ERDERA Joint Transnational Call (2026)

"Resolving unsolved cases in rare genetic and non-genetic diseases"

HRB Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 26 June 2026

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This FAQ is specific to applicants based in Ireland and should be read in addition to the full call information: ERDERA JTC2026

Eligibility

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

A: Yes, but note that Irish Partners are also not eligible for HRB funding for:

- 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 the full call text of the ERDERA JTC2026 funding page or 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 grant. All **contracted researchers** must also have a contract with a HI for the duration of the grant or assure the HRB that they will be offered a contract for the period of the grant 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 grant.

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

[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: This call specifically encourages the inclusion of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) as full research partners. If you are listed in the application as an ECR, you must nominate a mentor and provide a letter of support from your mentor. See the HRB call webpage for full information on ECRs as Lead Applicant/Principal Investigator.

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 able to participate?

A: This call is not open for HRB Host Institutions in Northern Ireland. As there are no UK funders participating in this call, participants based in these institutions must be self-funded collaborators.

Q: What types of organisations can participate?

A: HRB can only fund approved Host Institutions (with the exception of Host Institutions based in Northern Ireland as noted above). Other organisations in Ireland can only be included as external collaborators, not being able to receive any HRB funding.

HRB cannot provide funding to 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 and EC procurement guidelines.

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

A: Each applicant can participate in more than one application but 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, or €530,000 for coordinators, must include pension costs and overheads. Note that there is a maximum of €330,000 and €405,000 direct costs (excludes overheads) respectively.

Q: What is the overhead rate on a grant 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 coordinators cover?

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

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

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

A: For the application form, each partner must enter their associated budget.

At full proposal stage, HRB request a supplementary, detailed budget (see Submission FAQs below) – because HRB will contract with only one partner, we will need a single combined budget from that partner. This should clearly delineate each partner's associated costs and must be reviewed and approved by the relevant Host Institutions. 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 coordinator.

Q: Is it possible to transfer funds to a project partner?

A: No, it is not permitted to transfer funds to partners in other countries. In joint transnational calls, project partners are funded by their respective national/regional funding organisations, so each partner should cost accurately and appropriately for activities within their own country and seek this funding from the relevant national funder.

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.

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 JTCs and a sign-off process for Host Institutions (HIs) aligned with our requirements for all other HRB schemes. The 'HI JTC Sign Off Form' 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 HI 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 ERDERA JTC2026 submission deadline.**

Additionally:

- New applicants to HRB's Joint Transnational Calls must demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria by completing the Lead Applicant eligibility form by the submission deadline. This does not apply to previous applicants to JTCs.
- Letters of support are required (a) from the Host Institution for researchers in Adjunct or contract positions and (b) from the mentor of Early Career Researcher (ECR) applicants (where marked as ECR in the application). For more details, please see the Eligibility section above.
- If you are listed in the application as an ECR, you must nominate a mentor and provide a letter of support from your mentor.
- 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 grant 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.

- When funds are low and proposals of equal ranking are in competition for any remaining funding, the selection is then made based on additional criteria laid out in the call text for the call. Priority order for funding will be based on the below prioritization (in descending order):
  - Availability of national/regional funding
  - Maximising the use of national/regional funding
  - Proposals that address disease not otherwise covered by a more highly ranked one
  - Patient centricity of project
  - Proposals with partners from underrepresented or undersubscribed countries
  - Gender balance within consortia

Post-award

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) for all HRB grants. The DMP developed by the consortium can be used, once there is sufficient detail on how the data will be shared/managed etc. for the partner based in Ireland.

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 Principle Investigators based in Ireland.