EP PerMed Research, Innovation & Technology Call:Test & Demonstration of Multimodal Data Approaches for Personalised Medicine (MultiPMData2026 RITC)

Frequently Asked Questions

01 October 2025

HRB Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ is specific to applicants based in Ireland and should be read in addition to the full call information available here: EP PerMed RITC 2026

Eligibility

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

A: The HRB will not fund:

- Proposals involving basic biomedical research.[1]

- 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.

- Applications from individuals applying for, holding, or employed under funding received from the tobacco industry.[2]
- Applications from individuals applying for, holding, or employed under funding received from the alcohol industry and related actors.[3]

See EPPerMed MultiDataPM2026 RITC Guidance Notes for full information on scope.

Q: Do Lead Applicants have to be permanent staff members?

A: No, contracted researchers and Adjunct Professors can apply. To be eligible, these applicants must provide a letter from the Host Institution (HI) as follows:

- **Contracted researchers:** letter to endorse their application, confirming they have the authority and resources allocated to hold and manage a grant under their particular status for the duration of the award. All **contracted researchers** must also have a contract with a HI for the duration of the grant award or assure the HRB that they will be offered a contract for the period of the award if successful and this must be stated in their letter of support

- **Adjunct Professors:** letter to confirm that the applicant has the authority and resources allocated to hold and manage a grant under their Adjunct status for at least the duration of the award.

This should be provided to HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie at time of submission.

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[1] Basic biomedical research refers to very early stage, fundamental research. HRB permits pre-clinical research within this call on the understanding that pre-clinical studies represent an important stage of research that occurs before testing in humans to find out if a drug, treatment or procedure is likely to be useful. Work with animal models and human samples is eligible under this call.

[2] 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.

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

Q: Can Early Career Researchers be Lead Applicants?

A: Yes, if they meet the Lead Applicant eligibility criteria.

Q: Can multiple Lead Applicants from Ireland apply?

A: Yes, more than one applicant from Ireland can apply once the consortium eligibility criteria are met. If the two applicants are at separate Institutions, they must apply as separate partners.

Q: Are Host Institutions in Northern Ireland eligible to participate?

A: This call is not open for HRB Host Institutions in Northern Ireland. There are no UK funders participating in this call, hence participants based in these institutions must be self-funded collaborators. A maximum of two collaborators is allowed per consortium.

Q: What types of organisations can participate?

A: The HRB can only fund participants based in Ireland applying from HRB approved Host Institutions.

All other organisations in Ireland may only be included as self-funded partners and are not eligible to receive any HRB funding.

The HRB cannot provide funding to industry/enterprise organisations as partners or collaborators. Organisations providing specific services for the project can be paid by the Host Institution via sub-contracting costs. Any procurement activities should adhere to national public service and EC procurement guidelines.

Q: May project participants be included in more than one application to this call?

A: Each applicant can submit a maximum of two proposals and can only be a coordinator on one.

Budget Preparation

Q: Does the contribution from HRB include pension costs and overheads?

A: The maximum HRB funding of €430,000 (Partners), or €530,000 (co-ordinators), must include pension costs and overheads. Note that there is a maximum of €330,000 (Partners) and €405,000 (co-ordinators) allocated in direct costs (excludes overheads) respectively.

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

A: The overhead payment is 25% of Total Direct Modified Costs (TDMC) for desk-based research and 30% for lab-based research. TDMC excludes student fees, equipment, sub-contracting and capital

building costs. The rate (25% or 30%) should be selected based on the primary activity of the project and applied at a flat rate across the project. Please see HRB Policy Usage of Research Overheads.

Q: What does the additional funding for co-ordinators cover?

A: Consortium co-ordinators may request this funding. It will cover activities specifically incurred due to consortium co-ordination activities. This will not cover research-related costs (excludes equipment and consumables) but could cover costs such as salaries, travel and administration related to co-ordination, as well as associated overheads.

These costs should be clearly marked or explained in the budget submitted to HRB so the HRB can confirm that the additional funds are being attributed to co-ordination activities.

Q: Where two partners in a single consortium are applying for HRB funds, is a separate budget required for each partner?

A: Your budget will be submitted both in the application form and separately to HRB at full proposal stage. There is a different approach in each case.

