

Innovate for Ireland

First Call

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated 21/10/2024

Q: Does the student candidate have to be directly supported by the qualifying Research Ireland award?

A: Yes, the student must be supported by the qualifying award, and must have either officially started their PhD in 2024, or will do so.

Q: How will the qualifying award be changed if the application is successful?

A: The qualifying award will receive a supplement to top up the PhD student(s) stipend to the iScholar stipend level.

Q: Who applies to this call, is it the Lead Applicant on the award, or can it be (e.g.) a primary supervisor who is affiliated with a Centre type award?

A: The overall Lead Applicant to the Innovate for Ireland First Call should always be either a Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant on the qualifying award.

For large scale awards, such as Research Ireland Centres and Co-Centres, the Lead Applicant should coordinate and submit the application on behalf of the Centre or Co-Centre. Within such applications, there may be several supervisors for the individual PhD students for whom support is being requested. These supervisors should prepare a Letter of Support for their student(s) and provide it to the Lead Applicant to collate into one application on behalf of the of the Centre or Co-Centre.

Q: Are Funded Investigators at the 2016 Research Centres eligible to be primary supervisors for students under this call?

A: Yes, Funded Investigators are eligible to be included as supervisors within an application to this call from a Centre.

Q: Who signs off on the application if it is coming from a Centre type award, where some students may or may not be directly at the Lead Host Institution for that Centre, and may be based at other participating Host Institutions for that Centre?

A: The overarching Host Institution for the Centre level award should sign off on the application form. The Letters of Support for individual students should be drawn up and provided by the supervisors at the relevant Host Institution. Research Ireland will contact relevant Host Institutions after the application closing date to clarify any details if needed.

Q: Is the submission made by the Lead Applicant or the Research Office?

A: Either may submit the application, but if the Lead Applicant applies, the Research Office should be copied in on the email.

Q: Should there be alignment between the PhD student's project and the Research Ireland award, or must the project just align with the thematic areas identified in the call?

A: The principle requirement is for the PhD project to align with the themes of the Innovate for Ireland programme.

Q: For Frontiers for the Future, do the qualifying awards include both the Awards and Projects stream?

A: Both Frontiers for the Future Awards and Projects are qualifying Research Ireland awards for the purposes of this call.

Q: Is the candidate who attends the interview the Lead Applicant or the PhD student?

A: The PhD student will be invited to attend the interview, if they are shortlisted.