Collaborative Postdoctoral Fellowships Programme (CPFP) 2026

Building capacity and capability of academic-based researchers to tackle applied health and social care challenges.

Guidance notes

Guidance notes

Key dates and times	
Pre-applications open	01 October 2025
Pre-application closing date	17 December 2025 @13:00

Applications must be completed and submitted through the HRB online Grant E-Management System (GEMS) (https://grants.hrb.ie), and this system will close automatically at the stated deadline and timeline listed above.

**Prior to final submission to the HRB, all applications must first be reviewed and approved within GEMS by the authorized approver at the host institution as listed in the application form. It is critical therefore that 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.*

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1 Introduction

The Health Research Board (HRB) Strategy[1] highlights six strategic objectives for the HRB from 2021 to 2025, including the building of a strong and supportive environment for health research in Ireland. Within this objective, the HRB is committed to investing strategically in research leadership and building a vibrant community of health and social care researchers from different professions, backgrounds, and research interests, and working in and across a range of settings including universities and TUs, hospitals and primary, community and social care settings. In our strategy 2026-2030, we will continue to support people and build skills.

To underpin this commitment, the HRB has designed a suite of schemes aimed at creating a diverse workforce of health and social care researchers via the dual research career path, targeting both academic and practitioner researchers. One such initiative is the **Collaborative Postdoctoral Fellowships Programme (CPFP).** The scheme is designed to support health and social care researchers from various disciplinary backgrounds who are based in an academic setting and have a PhD or an equivalent[2] level of research experience. The scheme aims to enhance research training at postdoctoral level by enabling researchers to conduct research studies which tackle an identified problem in the context of health, public health or social care.

The CPFP scheme replaces the 'Applying Research into Policy and Practice (ARPP)' fellowships and is part of the HRB research career path for academic-based researchers.

2 Aim and objectives

The **aim** is to build capacity of academic-based researchers at postdoctoral stage to conduct applied health and social care research.

The **objectives** are to:

- Build capacity and capability at early and mid- postdoctoral level by supporting researchers from a broad range of disciplines who want to make a commitment to contribute to applied health and social care research and who have the motivation and the potential to advance on an academic path towards independent investigator status.
- Build on existing investments at PhD level by providing opportunities for postdoctoral level researchers to conduct applied health and social care research under the guidance of mentorship.
- Tackle an identified problem in the context of health, public health or social care from a variety of perspectives with a collaborative and complementary approach.
- Foster partnerships within and between academic institutions, service delivery organisations and/or policy and health service decision makers, as appropriate, with a view to making outputs useable and timely for translation into policy and/or practice.

It is expected that during the postdoctoral period each fellow will:

[1] https://www.hrb.ie/about/strategy-2025/

[2] HRB PhD equivalent research experience | HRB | Health Research Board

- Continue to develop their careers and become more independent applied health and social care researchers, consolidate their research skills and expertise post-PhD.
- Develop clear, independent thinking and manage a grant in their own right.
- Undertake training and development activities which will support their career progression and enhancement of their expertise and skills in applied health and social care research, including training in data science/analytics.
- Deepen existing and/or establish new collaborations and partnerships, including with academic and non-academic partners, PPI contributors and knowledge users who are in a position to influence policy and practice.
- Receive strong mentorship on their further research development based on the objectives of the scheme from the leadership team.
- Conduct high quality research projects, as part of a collaborative research programme, addressing research questions relevant to the needs of health and social care and with high potential to impact health and social care policy and/or practice.

Actively involve patient and public or other stakeholders as relevant in the research programme.

3 Funding model

The scheme uses a **team-based funding model** designed to support collaborative research by providing funding to a group of researchers working together in a common research programme. Applications are solicited from a collaborative team of independent investigators and non-academic partners, as appropriate, to propose an over-arching, interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral programme of research that will be delivered by recruiting three early-career postdoctoral fellows. Please note the following:

- The scheme will support newly formed or existing **consortia** (leadership team, co-applicants and collaborators) that show clear evidence **of collaborations and partnerships**. Consortia must be formed by researchers from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds and non-academic stakeholders. Non-academic stakeholders can for example include knowledge users, those affected by the research outcomes such as health and social care professionals, community organisations and patients, professional organisations, or the general public. The consortium must include complementary skillsets and work collaboratively on research programmes that fall within the scope of the call.
- Each applicant team can apply for **three early career postdoctoral fellows** from a broad range of disciplines who will work collaboratively on the same research programme to address a complex research question from multiple disciplinary perspectives. It aims to embed the postdoctoral fellows in teams and expose them to other disciplines and methodologies while at the same time providing further training and development opportunities in their own discipline. Additional fellows funded from other sources participating in the research programme are welcome.

4 Scope of call

Each applicant team should propose **a research programme in applied health and social care**. For the purposes of this scheme, applied health and social care research is defined as 'research with an emphasis on providing evidence that will impact healthcare policy and practice leading to better health outcomes in Ireland and beyond.'

Furthermore, each research programme should address an identified problem in the context of health, public health or social care with a collaborative and complementary approach, by tackling different interrelated aspects of a central research question that form a coherent theme and add value, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the identified problem and providing a pathway to real-world solutions.

The case for the research questions posed and the related disciplines, methodology, partners and knowledge users must be clearly and convincingly set out in the application form[3]. The applicant team may propose a collaborative research programme related to ongoing research studies.

In line with the strategic remit of the HRB, collaborative research programmes spanning the areas of clinical research, population health research, and/or health services research are welcome. For the avoidance of any doubt, these are defined below:

Clinical research

Research with the goal of improving the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury and of improving the health and quality of life of individuals as they pass through normal life stages. Clinical research is conducted on or for the treatment of patients and involves direct participation of patients and healthy subjects and/or their samples and/or their data.

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.

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.

We expect that applicants reference evidence supporting the case for the research programme that has been gathered systematically, i.e., as systematic reviews or other evidence synthesis formats. Simple literature overviews are not sufficient. Evidence synthesised systematically should

[3] The case for the proposed applied research programme should summarise where the need is documented (e.g. Department of Health or HSE Strategy, WHO, James Lind Alliance).

include evidence of (1) a systematic identification of previous work, (2) critical appraisal, (3) synthesis of the evidence and (4) interpretation of findings.

Out of scope

This scheme will not fund:

1. Basic biomedical research
2. Research involving cell lines, animals, or their tissue
3. Pre-clinical studies, which involve the evaluation of potential therapeutic interventions in cell lines, animals, or human samples where the primary outcome is exploratory
4. Applications seeking to evaluate a clinical trial or other intervention. For trials and evaluations of other health interventions (whether aimed at feasibility, acceptability, safety, effectiveness, outcomes, cost effectiveness of implementation, and regardless of intervention setting or study design), the HRB has a dedicated support scheme for this purpose called "Investigator-Led Clinical Trials (ILCT) Programme 2025".
5. Applications which are solely literature reviews, stand-alone systematic reviews, audits, surveys, needs assessments or technology development (although these elements may be part of an integrated research study)
6. Applications which are solely or predominately developing the infrastructure for biobanking, databases or patient registers without a predominant research element
7. Research intended to create human embryos solely for the purposes of research or for the purposes of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer
8. Applications from individuals applying for, holding, or employed under funding received from the tobacco industry[4]
9. Applications from individuals applying for, holding, or employed under funding received from the alcohol industry and related actors[5].

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

5 Funding available, duration and start date

The CPFP scheme will provide funding for each collaborative research programme with a maximum value of **€950,000** for direct costs per grant. The overhead contribution will be added to the budget

[4] Any company, entity, or organisation involved in the development, production, promotion, marketing, or sale of tobacco in any country of the world. The term also includes any companies that are a subsidiary or a holding company or affiliate of the above. This also includes e-cigarette companies and non-tobacco related companies which are fully or partially owned by the tobacco industry.

[5] Including social aspects/public relations organisations (SAPROs) funded by alcohol companies or trade associations in which such companies are members.

by HRB staff during contracting stage. The HRB plans to commit in the region of **€4.8 million** to support **up to four programmes**, quality permitting.

Each grant will support the following:

- Salary and related costs for three fellows for three years, based on the IUA PD scales.
- Research related costs (e.g. running costs, data management and sharing costs, equipment, dissemination costs, etc) up to €240,000 per grant.
- Overhead costs.

Note: The CPFP grant will not fund the salary and related costs of the leadership team members or tenured academic staff within research institutions (including buy-out from teaching time etc.).

The budget requested **must** reflect the scale and nature of the proposed research, and reviewers will thoroughly assess the level of funds and timeframe requested when reviewing the application.

The grant has a **42-month duration**, which includes up to six months for programme set-up and recruitment of the postdoctoral fellows. Each fellow will have salary support for a total of 36 months at 1.0 FTE.

The earliest start date of the grant is 01 March 2027.

6 Application details and eligibility

This call is open to HRB host institutions from the Republic of Ireland (ROI). The lead applicant must be based in ROI. Co-leadership team members can also be based in a HRB approved institution in Northern Ireland.

6.1 Applicant team (consortium)

Applications should be made on behalf of a consortium (for the purpose of the application 'applicant team') made up of **researchers, knowledge user(s) and PPI contributors**.

The consortium must have the necessary **breadth and depth** of research and/or methodological expertise, appropriate **interdisciplinary and/or cross-sectoral** approaches to break down the discipline, professional and sectorial barriers in research, preferably including international collaborations and show a strong public and patient and other relevant stakeholder involvement.