For the application form, each partner must enter their associated budget as there may be eligibility issues if it appears that a partner is not requesting funds.

For HRB's supplementary, detailed budget (see Submission FAQs below) we will need a single combined budget from the partner that HRB will contract with.[4] This should clearly delineate each partner's associated costs and must be reviewed and approved by the relevant Host Institution(s). The combined budget total must be within the maximum amount (including overheads) of €430,000 or €530,000 where one of the partners is the co-ordinator.

Q: Can costs be divided across partners in different countries?

A: If a particular cost is incurred at a consortium level – e.g., data management costs – HRB can cover a portion of these costs for the partner(s) based in Ireland. Please note that these costs should be divided proportionally across partners according to their relative need – i.e., the division should align with the proposed workplan and deliverables rather than being disproportionately allocated to the Irish partner if, for example, they have more available budget.

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[4] This must be the coordinator if an Irish coordinator exists. For administrative purposes, the second partner will be recorded in HRB systems as a Co-Applicant.

Submission

Q: Is additional documentation required by the HRB at application stage?

A: Yes - the HRB has introduced a mandatory requirement for applicants to alert us to their intention to submit an application to Joint Transnational Calls(JTCs)/RITCs and a sign-off process for Host Institutions (HIs) aligned with our requirements for all other HRB schemes.
The 'HI JTC Sign Off Form' (available on this HRB page) must now be signed by the authorised signatory (Dean of Research or equivalent person authorised to endorse research grant applications for the Host Institution).
The Lead Applicant (partner based in Ireland requesting HRB funding) must send the final application to their Host Institution Research Office (RO). The RO should then facilitate the completion of the 'HI JTC Sign Off Form'. This will confirm that the Lead Applicant is eligible and that the HI is willing to participate as HI for the application.
The completed sign-off form and application should then be sent to HRB. **Please note that the deadline for submission to the HRB is three working days after the RITC submission deadline**.

Additionally:

- New applicants to HRB's JTCs/RITCs must demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria by completing the Lead Applicant Eligibility Form and include this in their submission to the HRB in advance of the deadline. This does not apply to previous applicants to JTCs/RITCs.

- Letters of support are required from the Host Institution for researchers in adjunct or contract positions. For more details, please see the Eligibility section above.

- At full proposal submission participants from institutions in Ireland will be asked to submit supplementary budgetary information to the HRB, which will justify the HRB funds requested. In addition, applicants will be requested to clarify the specific deliverables for the partner from Ireland, including their role in the development of a Data Management Plan.

  This will expedite contract negotiations with the HRB and monitoring of the award in the case of successful consortia with applicants from Ireland.

  A template requesting this further information will be provided by the HRB after invitation for submission of full proposals.

Assessment and Decision-making

Q: Since prioritisation will be assessed internationally and multiple funders are involved in each project, how are decisions made?

A: Projects are ranked by the peer review Panel and placed in groups. The funders then use the ranking list to make decisions on funding as follows.

- The project must be considered of sufficient quality to be funded. This cut-off is set by the peer review Panel and availability of funds is not considered in making this assessment. However, the Panel endeavours to recommend a sufficient number of projects so that funders can maximise

the use of available funds and, therefore, the number of proposals funded – this means that more projects will be recommended than there will be funds available.

- Projects in the highest ranked group are prioritised for funding first and funders cannot move to a lower group until all projects in the group(s) above are funded.

- All relevant funders must have sufficient budget remaining to cover all consortium partners. For this call, there is also some additional gap-filling funding which will help to fund projects where funders have run out of budget. Additionally, funders will seek to find other mechanisms through which to fill gaps and maximise the number of projects funded.

  When funds are depleted, no further projects can be funded, irrespective of whether they have been deemed of sufficient quality to be funded.

Grant Co-ordination

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

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

Q: Do I have to submit a Data Management Plan to the HRB if I am not the coordinator?

A: As per the HRB policy on Management and Sharing of Research Data, the HRB requests a Data Management Plan (DMP) is submitted to DMP@hrb.ie . The DMP developed by the consortium can be used, once it covers all the aspects outlined in the HRB DMP Template .

Q: What reports are required?

A: In addition to consortium reporting requirements (as stated in the main call text)**,** the HRB will request reports (e.g., annual reports) from Principal Investigators based in Ireland.