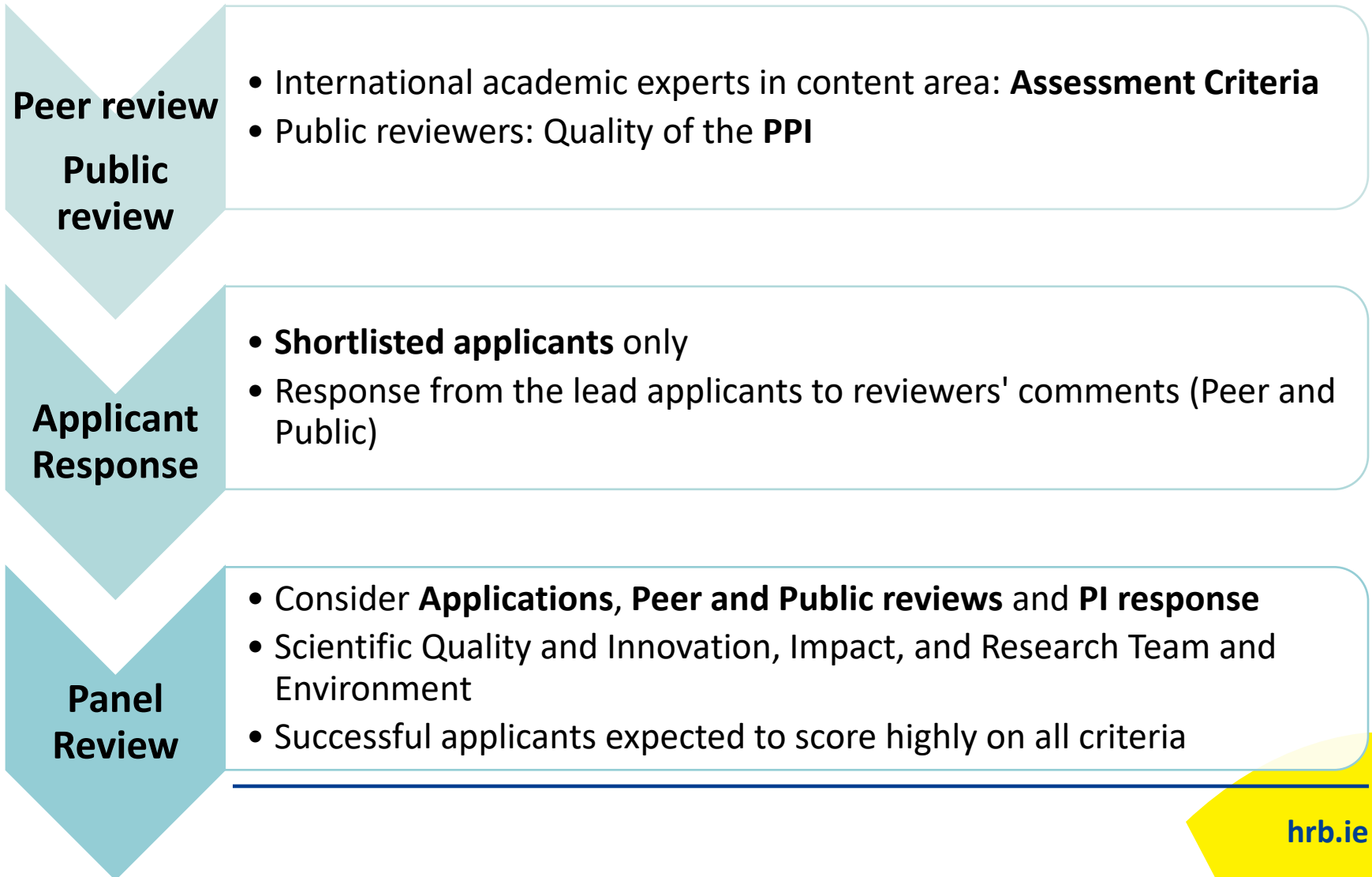
# Submission of Applications

**Submission deadline: 11 October 2023 at 13:00**

1. After successful validation, the Lead Applicant may submit the application. It will then be routed to the designated signatory at the Host Institution for their approval.
2. If a signatory rejects the application the Lead Applicant will be notified, along with any feedback the signatory has supplied.
3. The application can then be re-submitted; it will be returned to the signatory and will continue through the approval process as before.
4. On completion of the final approval by the Host Institution signatory, a grant application number is assigned to the application.
5. The application automatically gets submitted to the HRB through GEMS for consideration for funding.

# Review Process

# Review process – 2 stage review process





# Assessment Criteria

## Scientific Quality and Innovation (40%)

- Important research question
- Evidence supports need for proposed project
- Design and methodology appropriate
- Project plan and risk mitigation for project delivery



## Impact (30%)

- Potential impact on patients, public and/or healthcare system
- Generalisability beyond research setting
- Planned knowledge dissemination and translation

# Assessment Criteria

## Research Team and Environment (30%)

- Applicant team expertise and experience relevant for project
- Supports, infrastructure, environment
- Project staffing and funding



# Public reviewers focus

## PPI

- The plain English summary (Lay Summary)
- Relevance of the proposed research question
- PPI in development of and throughout the project
- Making it straightforward for research participants
- Dissemination of the proposed work



*Panel members will be advised to take PPI approaches into consideration under any of the assessment criteria if considered relevant.*

# Timeline

# Timeline

**01 Aug – 11 Oct 2023**

Call open

**Nov 2023 – Mar 2024**

Peer and Public review

**Mid-Apr 2024**

Applicant response

**May – Jun 2024**

Panel review meetings

**Jun 2024**

Panel recommendations presented to HRB Board

**Jul – Aug 2024**

Contracting stage (subject to approval)

**01 Sep 2024**

Earliest start date

# Support

## Recommend reading:

- ILP 2024 Guidance Notes
- ILP 2024 FAQs
- Funding awards from previous calls

## Feel free to contact us:

- [ILP@hrb.ie](mailto:ILP@hrb.ie)



# Questions & Answers