Co-applicants and collaborators from outside the island of Ireland are welcome where their participation clearly adds value to the project. The HRB expects that applicants will collaborate, where appropriate, with partner organisations such as universities, hospitals, health agencies, relevant local or international organisations and/or voluntary organisations. The HRB promotes the active involvement of members of the public and patients in the research we fund (see Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in Research for further details). **PPI contributors** are welcome as **co-applicants or collaborators depending on their role within the project**.

The involvement of **knowledge users** (national or international) as co-applicants or collaborators is strongly encouraged in line with the objectives of this scheme. A **knowledge user** is defined as one in a position of authority to influence and/or make decisions about health policy or the delivery of services and can act to ensure that the findings of the research will be translated to influence

decision making and change within their (or other) organisations. This is typically managers, policy makers, clinicians, health professionals or others who are in a position to make significant changes to policy or practice. Knowledge user organisations may be government departments, HSE, other agencies, hospitals or hospital groups, community healthcare organisations, local government, voluntary organisations, research charities, patient/consumer groups or other organisations involved in making decisions regarding the management, structuring and/or delivery of practice or policy in the Irish health and social care system.

6.1.1 Lead applicant

The **lead applicant** will serve as the primary point of contact for the HRB during the review process and on the grant, if successful. The lead applicant will be responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the research programme. They have primary fiduciary responsibility and accountability for carrying out the research within the funding limits awarded and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the HRB.

6.1.2 Leadership team

Applications will be led by a Leadership Team made up of **a lead applicant** (for the purposes of the application process) **and one or two co-lead applicants**. The members of the leadership team will hold equal co-leadership of the postdoctoral programme**.** The team members must span a breadth of disciplines and professions with skills and expertise which complement one another to jointly lead the scientific and technical direction of the overall programme. **Co-lead applicants** will be asked to select whether they are a **researcher, knowledge user, data controller/processor, or PPI contributor** co-lead applicant for the purpose of the proposed research.

The leadership team must demonstrate:

- **Strong track record** in applied health and social care research demonstrated by their contribution to knowledge and expertise in accelerating the transfer and application of research evidence into real-world applications.
- **Complementarity of disciplines**, **skills and expertise** as relevant to the research and training programme, including from under-represented professions/disciplines relevant to the strategic leadership of the programme.
- **Clear strategic vision** of the research programme.
- Strong **collaborative and networking** expertise.
- **Strong track record in training, supervising and mentoring** early and mid-career researchers.

6.1.2.1 Eligibility criteria

Team level eligibility

The six criteria below must be met in full by the leadership team as a group. No single member of the leadership team is required to fulfil all eligibility criteria.

1. A PhD or PhD equivalent research experience. Please see further guidelines here.

2. At least seven years of FTE research experience beyond PhD and prior to the CPFP pre-application deadline **(17 December 2025);** this means the PhD must have been successfully

defended (not conferred) in 2018 or before. For the purposes of this eligibility criterion, this means that the dissertation was accepted with or without minor revisions following the viva.

3. A track record in leading research projects and programmes through securing, as principal or co-principal investigator, at least three independently peer-reviewed, research grants with at least two of these grants each of a value equal to or above €300,000 from recognised national and/or international funding agencies/councils over the last seven years. This includes being a work package leader of a research grant from the European Commission with a value equal to or above €300,000. For the purposes of this scheme post PhD fellowships or other personal grants are eligible but travel bursaries/awards are not considered as eligible research grants.

4. Track record in supervising research team members including mentoring of post-doctoral researchers and PhD researchers. This should be demonstrated by being the primary/principal supervisor, as recognised by the higher education authority, of a minimum of three postdoctoral researchers for a minimum of 12 months each.

5. Experience in bringing together and leading interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborations that have engaged key non-academic stakeholders, such as policymakers, practitioners, voluntary and community organisations, and PPI.

6. A record of research outputs, with at least **three publications** of original research in peer reviewed journals.

Eligibility for leadership team members

Each leadership team member must **firstly**:

- Hold a post (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the award) in an institution of higher education on the Island of Ireland as an independent investigator.

or

- Be an individual who will be recognised by their institution upon receipt of the HRB CPFP grant as a member of the academic staff or a contract researcher as defined above.

or

- Be trained in clinical or social care practice and hold a jointly clinical/social care and academic post in a health organisation on the Island of Ireland (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the award).

or

- Be an individual who provides a non-academic perspective as a person affected by the research, a professional working on the topic, or a representative of an organisation active in the area.

and **secondly**

- Be listed as lead applicant or co-lead applicant on **only one** CPFP 2026 application.

Please note that the lead applicant must hold a post in a HRB approved host institution in the Republic of Ireland.

The overall objectives of the leadership team are to:

- Provide a structured and mentored environment to one cohort of three postdoctoral research Fellows, who must be selected in an open and competitive recruitment process.
- Attract individuals from different educational backgrounds/disciplines and professions to work collaboratively (e.g. health and social care professionals, scientists, social scientists, health informaticians, biostatisticians, social scientists, etc.).
- Provide a coherent research programme in a specific thematic area in patient-focused research, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the identified problem and providing a pathway to real-world solutions. The theme should focus on an issue in healthcare, not on a type of research methodology.
- Equip the post-doctoral research fellows with skills, competencies and experiential learning towards successful independent careers in the academic sector or beyond.

Where a lead or co-lead applicant fails to meet the eligibility criteria, the application will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted for review. The HRB will contact the lead applicant in the event that this situation arises.

6.1.3 Co-applicants

Co-applicants will be asked to select whether they are a **researcher, knowledge user, data controller/processor, or PPI contributor** co-applicant for the purpose of the proposed research. Up to a maximum of **10 co-applicants** can be included.

A co-applicant has a well-defined, critical, and substantial role in the conduct and steering of the proposed research. Co-applicants from outside the island of Ireland are welcome where this is appropriately justified in terms of added value for the project. A co-applicant may receive funding for items such as running costs and PPI costs but will not receive support towards their own salary. **Up to a maximum of 10 co-applicants can be listed.**

Each co-applicant must confirm their participation and is invited to access the application form online. The terms of any co-application should be determined early, and relevant agreements should be in place by the onset of the project. The HRB advise that consideration should be given to issues such as relative responsibilities, governance arrangements, intellectual property rights, reporting and access to data and samples when working up co-application agreements.

6.1.4 Collaborators

A collaborator is an individual or an organisation who will have an integral and discrete role in the proposed research and is eligible to request funding from the grant when properly justified. Named collaborators may include investigators or organisations from outside the Republic of Ireland, but an individual or organisation should **only** be named as collaborator if they are providing specific contributions (either direct or indirect) to the activities. A collaborator may provide training, supply samples or kits, provide access to specific equipment, specialist staff time, staff placements, access

to data and/or patients, instruments or protocols, industry know-how, or may act in an advisory capacity. Collaborators can come from a range of backgrounds such as academia, the private sector, a healthcare organisation, the charity sector, or a patient group (**up to a maximum of 10 collaborators can be listed)**.

Profile details **must** be provided for ALL collaborators. In addition, each collaborator **must** complete a **collaborator agreement form**. A template collaborator agreement form will be made available on GEMS for download.

If access to samples, vulnerable population groups, healthy volunteers or patients, data, databases, or a link to an existing national or international study (e.g., an existing cohort or longitudinal study) are an integral part of the proposed project, evidence of commitment and access must be demonstrated by having the data controller or key gatekeeper of a study included as a collaborator.

The applicant team will be asked to describe any relevant agreements that they have entered into to facilitate their partnership working. The terms of any collaboration should be determined early, and relevant agreements should be in place by the onset of the project. The HRB advise that consideration should be given to issues such as relative responsibilities, governance arrangements, ownership and copyright, access and sharing of data and samples etc. when working up partnership proposals.

6.1.5 Funded postdoctoral fellows

The applicant team must demonstrate that the level, expertise, and experience of proposed research fellows match the ambition and scale of the research programme and that they possess the necessary breadth and skills in all methodological areas required to deliver the proposed programme of work. Alignment between the requested postdoctoral fellows and the proposed research programme should be demonstrated. Roles and responsibilities of funded fellows must be differentiated clearly.

Funded fellows may be contracted and based in an academic partner institution of either the lead or co-lead applicants or that of a co-applicant based on the island or Ireland. The location of each fellow must be appropriately justified in the context of the collaborative research programme.

Once recruited, the postdoctoral researchers will be referred to as **HRB fellows**.

Due to the nature of this career development programme, there will be an expectation that the HRB fellows will:

- Be involved in the management of their own research project, by reiterating, shaping and influencing the direction with the support of their leadership team and supervisory team.
- Support the annual reporting of the programme to the HRB.
- Shape and self- manage a network of fellows across the different CPFP grants, to enhance the peer support, networking and collaborative opportunities and training activities.

6.1.6 Funded personnel

The CPFP scheme does not support funded personnel outside of the three recruited HRB fellows.

7 Training and professional development

CPFP grants aim to support the career development of postdoctoral researchers and are more than a means to fund a research programme. The research programme, a strong and supportive environment and a training and development strategy must be suitable to support the research and leadership development of the three postdoctoral fellows during the programme.

7.1 Training and professional development strategy

The training and professional development strategy and related proposed activities should clearly support the HRB fellows:

- To work in a team-based environment tackling an identified problem in the context of health, public health or social care from a variety of perspectives with a collaborative and complementary approach.
- To work in interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral research in applied health and social care research.
- To facilitate the application of research findings into policy and practice in local, national and/or international context.
- To facilitate their progression towards more independent research and future research leadership.

