



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

# ***Irish Research Council Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Opportunities***

**SMARTSkills Workshop,  
24th October 2013**

**Olive Walsh, Irish Research Council**

# *The Irish Research Council – who are we?*



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

**The mission of the Irish Research Council is to enable and sustain a vibrant and creative research community in Ireland**

## *What do we do?*



## *Government of Ireland Schemes*

### GOI Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme

- *Support for postgraduate degrees – Research Masters Degree, Doctoral Degree*
- *Full time, based at Irish HEI*
- *Supports new entrants and those who have part-completed degree*

### GOI Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme

- *Support for postdoctoral research projects*
- *Full time, based at Irish HEI*
- *One year fellowship: to prepare a doctoral dissertation for publication*
- *Two year fellowship: to develop a new research project or a project which is a significant development of the subject of the doctorate*



## *Government of Ireland Schemes*

### *GOI Research Projects Grant Scheme*

- Support for researchers and research teams to build capacity in their research area through project grants and knowledge transfer activities*
- Applicants are full time members of academic staff for no less than two years*
- Three types of grant:*
  - ✓ Starter RPG*
  - ✓ Advanced RPG*
  - ✓ Interdisciplinary RPG*

### *GOI New Foundations Scheme*

- Support for researchers who intend to pursue research, networking or dissemination activities*
- One year award, welcomes applications to develop networks or projects in support of future application to national or international funding programmes*

## *Enterprise Schemes*

### Enterprise Partnership Scheme (EPS)

- *Support for postgraduate and postdoctoral degrees*
- *Researcher based in Irish HEI with placement opportunity with Enterprise Partner*
- *Enterprise partner based anywhere in the world*

### Employment Based Postgraduate Programme (EBP)

- *Support for postgraduate degrees*
- *Researcher employed by Employment Partner, spends 50-70% of time with them and remainder in Irish HEI*
- *Employment Partner based in Ireland*

### Elevate Postdoctoral Programme (ELEVATE)

- *Support for postdoctoral degrees*
- *Researcher located 2 years abroad in HEI or Enterprise partner, spends 1 year back in Irish HEI*
- *International HEI or Enterprise partner can be based anywhere in the world*



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

***Our Enterprise Programmes have engaged with over 230 companies and organisations...***



Answers That Matter.





## *EU Networks & Opportunities*



## *European Research Council (ERC) Schemes*

- ERC supports investigator-initiated research across all fields of research
- Emphasis on “frontier research”: both basic research in science and technology of critical importance to economic and social welfare, and also research at and beyond the frontiers of understanding, to yield progress in new and exciting research areas that are characterized by an absence of disciplinary boundaries.
- ERC funding falls into three main research domains:
  - Physical Sciences & Engineering - NCP: Graeme Horley, SFI
  - Life Sciences - NCP: Graeme Horley, SFI
  - Social Sciences & Humanities - NCP: Paul Kilkenny, IRC

## *Evaluation for Postgraduate & Postdoctoral Schemes*

- Focus is on funding excellence
- Separate funding streams for AHSS & STEM
- No subject quotas, no favoured topics nor disciplines
- For PG, no bias towards new entrants or those part-completed
- No bias towards type of application: Masters or PhD for postgraduate scheme; one or two year application for postdoctoral
- Assessment by peer review and International Assessment Board to ensure a high level of expertise; gender balance; regular rotation of experts

## *Before you apply*

- Schemes are run on a competitive basis based on specific terms and conditions. T&Cs cover all aspects of scheme including:
  - Eligibility
  - Funding parameters
  - Criteria for scoring
  - Deadlines
- Talk to your Research Office
- Talk to parties relevant to your application – Supervisor/Enterprise Partner/Referees - discuss proposal with them well in advance of deadline
- Does your proposal need ethical approval? Does your research have a gender dimension?



## *Making an application*

- Online application for PG/PD schemes:
  - Ensure contact details for all parties are correct
  - Ensure all parties submit their element by their deadline
  - No alterations once application is submitted!

IRC Budget is limited: how to make your application stand out?

- Think about potential outputs, dissemination and impact
- What is the research context?
- Keep answers simple, focused and precise
- Use jargon free language
- Answer all questions - remember to spell check and proof read



## *Assessor Comments*

- Lack of awareness of ethical considerations
- Project is not feasible, targets are not achievable based on application
- Methodology is not clearly described in application
- Importance of certain skills (e.g. languages)
- Choice of supervisor/mentor & HEI – very important and not treated as such
- Generic references supplied – referee not specific enough
- Proposal does not fit criteria



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

## Contact Points



[info@research.ie](mailto:info@research.ie)



[www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)  
[www.twitter.com/irishresearch](https://www.twitter.com/irishresearch)  
[www.facebook.com/irishresearch](https://www.facebook.com/irishresearch)



Thank you!