The Programme should generally include the following elements:

- Exposure to multi- and interdisciplinary research, networking and collaborative opportunities while providing the opportunity to further the fellows' training within their own discipline.
- Training and mentoring in contextual, methodological and other issues related to the fellows' work, enhancing skills and competencies required for successful collaborative research across disciplinary boundaries.
- Placements/secondments which might include inter-sectoral and/or international elements (including virtual) aimed at experiential learning, networking and collaborating.
- Peer-learning and support.
- Mentorship environment with joint supervision and mentoring from investigators from different disciplines, methodologies, professions and/or sectors, as appropriate.
- Opportunities to develop professional and transferable competencies (teamwork, communication, creative thinking, negotiation skills, innovation and leadership, entrepreneurship, management, ethics and research integrity, intellectual properties and commercialisation, regulatory science, etc.
- A requirement to incorporate training in data science/analytics into their research.

Note: Applications which do not contain a convincing training and development strategy are unlikely to be competitive.

7.1.1 Individual training and development plans

For each funded application, once the postdoctoral fellows have been recruited, each fellow is required to develop a comprehensive individual training and development plan (ITDP) with their mentor. These ITDPs must be submitted to the HRB within six months of the fellow's recruitment. Examples of activities are as follows:

- Formal and informal career development training.
- Research skills/techniques training specific to the programme of research.
- Generic research skills training, such as data handling/protection, good oral and written communication/presentation, IT, and time-and resource-management.
- Methodological/experimental design.
- Statistics.
- Dissemination and knowledge sharing and open resources.
- Consideration of intellectual property issues.

7.2 Placements in non-academic settings

As part of the training and development strategy and given the focus on the grant of building capacity and capability of academic-based researchers to tackle applied health and social care challenges, it is strongly recommended that the HRB Fellows are encouraged to spend time, through placements or co-localisation of the research, in an appropriate knowledge user setting (e.g., Department of Health, HSE or other health agency, hospital, primary care or community care organisation, charity or foundation, professional body). By encouraging these close collaborations and/or placements the HRB hope that the HRB Fellows will learn about the needs and requirements of knowledge users and develop skills, mechanisms, and approaches to bridge the evidence to action gap. The leadership team can play a key role in guiding the HRB Fellows in choosing appropriate collaborations and placements and reflecting on practices and approaches throughout the collaborative research programme.

Applicant teams will be asked to provide a brief overview detailing preliminary plans which will ensure the HRB Fellows have opportunities to work within knowledge user settings during the course of the collaborative research programme. This component will be further developed and detailed in the ITDP for each Fellow.

7.3 Travel grant (research experience abroad)

The HRB recognises the valuable experience that can be gained by researchers who spend time working with research groups abroad. Each of the recruited HRB Fellows can avail of a Travel Grant in the form of a longer stay abroad (usually maximum of one year) or shorter visits and trips where appropriate and justified. Leadership teams availing of this opportunity for the recruited HRB Fellows must describe the plans and include details of the Sponsor(s) abroad and the travel-related costs.

Applicant teams will be asked to provide a brief overview detailing preliminary plans which will ensure the HRB Fellows have opportunities to travel and work with international collaborators during the course of the collaborative research programme.

This component will be further developed and detailed in the ITDP for each Fellow.

8 Host institution

A HRB host institution is a research-performing organisation approved by the HRB for the purpose of receiving and administering HRB grant funding and is responsible for compliance with all general and specific terms and conditions of grants. HRB host institution status is a requirement to submit an application under all HRB grant schemes. The **host institution for the grant** is normally that of the **lead applicant,** but it may be another organisation/institution designated by the research team, where it is clearly justified. In order to be eligible to apply for funding, an institution must be an **approved** HRB host institution no later than two calendar months before the closing date of a call. A list of currently approved HRB host institutions and information on the application process for research performing organisations to be approved as HRB host institutions can be found on the HRB website[6].

Please note that this call **is not** open to **host institutions** from **Northern Ireland (NI)**. However, co-leadership team members may be based in NI.

It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that applications are completed in full, and all necessary documentation is received by the HRB on, or before, the closing dates indicated.

9 Application, review process and assessment criteria

9.1 Grant E-Management System (GEMS)

Applications must be completed and submitted through the HRB online Grant E-Management System (GEMS) (https://grants.hrb.ie/).

The application must have been reviewed and approved by the signatory approver at the research office (or equivalent) in the host institution before it is submitted to the HRB. Therefore, applicants should ensure that they give the signatory approver sufficient time before the scheme closing date to review the application and approve it on GEMS. Please note that many host institutions specify internal deadlines for this procedure.

The HRB is committed to an open and competitive process underpinned by international peer review. To ensure the integrity of the assessment process, conflict of interest and confidentiality are applied rigorously in each stage of the process.

[6] https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/HRB-Policy-on-Approval-of-Host-Institutions.pdf

9.2 Review process

The CPFP will use a two-stage application process consisting of:

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

Stage 1 – Pre-application

The pre-application will focus on (1) the details of the applicant team (excluding collaborators who will be part of the full application stage), (2) the case for a proposed collaborative research programme and (3) the outline of the research training and professional development strategy. Pre-applications will be checked for eligibility and will be sent to a specially convened international review panel for assessment. Members of the review panel are selected based on the range of disciplines, methodologies, and expertise appropriate to the scheme.

Pre-application assessment criteria

The pre-application review panel will discuss the eligible pre-applications based on the assessment criteria below. A final score is collectively agreed for each application followed by ranking of applications according to score.

1. **The applicant team (40%)**: strength and suitability
   - Appropriate track record in applied health and social care research.
   - Experience in training and development of researchers.
   - Breadth of expertise and skillset of the leadership team and the co-applicants and evidence of collaboration with non-academic stakeholders.
   - Strategic vision and leadership to deliver the programme.
2. **The collaborative research programme (40%)**: relevance and impact
   - Clarity coherence and relevance of the central research question and thematic area to be addressed allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the identified problem and providing a pathway to real-world solutions.
   - Use of systematic evidence to justify the research need.
   - Integration of the research activities and coherence of the programme.
   - Evidence of a clear pathway to impact and real-world solutions, with strong potential for significant impact on policy, practice, or systems at national and/or international levels.
3. **The training and professional development strategy (20%**)
   - The coherence and quality of the high-level training and professional development strategy.

To prioritise between applications with the same score around the funding cut-off in the Panel ranking list, both at pre-application stage and at full application interview stage, we will take **diversity of research areas into consideration**, as appropriate. This means the under-represented research areas within the ranked list will be prioritised. In line with the **HRB Gender Policy**, **the**

gender balance of leadership team members within the ranked list recommended for funding will be the **second ranking factor**.

The panel will make a recommendation on a selected number of leadership teams to be invited to full application stage. A brief feedback document from the panel discussion will be provided to all applicants.

Stage 2 – Full application (by invitation only)

Information provided in the HRB online Grant E-Management System (GEMS) (https://grants.hrb.ie) at pre-application stage will feed automatically into the invited full application forms.

Please note that the panel will have made their selection based on the information provided at pre-application stage. The applicant team will have the opportunity to make small revisions from pre-application to full application stage (e.g., addition of expertise/partner, revision of targeted profession/disciplines for training, strengthening the stakeholder participation, etc.), especially if addressing the panel feedback provided to the leadership team after the pre-application panel review stage. However, full applications should reflect a development of the relevant pre-applications rather than a radically different approach.

Full applications, once submitted, will undergo a **two-step** assessment process as follows:

Phase 1 – International peer review, public review and shortlisting

For each application, the HRB aims to receive written feedback from at least three international peer reviewers and two public reviewers.

International peer reviewers play a vital role for the HRB in setting standards and in benchmarking our scientific community to enable them to operate in a global context. Peer reviewers will focus on the stated assessment criteria for the call and will provide comments as well as a score which is visible to the HRB and to panel members.

Public reviewers will only assess the quality of PPI in the application and will provide comments and an overall rating which will be shared with the panel. Public reviewers will not provide a score.

Public reviewers are asked to comment on the following:

- The plain English summary (lay summary).
- PPI in development of and throughout the collaborative research programme.
- Making it straightforward for research participants.

Applicant response

Applicant teams will be provided with a time-limited opportunity to respond to peer and public review comments (see Section 10 Timeframe). Neither peer nor public review comments will include any reference to the reviewer's identity. Public review ratings will be shared.

The peer review and public review comments will be made available to the lead applicant on their GEMS personal page. The leadership team through the lead applicant will have 10 working days only to submit their response through GEMS, and the response has a **maximum word count of 2000 words only for the peer review response** (including references) and **500 words only for the public**

review response. No figures can be uploaded. The response will be provided to members of the interview panel, in advance of the Interview panel meeting, along with the application, the peer and public review comments and rating. The response to the public review will be given to the public reviewer as feedback.

Phase 2 – Interview-based panel review

An **international interview panel** will be convened. Panel members are assigned as lead and secondary reviewers to specific applications. It is envisaged that some pre-application panel members will be invited to the full application interview panel. Panel members are selected based on the range of applications invited to submit a full application and the expertise and skillset needed (e.g., research area and methodological and analytical approaches, coaching and mentoring, knowledge translation/applied health research, etc.).

All lead applicant teams invited to submit a full application will be invited to attend an interview.

Panel members have access to the application, the peer and public reviews and the applicant team's response prior to the interview panel meeting. HRB staff members are present at the interview meeting to clarify any procedural aspects for the chairperson or panel members and to take notes for the feedback process.

The panel will review the strengths and weaknesses of the application relating to the full application review criteria detailed on page 19. Successful applicants are expected to score well in all review criteria. While PPI is not a stand-alone assessment criterion, it may influence scores under any criterion as relevant to the application.

At the end of the interview panel meeting, a final score is collectively agreed for each application, and they are then ranked according to score. To prioritise between applications with the same score around the funding cut-off in the panel ranking list, both at pre-application stage and at full application interview stage, the sub-score awarded to the **research thematic area of the programme** will be the **first ranking factor**. This means the under-represented research areas within the ranked list will be prioritised. In line with the **HRB gender policy**, **the gender balance** of leadership team members within the ranked list recommended for funding will be the **second ranking factor**.

The recommendations of the interview panel will be presented for approval at the next scheduled HRB board meeting. When the board of the HRB has approved the process and recommendations, HRB staff will contact the lead applicants and host institutions to notify them of the outcome. A summary of panel member comments and the panel discussion comments will be issued to the lead applicant following the board approval stage.

Full application assessment criteria

The following assessment criteria, which have equal weight, will be used to assess applications **by peer-reviewers and the interview panel reviewers**. Successful applications will be expected to **rate highly in all criteria**.

1. The **applicant team**: Strength and suitability
    - Complementarity of expertise across the full applicant team (leadership team, co-applicants and collaborators).

- Evidence of meaningful collaboration with knowledge users, PPI contributors, and other non-academic stakeholders.
- Strategic vision and leadership capacity to deliver the programme, including management and oversight.

2. The collaborative **research programme**: Strength, quality and impact
    - The quality and coherence of the collaborative research programme within the overarching thematic area and strength of the applied health or social care research approach (including research design and methodologies, feasibility and appropriateness to career development of the postdoctoral fellows).
    - The strong likelihood and potential of the programme to generate high quality and actionable evidence that can directly inform and influence healthcare policy and practice. The emphasis should be on the likelihood of delivering measurable improvements in health outcomes, both within Ireland and internationally, through strategic dissemination, stakeholder engagement, and implementation pathways.
3. The **training** and **professional development strategy**
    - The quality and coherence of the training and professional development strategy
    - The quality of the environment in terms of Institutional support, partnering organisations, facilities and infrastructures

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

10 Team based narrative-style CV for the leadership team

As signatory of the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA)[7] and member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)[8], the HRB commits to the common vision and principles that the assessment of research and researchers recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. This requires that the assessment focusses primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.

The team-based narrative-style CV enables the leadership team as a whole to showcase relevant skills and experience and demonstrate the team's ability to deliver the proposed collaborative research and training programme. Relevant skills and experience will differ depending on the nature of the collaborative research programme proposed. The leadership team should describe only a selection of past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver on the proposed programme of research. It is appropriate to highlight specific individuals' achievements (referencing by way of initials) however the contributions described across each section should demonstrate the

[7] San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment

[8] Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

appropriateness of the overall team. Please refer to the guidance for each section to inform the content of the team-based narrative.

11 Timeframe

Call opening (pre-application)	01 October 2025
Call closing (pre-application)	17 December 2025 @13:00
Panel review (pre-application)	January to February 2026
Panel review meeting (pre-application)	Late February 2026
Invitation to full application	Late February 2026
Full application submission	Mid-May 2026
Scientific and public review	May to August 2026
Applicant response	End August to mid-September 2026
Panel review	Mid-September to mid-October 2026
Panel review meeting	Mid-October 2026
Panel recommendations presented to HRB Board	November 2026
Contracting stage (subject to approval)	November 2026 to February 2027
Earliest start date	March 2027

12 Contacts

For further information on the **Collaborative Postdoctoral Fellowships Programme (CPFP) 2026** contact:

Dr Anne Costello

Project Officer

Research Strategy and Funding

Health Research Board

Email: cpfp@hrb.ie

The HRB reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the terms of this call. **The HRB's policy on appeals on funding decisions is available at** https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/HRB-Policy-on-Appeals-2.pdf.

Appendix I: Detailed Guidance on the Pre-application Form

All applications are to be submitted via the GEMS online application system. Only registered users of the GEMS system can apply for grants. In order to submit an online application to the HRB, applicants are required to register at the following address: https://grants.hrb.ie

*Please refer to the **GEMS Technical Guidance Note**[9], available on the left-hand column of your GEMS profile homepage, for further information.*

The **lead applicant** must create the application, but it can then be jointly completed with named co-lead and co-applicants.

Lead applicants can register on GEMS and they will receive an email to confirm their registration and log in details. The Lead Applicant can then add information on their contact and CV details in 'Manage My Details' section of GEMS.

Lead Applicants previously registered on GEMS can login to GEMS and update any information regarding their contact and CV details in 'Manage my details'.

Once logged in to GEMS applicants are taken directly to the homepage which is the starting point to create a new Grant application.

The Lead Applicant will be asked to complete a check list of mandatory questions. In order to access the application form, the Lead Applicant must satisfy the conditions of this check:

Lead Applicant Eligibility	
I have read the guidance notes for the CPFP 2026 call.	☑
I am clear about the role of the authorized signatory in the nominated host institution (HI) 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 application for submission to the HRB through the GEMS system.	☑

Consent	
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 grants; and evaluation of the HRB's approach to funding and investment in research, in line with HRB policies and as detailed in the CPFP 2026 call guidance notes.	☑

The lead applicant will be then able to start the application. Further details for completing each of the main sections of the application form are provided below:

[9] https://research.ie/assets/uploads/2020/05/CCGT-Grant-Application-System-Technical-Guidance-Notes.pdf

Host institution

For the purposes of contracting, payment, and management of the grant, HRB funds can only be awarded to HRB approved host institutions. Please note this call is open to host institutions from the Republic of Ireland. The host institution for the grant is normally that of the **lead applicant**, but it may be another organisation/institution designated by the research team, where it is clearly justified. In GEMS you will be asked to identify a host institution (from this list) and type it in full (do not use acronyms such as UCD or TCD). Once you have entered the first 3-4 characters of the host institution, you will be assisted with auto-select options. It is important that the host institution name is entered accurately and in full as an incorrect entry may result in delays in attaining host institution approvals.

If you wish to propose a host institution which is not on the HRB list, you are advised to contact the HRB at gemshelp@hrb.ie.

Note: In order to be eligible to apply for funding, an institution must have been approved as a HRB host institution no later than two calendar months before the closing date of a call, only pre-approved host institutions will appear in this list.

Signatory notification (within host institution)

Once the **host institution** is selected at the initial stages of application creation, this will allow the lead applicant to notify the authorised signatory (dean of research or equivalent person authorised to endorse research grant applications for the host institution) in that host institution of the lead applicant's intention to submit an application to **CPFP 2026**. The signatory's details are pre-populated in the system, so the applicant just needs to click 'NOTIFY' within GEMS. We recommend that **you notify the host institution signatory** of your intention to apply as soon as possible in the application process. The signatory will receive an email from GEMS with the name and email details of the lead applicant and if they have any queries or clarifications, they can engage directly to resolve them with the lead applicant. The host institution signatory must confirm their willingness to participate as host institution for the application through GEMS and once they do this a PDF of the application will be available for them to review with a view to them ultimately approving the final version for submission to the HRB.

1 Application details

1.1 Programme Title

You are asked to provide a title that clearly describes the research programme to which this application is related. This should be descriptive and concise and should reflect the aim of the programme. There is a **200 characters** maximum limit.

1.2 Programme duration and start date

The duration of CPFP grant is no less than 42 months in total. Please confirm the proposed start date. The earliest start date is 01 March 2027.

1.3 Programme lay summary

The 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 regard 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. The word limit is **300 words.**

1.4 Programme abstract

This should be a succinct summary of the proposed research. This structured summary should clearly outline the background to the research, and the aims and hypotheses of the collaborative research programme. The objectives of the programme and what the work is expected to establish should be described. It provides a clear synopsis of your application and should set the research application in context. The word limit is **300 words**.

1.5 Keywords

Please enter up to **5 keywords** that specifically describe the collaborative research programme.

2 Leadership team details

Number of co-lead applicants

Please specify whether one or two co-lead applicants are included in the application. 1/2

Details are requested about the **lead applicant and co-lead applicants** including their position and status (contract or permanent) and their supervisory experience.

Each leadership team member will be asked to confirm that they are not applying for, holding, or employed under funding received from either the tobacco industry or alcohol industry or related actors, as per HRB's position statement of January 2024. https://www.hrb.ie/funding/manage-a-grant/grant-policies/tobacco-and-alcohol-industry-funding/

GEMS profile details – basic CV information

The lead and co-lead applicants' **contact and CV** details (name, institution, present position, employment history, profession, and ORCID ID) are managed in the 'Manage my Details' section of GEMS and are automatically included in any application created involving that individual.

The lead and co-lead applicant are required to fill in CV details in the 'Manage my Details' section of GEMS, which can be found on the left hand side menu once you log in (if previously registered on GEMS this information will be pre-populated on the lead applicant's/co-lead applicant details page, however, applicants should ensure this information is up to date and correct).

Note: The HRB is an ORCID member. Lead and co-lead applicants are encouraged to include an ORCID ID by updating their GEMS profile under 'Manage my Details' and this will feed automatically into the application form. Please note this is not a mandatory field for submitting your application. For more information and to register please see https://orcid.org/. Importantly, once you have your ORCID ID linked to your grant application, the HRB will be able to credit the grant, if awarded, directly onto your ORCID ID via automated and authoritative data transfer.

Lead and co-lead applicant eligibility

Lead applicant eligibility

Is the lead applicant

- Listed as a member of the leadership team on only one CPFP 2026 application? Y/N

  and

- A post holder (permanent or with a contract that covers the duration of the grant) and independent investigator in a HRB approved Host institution (HI) in the Republic of Ireland. Y/N

  or

- Trained in clinical or social care practice and holds a jointly clinical/social care and academic post (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the grant) in a HRB approved host institution (HI) in the Republic of Ireland. Y/N

To be eligible the lead applicant must answer 'Y' to the first bullet point and 'Y' to at least one of the two options delineated by an 'or', providing further details.

Co-lead applicant A eligibility

Is co-lead applicant-A:

- Listed as a member of the leadership team on only one CPFP application? Y/N

  and

- a post holder (permanent or with a contract that covers the duration of the award) and independent investigator in an institution of higher education on the Island of Ireland. Y/N

  or

- trained in clinical or social care practice and holds a jointly clinical/social care and academic post in a health organisation on the Island of Ireland (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the award). Y/N

  or

- an individual who will be recognised by their institution upon receipt of the HRB CPFP grant as a member of the academic staff or a contract researcher as defined above. Y/N

  or

- an individual who provides a non-academic perspective as a person affected by the research, a professional working on the topic, or a representative of an organisation active in the area. Y/N

To be eligible co-lead applicant A must answer 'Y' to the first bullet point and 'Y' to at least one of the four options delineated by an 'or', providing further details.

Co-lead applicant B eligibility

Is co-lead applicant-B

- Listed as a member of the leadership team on only one CPFP application? Y/N

  and

- a post holder (permanent or with a contract that covers the duration of the award) and independent investigator in an institution of higher education on the Island of Ireland. Y/N

  or

- trained in clinical or social care practice and holds a jointly clinical/social care and academic post in a health organisation on the Island of Ireland (permanent or a contract that covers the duration of the award). Y/N

  or

- an individual who will be recognised by their institution upon receipt of the HRB CPFP grant as a member of the academic staff or a contract researcher as defined above. Y/N

  or

- an individual who provides a non-academic perspective as a person affected by the research, a professional working on the topic, or a representative of an organisation active in the area. Y/N

To be eligible co-lead applicant B must answer 'Y' to the first bullet point and 'Y' to at least one of the four options delineated by an 'or', providing further details.

Team level eligibility

There are six eligibility criteria each of which must be fulfilled by at least one member of the leadership team. Please indicate in the team eligibility table below who fulfils which criterion.

Leadership Team level eligibility criterion	Leadership team member who fulfils this criterion (name, and details where required)	
1. A PhD or PhD equivalent research experience*. *Please see further guidelines at this webpage: HRB PhD equivalent research experience | HRB | Health Research Board.	Name:	
	Details:	
	Name:	

2. At least seven years of FTE research experience beyond PhD and prior to the CPFP pre-application deadline (17 December 2025); this means the PhD must have been successfully defended (not conferred) in 2018 or before.	Details:	
3. A track record in leading research projects and programmes through securing, as principal or co-principal investigator, at least three independently peer-reviewed, research grants with at least two of these grants each of a value equal to or above €300,000 from recognised national and/or international funding agencies/councils over the last seven years. This includes being a work package leader of a research grant from the European Commission with a value equal to or above €300,000. For the purposes of this scheme post PhD fellowships or other personal grants are eligible but travel bursaries/awards are not considered as eligible research grants.	Name(s)	
	Details	
4. Track record in supervising research team members including mentoring of post-doctoral researchers and PhD researchers. This should be demonstrated by being the primary/principal supervisor, as recognised by the higher education authority, of a minimum of three postdoctoral researchers for a minimum of 12 months each.	Name(s)	
	Details	
5. Experience in bringing together and leading interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborations that have engaged key non-academic stakeholders, such as policymakers, practitioners, voluntary and community organisations, and PPI.	Name	
	Details	
6. A record of research outputs, with at least **three publications** of original research in peer reviewed journals.	Name(s)	
	Details	

3 Team-based narrative-style CV for leadership team

The narrative-style CV enables the leadership team as a whole to showcase relevant skills and experience and demonstrate the team's ability to deliver the proposed collaborative research programme. The aim of this section of the CV is to highlight key contributions that provide relevant context for peer-reviewers and panel members.

The CV contains four different categories of contributions as follows:

1. Contributions to generation of new ideas and knowledge.
2. Contributions to the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships.
3. Contributions to the wider research and innovation community.

4. Contributions to broader society.

Relevant skills and experience will differ depending on the nature of the collaborative research programme proposed. The leadership team should describe only a selection of past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver on the proposed programme of research. It is appropriate to highlight specific individuals' achievements (referencing by way of initials) however the contributions described across each section should demonstrate the appropriateness of the overall team.

Please do not copy and paste a list of contributions directly from a leadership team members' traditional CV as this is unlikely to be reflective of the team's overall skills and experience. Please refer to the guidance for each section to inform the content of the team-based narrative.

3.1 Leadership team member table

Team Member	Current affiliation and job title and description of the team member's role on the CPFP.

3.2 Contributions to the generation of new ideas and knowledge

This section focuses on how the team has contributed to the generation of knowledge, new ideas, hypotheses, and tools, including how ideas have been communicated (both written and verbal). This information may include key outputs and previous funding awarded to the team.

3.2.1 Leadership team's overall research contribution

Provide a short statement of the team's overall contribution to the research field and/or discipline and/or policy and/or practice.

The limit is **250 words**.

3.2.2 Leadership team's relevant research outputs

Describe up to 10 research outputs that are most relevant to this application.

Please number the described outputs (1 – 10). For each output provide a short outline, the specific role of the team member, the significance and influence on the research field and/or discipline and/or to health policy and/or clinical practice and resulting impact, if any. The team member related to the output should be identified by initials. Include one reference per output, if applicable.

Note: Research outputs can include datasets, software, publications, commercial or entrepreneurial or industrial products, educational products, clinical practice developments, policy publications, and other similar items. These should be examples of rigorous science following high standards, that are reproducible, and others can build upon. Please indicate to what extent these outputs have been

made openly available (providing evidence) to the research community and to potential users of research outputs.

Please do not include information related to H-indexes, impact factors, or any type of metric that refers to the journal, publisher, or publication platform. The scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published. If you wish to reference publication citations, please note they should only be used to complement the narrative component of the CV and not in isolation.

The word limit is 800 words (approx. 80 words per described output, inclusive of reference).

3.2.3 Leadership team's relevant research funding

Reference up to 10 independently peer-reviewed research funding awards (including those received from the HRB) most relevant to this application and please specify the leadership team member and their role on each grant: principal investigator, co-principal investigator (co-lead), co-applicant or collaborator.

3.3 Contributions to the training and development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships

This section highlights the team's contribution to training and developing others, including supervision and mentoring, if applicable, as well as any expertise, which was critical to the success of other individuals.

Include examples of supervision, mentoring or line management of individuals on a research team; project management expertise; workshop or summer school involvement/coordination or support team members provided to the advancement of colleagues (junior or senior); providing expert advice; or where key individuals have used leadership skills to shape the direction of a team.

The word limit is **400 words.**

3.4 Contributions to the wider research and innovation community

This section can include various activities the team members have engaged in to contribute to the growth of the research community (locally, nationally or internationally).

This may include:

- Research review committee/panel memberships, editing and reviewing, contributions to the evaluation of research,
- Contributions to increasing research integrity and improving research culture (equality, diversity, mobility of researchers, and reward/recognition of researchers' broad range of activities, open science initiatives).
- Appointments to positions of responsibility such as committee membership and corporate roles within your department, institution or organisation, and recognition by invitation within your sector

- Establishment of local/national/international collaborations, partnerships and networks (including interdisciplinary and cross settings)
- Strategic leadership by directing an organisation, company, or institution.

Please note, this list is not exhaustive.

Please provide some examples in bullet points under selected headings as most relevant to the field of research and the proposed collaborative research programme.

The word limit is **400 words**.

3.5 Contributions to broader society

This section emphasises societal engagement and knowledge exchange.

This may include:

- Public, patient and carer involvement in research (PPI), and collaborating with particular community-based groups/organisations.
- Contributions to policy and practice development; Working with policymakers and knowledge users
- Science outreach activities for the general public or subsection of the general public
- Contributing to public understanding.
- Engagement with industry and other non-academic stakeholders.
- Impacts across research, policy, practice and business and other examples of how the team has ensured research is translated for the good of all.

Please note, this list is not exhaustive.

Please provide some examples in bullet points under selected headings as most relevant to the field of research and the proposed collaborative research programme.

The word limit is **400 words.**

3.6 Further information (optional)

Provide any further details about your team's ability to deliver the proposed work that are relevant to the application.

You may wish to provide information about career breaks, secondments, volunteering, training, part-time work, teaching or clinical commitments and other relevant experience including time spent in different sectors.

The word limit is **100 words.**

4 Co-applicants

Co-applicant summary table

For each member of the co-applicant team please add their name, current position and institution (affiliation), their role on the programme and their specific contribution to collaborative research programme as well as the amount of time each member will contribute to the grant as a percentage or proportion of a full time equivalent (FTE). The word limit is **200 words** per entry.

Co-applicant CV details

The lead applicant can add co-applicants to the application by entering their name on GEMS. If the co-applicant is already registered on GEMS, the system will find them and will allow the lead applicant to select them. Alternatively, a co-applicant can be added manually by entering their name and email details. GEMS will send them an email with login details for completing the registration process and will inform them that they have been invited by the lead applicant to participate on the application as a co-applicant. **Registered co-applicants** can decide whether to accept or reject their participation and **must consent to the application being submitted jointly in their name**. If a co-applicant rejects participation on an application, the lead applicant is informed and may revise the application accordingly. Co-applicants who accept participation in an application will be able to edit the application. **The system will flag if another user is working on the application form at the same time via a pop-up warning. A member of the applicant team may choose to over-ride this pop-up message and continue to enter data, but it is advisable that they contact the other person directly to avoid losing data when applying the override function.**

Each co-applicant can manage their **contact and CV details** (name, contact information, institution or organisation, present position, employment history, profession, membership details of professional bodies, and ORCID ID) under the 'Manage my Details' section of GEMS and this information will be automatically included in any application that involves this individual.

Note: The HRB is an ORCID member. Lead applicants are encouraged to include an ORCID ID by updating their GEMS profile under 'Manage my Details' and this will feed automatically into the application form. You also have the option to import your publication record from your ORCID ID in addition to PubMed. Please note this is not a mandatory field for submitting your application. For more information and to register please see https://orcid.org/. Importantly, once you have your ORCID ID linked to your grant application, the HRB will be able to credit the grant, if awarded, directly onto your ORCID ID via automated and authoritative data transfer.

Co-applicants will be asked to select whether they are a **researcher, knowledge user, data controller, data processor or PPI contributor co-applicant** for the purpose of the proposed research. If a co-applicant contributes from more than one perspective, please select the dominant role.

Researcher co-applicants

Researcher co-applicants will be asked to provide additional information in the application form, including their **5 most relevant publications** in peer-reviewed journals, their **relevant funding record** (past or current grants held, including HRB grants) as principal investigator or co-applicant, and their **current position and status** (contract or permanent).

Additional evidence of experience and expertise relevant to this application

The researcher co-applicant can describe their contribution to the generation of knowledge, new ideas and hypotheses, and tools. This can include how ideas and research results were communicated (written and verbally), as well as funding and grants received. The word limit is **400 words**.

Breaks from research

In this section the researcher co-applicant may want to mention breaks from research, such as statutory leave, secondments, flexible work arrangements or other relevant changes (e.g., sector or discipline) that may have affected or influenced their progression as researcher. Please state the period and the reason. The word limit is **150 words**.

Please note that additional information regarding supervisory experience of early and mid-career postgraduate researchers (if planning to co-supervise a HRB fellow) and current position and status (contract or permanent) will be requested in the application form.

Knowledge user co-applicants

Knowledge user co-applicants will be asked to provide information regarding **their expertise and experience in influencing decision making within knowledge user organisation(s).**

Knowledge user co-applicants will be asked to highlight their previous and current roles in influencing decision-making processes within their organisation or other relevant organisations. They should also use this space to highlight their specific experiences and expertise for the knowledge user co-applicant role in relation to the proposed research. The word limit is **300 words**.

Knowledge user co-applicants will be asked to provide information regarding potential **additional experience and expertise relevant to this application.** For example, they may wish to include any relevant research experience/expertise, previous experience of working in collaboration or links with researchers to produce research or evidence for health, evidence of Public and Patient Involvement in their knowledge user role, and roles/responsibilities as a constructive and effective change agent. The word limit is **300 words**.

Data controller co-applicants

Data controller co-applicants will be asked to provide additional information including the name of the data set(s) for which they are the data controller. Data controller co-applicants may wish to include here any additional experience or expertise that will support the application. For example, they may wish to include any relevant research experience/expertise, previous experience of working in collaboration or links with researchers to produce research or evidence for health. If they have research expertise/experience co-applicants may wish to include relevant outputs such as publications, funding secured or other outputs. The word limit is **400 words**.

Data processor co-applicants

Data processor co-applicants will be asked to provide additional information including the name of the data set(s) they are involved in processing. Data processor co-applicants may wish to include here any additional experience or expertise that will support the application. For example, they may wish to include any relevant research experience/expertise, previous experience of working in

collaboration or links with researchers to produce research or evidence for health. If they have research expertise/experience co-applicants may wish to include relevant outputs such as publications, funding secured or other outputs. The word limit is **400 words**.

PPI contributor co-applicants

PPI co-applicants should provide some information regarding their experience and expertise relevant to this application. For example, they may wish to include relevant experience as a service user or carer, relevant experience from their personal lives, prior experience in PPI or any other useful background information. The word limit is **400 words**.

5 Collaborative and team-based approach

Please state if the applicant team (leadership team and co-applicants) is an existing or newly formed consortium.

Describe the choice of partners, the overall complementarity of skills, expertise and disciplines within the applicant team, and how they will converge and work together to deliver and support the programme.

The word limit is **300 words.**

6 Collaborative research programme

Please ensure that your application is focused, and that sufficient evidence is provided to enable the international peer reviewers and grant selection panel members to reach a considered judgement as to the quality of your research application, its potential health impact and its feasibility.

The collaborative research programme description must include the following:

- The relevance and importance of the research thematic area.
- Overall aim.
- Research question.
- Research programme outline and integration and complementarity within the research programme.
- Targeted type of postdoctoral researchers
- Impact statement – outline.
- Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in the Collaborative Research Programme – Outline.
- References.

6.1 The relevance and importance of the research thematic area

Please set out a case for the relevance and importance of this collaborative research programme at this time in Ireland.

- Outline the problem to be addressed and the strategic importance for Ireland in terms of policy and practice (nationally and/or internationally); please reference the national strategy of relevance and any other relevant document/publication.
- Describe any systematic review, or alternative evidence collected systematically, supporting why this research programme should be conducted now and include the knowledge gaps in the research area.
- Include a description of any pilot work/data already undertaken or the use of existing national or international data.

The word limit is **1500 words**.

6.2 Overall aim

Please state the overall aim of the research project. The word limit is **100 words.**

6.3 Research question

Clearly state the research question behind the proposed work. The word limit is **50 words.**

6.4 Research programme outline and integration and complementarity within the research programme

- Please outline the proposed research programme and briefly describe each work package.
- Briefly summarise at a high level the proposed research design and the methodological approach.
- Please indicate how they integrate to form a coherent programme of research.

The word limit is **600 words**.

6.5 Targeted type of postdoctoral researchers

Please provide information on the type of candidates you are planning to recruit to conduct the programme. Include why these candidates are required and describe the main skill sets and expertise sought and how they match to the different work packages of the research programme.

The word limit is **250 words**.

6.6 Impact statement - outline

Please provide a brief outline of the anticipated outputs and outcomes and potential impact of your proposed research programme. Describe the pathway envisaged to translate the generated research evidence into real world solutions.

Your response should highlight the potential contribution to health, public health, or social care policy and/or practice, and how the research could lead to improved outcomes in Ireland and beyond

This statement should be specific and provide information that the external reviewers will find helpful in assessing the potential impact of the proposed research. Impact statements should be written primarily in plain English. The word limit is **300 words.**

6.7 Public and patient involvement (PPI) in the collaborative research programme – outline

The HRB recognises that the nature and extent of meaningful public involvement is likely to vary depending on the context of each study. Please note PPI does not include the recruitment of study participants in research projects. It also does not include work aimed at raising awareness of the public around research, such as media publications of research findings, and outreach activities such as open days in research facilities.

Useful resources including practical examples of involving members of the public in your research can be found in the HRB Funding Opportunities webpage at: http://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-opportunities/useful-links . Please be aware there are PPI Ignite Network offices in some host institutions.

Provide a high-level overview of the proposed PPI activities associated with the Collaborative Research Programme.

The word limit is **100 words**.

6.8 References

A full description of the Publications cited in the Project Description should be provided. You can enter a maximum of **25 publications**. Please enter references in the same format.

For publications:

Gallagher PA, Shoemaker JA, Wei X, Brockhoff-Schwegel CA, Creed JT. Extraction and detection of arsenicals in seaweed via accelerated solvent extraction with ion chromatographic separation and ICP-MS detection. Fresenius J Anal. Chem. 2001 Jan 1;369(1):71-80. PMID: 11210234.

For book and printed source citations:

Farrell M, Gerada C and Marsden J (2000) *External review of drug services for the Eastern Health Board*. London: National Addiction Centre.

For data citations:

Authors, year, article title, journal, publisher, DOI

Author(s), year, dataset title, data repository or archive, version, global persistence identifier

7 Training and professional development strategy

Please provide a high-level overview of the proposed training and professional development strategy for the postdoctoral fellows. Briefly outline the types of research activities, training, placements or co-localisation of research opportunities, international exposure and career development supports that will be offered, and how these will enable fellows to contribute to the applied health and social

care research and facilitate the translation of research findings into policy and practice. The word limit is **500 words**.

8 Supporting Documentation

No mandatory or other document uploads are required at pre-application stage.

Submission of Applications

The deadline for submission of complete applications is 17 December 2025 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.

Please note that the HRB will not follow up any supporting documentation related to the application, such as host institution's letters of support etc. It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to upload all supporting documentation prior to submission. If the documentation is not received by the HRB on time, in the correct format or is not properly signed or submitted, the application will be deemed ineligible without further review.

The HRB reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the terms of this call. The HRB's Policy on Appeals on funding decisions is available at https://www.hrb.ie/funding/grant-management/grant-policies/

Appendix II: HRB Funding Policies and Procedures & Useful Links

Access and support from research infrastructures

Applications availing of the advice, research design, data management services and/or other forms of support from a Clinical Research Facility/Centre (CRF/CRC), other infrastructure (e.g., Centre for Applied Medical Imaging, CAMI, Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research (CSTAR), HRB-Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB-TMRN), Cancer Groups, National clinical trials office (NCTO), CTNs or a biobank) are required to provide additional information detailing the scope and nature of the engagement (this includes national and international facilities, Units, and networks where justified).

An **Infrastructure Agreement form** will be requested as part of the application addressing the nature/scope of the service or collaboration, the rationale behind the choice of facility/centre/network and any costs associated with the project (including those provided as in-kind contributions). Applications proposing research with patients which do not detail advice and/or support from a CRF/CRC/CTU will be asked to justify why they have not done so.

Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in Research

The HRB promotes the active involvement of members of the public and patients in the research that we fund[10]. Public and patient involvement in research means that the public and patients are involved in planning and doing research from start to finish and help tell the public about the results of research. PPI, as defined here, is distinct from and additional to activities which raise awareness, share knowledge, and create a dialogue with the public, and it is also distinct from recruitment of patients/members of the public as participants in research.

PPI represents an active partnership between members of the public and patients and researchers in the research process. This can include, for example, involvement in the selection of research topics, assisting in the design, advising throughout or at specific decision points of the research project or in carrying out the research.

PPI contributors should be actively involved and part of decision making. Involving members of the public in research can improve quality and relevance of research. It can:

- Provide a different perspective – even if you are an expert in your field, your knowledge and experience will be different to the experience of someone who is using the service or living with a health condition.
- Help to ensure that the research uses outcomes that are important to the public.
- Identify a wider set of research topics than if health or social care professionals had worked alone.

[10] https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/public-and-patient-involvement-in-research/

- Make the language and content of information such as questionnaires and information leaflets clear and accessible.
- Help to ensure that the methods proposed for the study are acceptable and sensitive to the situations of potential research participants.
- Help you increase participation in your research by making it more acceptable to potential participants.

In addition to improving relevance and quality of research, it ensures that research is influenced by broader principles of citizenship, accountability, and transparency. PPI is an ethos as well as a practice. It should be context-specific and should aim to ensure that all voices are heard. Where members of the public or patients are involved, they must be compensated for their time and contributions.

In the application, you are asked to describe any public involvement in your research throughout the various stages of identifying and prioritising the research question, the research design, conduct, analysis, and dissemination. We recognise that the nature and extent of active public involvement is likely to vary depending on the context of each study or grant. PPI contributors should be named as Co-applicants where justified by their level of involvement.

For guidance and support on PPI in your research please consult with the PPI Ignite Network Ireland or your Host Institution. The PPI Ignite Network Ireland has offices located in the following seven Host Institutions: DCU, NUIG, RCSI, TCD, UCC, UCD, UL.

Open access publications

The HRB is committed to achieving open access (OA) to research outputs, aligned with best international standards.

Since 2014, the HRB has mandated OA for its publicly funded peer-reviewed research publications. In 2018 it established the HRB Open Research publishing platform[11]. The HRB has supported national OA initiatives under the National Open Research Forum[12] and as a member of Science Europe[13]. In January 2025 the HRB OA Policy was revised to require 'full and immediate OA', aligned with the existing 10 principles of Plan S[14]. The key changes include:

- The abolition of OA publication embargoes
- Authors or their institutions must retain copyright to their publications
- All articles must be published under a Creative Commons Attribution licence (CC BY), unless a more restrictive licence is exceptionally approved. This new requirement ensures that HRB-funded research can be freely reused for new discoveries.

[11] https://www.hrbopenresearch.org

[12] https://www.norf.ie

[13] https://scienceeurope.org/our-priorities/open-science/

[14] https://www.coalition-s.org/addendum-to-the-coalition-s-guidance-on-the-implementation-of-plan-s/principles-and-implementation/

- Disincentivising publication in hybrid journals by agreeing not to pay publication costs except where transition agreements to full OA journals have been agreed. We have reviewed OA contribution rates for Article Processing Charges (APCs) and benchmarked against other funders and prevailing rates.

FAIR data management and stewardship

Data management/stewardship plans (DMP) are nowadays widely accepted as part of good research practice. The HRB is committed to Open Research and is driving the making of research data **FAIR** (**F**indable, **A**ccessible, **I**nteroperable and **R**e-usable) in order to benefit science by increasing the re-use of data and by promoting transparency and accountability.

FAIR data principles[15] provide a guideline for those wishing to enhance the re-usability of their data holdings: these principles put specific emphasis on enhancing the ability of machines to automatically find and use the data, in addition to supporting its re-use by individuals. For researchers, the move to FAIR and open data, where applicable, means researchers should consider data management issues and find suitable data repositories at the research planning stage. Applicants will have to provide information about their plans for data management and data sharing at application stage.

In line with the HRB's policy on management and sharing of research data[16], all successful applicants are required to submit a completed data management plan (DMP) to the HRB on or before three months after the grant start date, and a final updated version of the DMP with the last annual report.

The DMP will need to be submitted alongside a certification of completion from the designated representative(s) within the Host Institution.

Applicants will have to provide an outline of their plans for data management and data sharing in the application inclusive of the costs associated to the plan.

The timing for completion and submission of the DMPs must be also included among the objectives and deliverables of the programme.

General data protection regulation

The **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018. As a result, the applicant team will be asked through the HRB online grant management system GEMS to **confirm you understand** that personal data provided as part of this application, including but not limited to CV information, may be shared with person(s) based outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) for the specific purpose of obtaining peer reviews of this application. International reviewers play a vital role for the HRB in setting standards and in benchmarking our scientific community to enable

[15] https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618

[16] https://www.hrb.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/HRB_Policy_on_sharing_of_research_data.pdf

them to operate in a global context. Individual peer reviewers are selected for their specific expertise in relation to submitted applications and can be based anywhere in the world.

Furthermore, by confirming participation, you will be asked to confirm you understand that HRB uses the information you provide (regarding all applicant team members) to consider your application, contact you about your application, and if you are successful, to manage your grant throughout its lifetime in accordance with HRB general T&C for research awards. This will include contacting you with regard to monitoring of progress through written reporting and other means e.g., interim review. We will publish some basic information on successful awards including PI, Host Institution, amount awarded and lay summary on our website and may highlight individual awards or researchers in more detail (with specific consent). We will also use the information you have provided to generate general statistics around our current funding portfolio, and to evaluate our funding mechanisms and investment. After your grant has ended, we will continue to keep your information on file (in accordance with HRB policies) to allow us to evaluate the outcomes, outputs and impacts of HRB investment in your research.

Please note that we will also use information associated with *unsuccessful* applications for a number of the purposes outlined above such as generating general statistics around our current funding portfolio, and to evaluate our funding mechanisms and investment e.g., demographics of applicants, research areas of applicants. Similarly, we will use the information provided about people employed on awards to help evaluate our career support and capacity building initiatives.

The Health Research Regulations

Following the implementation of GDPR, a regulation for health research known as the Health Research Regulations 2018 (S.I. 314) has been implemented, with further amendments made in 2019 (S.I. 188) and 2021 (S.I. 18)[17]. These regulations outline the mandatory suitable and specific measures for the processing of personal data for the purposes of health research. They further set out that explicit consent is a mandatory safeguard that must be obtained from individuals when using their personal data for health research. Where it is not feasible to obtain explicit consent, an application for a consent declaration can be made to the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee[18].

Ethical approval and approvals for use of animals

Ethical approval is required for all research work funded by the HRB that involves human participants, human material (including tissue) or animals (pre-clinical models only). Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all necessary approvals are in place prior to the start of the research.

Applicants should allow sufficient time to obtain ethical and/or competent authority approval and/or animal licenses as if successful, the applicant will be required to complete and submit Approvals

[17] http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/18/made/en/pdf

[18] https://hrcdc.ie/

Declaration form to the HRB before the initiation of the grant. It is suggested that these are sought in parallel to the submission of the application to the HRB.

HRB narrative-style CV

The HRB is a member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (COARA), which recognises the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research. It stipulates that research, and researchers should be primarily assessed on qualitative indicators rather than journal- and publication-based metrics. As a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the HRB supports a research environment where importance is placed on the intrinsic value and relevance of research and its potential impact on society.

Arising out of these commitments, since 2016 the HRB has been using a narrative-like CV for funding schemes that build research capacity and capabilities by supporting people and skills. The HRB Narrative-style CV encompasses a structured description of a researcher's contribution and achievements that reflect a broader range of skills, experiences and research outputs beyond publications and funding records.

The HRB Narrative-style CV template has evolved based on reflections from earlier experimental work and the feedback gathered from surveys, assessing user experience (applicants, mentors and reviewers). It is aligned to the Royal Society Résumé for Researchers and best international practice.

It is typically required from the lead applicant and the mentor. Researchers applying to career funding schemes should use the narrative-style CV to present their career paths in a convincing and comprehensible way. Reviewers are not asked to score the different sections of the Career-track CV individually but assess the overall CV in line with the assessment criteria of the funding scheme. More information is available on the HRB webpage[19].

HRB observer initiative

The HRB is committed to being an independent, credible voice for research and evidence. To further increase transparency of our selection processes, the HRB invites staff members from HI Research Offices to observe selected HRB panel meetings, with safeguards to maintain the confidentiality of applications. We invite observers to selection panel meetings and interview-based panels, during which panel reviewers will discuss competing applications and rank these for funding. Where a panel shortlists pre-applications the meeting may also be open to observers. Our hope is that observers will widely pass on their first-hand experience of the HRB process to others inside and outside their organisation.

[19] https://www.hrb.ie/funding/hrb-narrative-style-cv/

Research on Research

The HRB is developing its approach to research on research (RoR) with the aim of enhancing the evidence base for HRB research funding practices. We may also collaborate with researchers on request regarding specific RoR questions. Should your application become of interest to such a study, the HRB will seek your consent for the use of your information.

HRB gender policy

In line with international best practice, the **HRB gender policy**[20] recognises the responsibility of the HRB to support everyone to realise their full potential in order to ensure equality of opportunity and to maximise the quantity and the quality of research. To ensure fairness and equality to all applicants, each funding application received will be assessed as outlined in the call guidance documentation for that particular funding round. To ensure gender balance in decision-making, the HRB aims to reach the international best practice target of 40% of the under-represented gender in all HRB panels where possible. Gender will also be considered when appointing the position of Panel Chair.

Conflict of interest

Conflict of interest rules *are applied rigorously*. Where a conflict of interest exists, the reviewer is requested to inform the HRB immediately so that an alternative reviewer may be appointed. International peer reviewers will not provide comments or scores on any application on which they have a conflict of interest.

Reviewers must adhere to high standards of integrity during the peer review process. They must respect the intellectual property of applicants and may not appropriate and use as their own, or disclose to any third party, ideas, concepts, or data contained in the applications they review.

Appeals procedure

The HRB's Policy on Appeals on funding decisions is available at https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/HRB-Policy-on-Appeals-2.pdf.

Privacy policy

To understand why we collect the information we collect and what we do with that information, please see our Privacy Policy[21].

[20] https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/HRB-Policy-on-Gender-in-Research-Funding-2.pdf

[21] https://www.hrb.ie/privacy-notice/

Useful links

Useful online resources and websites can be found on the HRB Funding Opportunities webpage at: http://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-opportunities/useful-links

Biobanking

- **Council of Europe Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on research on biological materials of human origin (2016)**
  https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=090000168064e8ff
- **BBMRI-ERIC is a European research infrastructure for biobanking**
  https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/
- **OECD Guidelines on Human Biobanks and Genetic Research Databases**
  https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0375
- **ISBER Best Practices for Repositories**
  https://www.isber.org/page/BPR
- **Molecular Medicine Ireland Biobanking Guidelines**
  https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/bio.2010.8101
- **NCI Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources (2016 version)**
  https://biospecimens.cancer.gov/bestpractices/2016-NCIBestPractices.pdf

Public and patient involvement in research and research priorities

- **The National PPI Ignite Network**
  https://ppinetwork.ie/
- **NIHR PPI resources**

  https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/working-with-people-and-communities
- **How to involve the public in knowledge mobilisation**:
  https://evidence.nihr.ac.uk/collection/how-to-involve-the-public-in-knowledge-mobilisation/
- **Patient-Centred Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)**
  http://www.pcori.org
- **Public Involvement Impact Assessment Framework:** Provides tools for successful involvement of members of the public in research projects and for assessment of impacts.
  http://piiaf.org.uk/
- **NIHR Payment guidance for researchers and professionals**
  https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/payment-guidance-for-researchers-and-professionals/27392

- **European Patient Forum Value + Handbook:** For Project Co-ordinators, Leaders and Promoters on Meaningful Patient Involvement.
  http://www.eu-patient.eu/globalassets/projects/valueplus/doc_epf_handbook.pdf
- **The James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships:** Research priorities in disease areas set jointly by patients, clinicians, and researchers.
  http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/
- **Campus Engage:** Supporting Irish HEIs to embed civic engagement in their work. Includes resources, how-to-guides, and case studies for engaged research.
  http://www.campusengage.ie/what-we-do/publications/
- **UK Standards for Public Involvement:** The six UK Standards for Public Involvement provide clear, concise statements of effective public involvement against which improvement can be assessed.
  https://sites.google.com/nihr.ac.uk/pi-standards/home
- **The Involvement Matrix:** A tool for researchers/project leaders to promote collaboration with patients in projects and research.
  https://www.kcrutrecht.nl/involvement-matrix/
- **The Evaluation Toolkit:** is a resource designed for practitioners of the health sector, produced after the completion of a rigorous systematic review of patient and public engagement evaluation tools.
  https://ceppp.ca/en/evaluation-toolkit/
- **GRIPP2 reporting checklists:** Tools to improve reporting of patient and public involvement in research
  https://researchinvolvement.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40900-017-0062-2#Tab1

Use of animals in research

- **EU Reference Laboratory for alternatives to animal testing (EURL ECVAM) (reviews of available non animal models)**

  https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/eu-reference-laboratory-alternatives-animal-testing-eurl-ecvam_en
- **Experimental Design Assistant (EDA)** (online tool for design of animal experiments)
  https://eda.nc3rs.org.uk/
- **PREPARE (Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence) guidelines**
  https://norecopa.no/prepare
- **ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines**
  https://arriveguidelines.org/
- **SYRCLE (Guidance and training on systematic review of animal studies)**
  https://www.syrcle.network/

- **PROSPERO (Register for systematic reviews including animal studies)**
  https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/

Gender and/or sex dimensions in research

- **Examples of case studies in Health & Medicine where gender/sex in research matters**
  http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/case-studies-medicine.html
- **Gender Toolkit in EU-funded research for examples and guidance**
  http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009_GenderToolKit_Module1.pdf
- **How to integrate sex and gender into research**

  https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50836.html
- **Impacts of integrating sex and gender in research**

  https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50839.html
- **NIH Policy on Sex as a Biological Variable**
  https://orwh.od.nih.gov/sex-gender/nih-policy-sex-biological-variable

Data management and sharing and FAIR principles

- **Digital Curation Centre:** How to develop a data management and sharing plan and examples DMPs.
  http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/data-management-plans/guidance-examples
- **FAIR data principles FORCE 11**
  https://www.force11.org/fairprinciples
- **UK Concordat on Open Research Data (July 2016)**
  https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UKRI-020920-ConcordatonOpenResearchData.pdf
- **Guidelines on FAIR data management plans in Horizon 2020**
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf
- **FAIR at the Dutch centre for Life sciences**
  https://www.dtls.nl/fair-data/
- **Registry of Research Data Repositories**
  http://www.re3data.org/

Research data management plans

- **Data Stewardship Wizard created by ELIXIR CZ and NL**
  https://ds-wizard.org/
- **DMPonline of the Digital Curation Centre (DCC), UK**
  https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/
- **DMPTool of University of California Curation Center of the California Digital Library (CDL), USA**
  https://dmptool.org/
- **RDMO Research Data Management Organiser of the German Research Foundation, Germany**
  https://rdmorganiser.github.io/en/
- **Guidelines on FAIR data management plans in Horizon 2020**
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf

Knowledge translation resources

- **Health Service Executive Research & Development Main Page**
  https://hseresearch.ie/research-dissemination-and-translation/
- **Health Service Executive Research & Development: Knowledge Translation, Dissemination, and Impact A Practical Guide for Researchers**
  https://hseresearch.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Tools-and-templates-.pdf
- **Integrated Knowledge Translation (iKT) NUI Galway**
  https://www.nuigalway.ie/hbcrg/ikt/
- **The Canadian Institutes of Health Research:** Guide to Knowledge Translation Planning
  https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45321.html
- **Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health:** Open Access Course
  https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/is/training-education/TIDIRC-open-access

Implementation science resources

- **Centre for Effective Services**
  https://www.effectiveservices.org/resources/implementation
- **UCC Implementation Science Training Institute**
  https://www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/medhealth/cpd1778uccimplementationsciencetraininginstitute/
- **European Implementation Collaborative**
  https://implementation.eu/resources/

Co-creation resources

- **ACCOMPLISSH Guide to impact planning**
  https://www.ugent.be/psync/en/what/projects/impactplanning.pdf
- **Working together to co-create knowledge: A unique co-creation tool – Carnegie UK Trust**
  https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/working-together-to-co-create-knowledge-a-unique-co-creation-tool/

Information on persistent identifiers

- **DOI:** List of current DOI registration agencies provided by the International DOI Foundation
  http://www.doi.org/registration_agencies.html
- **Handle:** Assigning, managing and resolving persistent identifiers for digital objects and other Internet resources provided by the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)
  http://www.handle.net/
- **URN:** List of all registered namespaces provided by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)
  https://www.iana.org/assignments/urn-namespaces/urn-namespaces.xml

Data repositories

- **Registry of Research Data Repositories**
  http://www.re3data.org/
- **Data centers accredited by the German Data forum according to uniform and transparent standards (Germany)**
  https://www.konsortswd.de/ueber-uns/ratswd/
- **Zenodo Data Repository (OpenAIR)**
  https://zenodo.org/

Research ethics resources

- **National Office for Research Ethics Committees**
  https://www.nrecoffice.ie/ethics-resources/
- **HSE Research Ethics**
  https://hseresearch.ie/research-ethics/

Other useful links

- **Tool that helps to select and apply a license to a resource, provided by Creative Commons**
  https://creativecommons.org/choose/