

<p><b>1. Name of Governmental Department or Agency, Houses of Oireachtas Service unit</b></p> <p>Oireachtas Library &amp; Research Service, Houses of the Oireachtas Service</p>
<p><b>2. Title of the Project</b></p> <p>The economic, social and ethical implications of technological innovation.</p>
<p><b>3. Description of the Project</b></p> <p>The Oireachtas Library &amp; Research Service (L&amp;RS) provides impartial information and research services to support the work of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, the Houses of the Oireachtas (Dáil and Seanad), individual Members and Committees in respect of their parliamentary duties.</p> <p>One of the key services provided by the Library &amp; Research Service is to provide topical research briefings on emerging policy issues across a number of thematic areas. The purpose of this research project is to identify and analyse key issues relevant to policy and legislative agenda items under the theme <i>“The economic, social and ethical implications of technological innovation”</i>.</p> <p>Importantly, the outputs of this research will be used to directly inform Members of issues and emerging research relevant to the Oireachtas. The outputs will also assist the L&amp;RS to deliver on its Topical Research Programme, horizon scanning activities and their engagement programme to connect academic research and expertise to the information needs of Oireachtas Members.</p>
<p><b>4. Project Scope</b></p> <p>The project consists of the following tasks:</p> <p><b>Task 1:</b> Conduct an in-depth scientific analysis of the policy topic submitted as per application process. Publish this to all Members under the L&amp;RS Spotlight series. Depending on the topic chosen, the Spotlight may include any or all of the following approaches- data analysis, data visualisation, statistical analysis, horizon scanning, a review of existing literature or best practice; an assessment of policy issues and options.</p> <p><b>Task 2:</b> Management and co-ordination of dissemination activities related to the research findings to Oireachtas Members. The researcher will be required to present his/her Spotlight to Members at a briefing/seminar in Leinster House. The presentation may involve the researcher sourcing an expert academic panel and/or a Chair to facilitate the session and to participate in a QA session.</p> <p><b>Task 3:</b> The researcher will also contribute to shorter guest articles on the Spotlight topic or associated topics for publication to Members in various L&amp;RS publications (e.g. Research Matters Quarterly and/or blog posts).</p>

**Task 4:** Knowledge sharing/knowledge transfer to Oireachtas Library & Research staff. The researcher will be expected to facilitate knowledge transfer to L&RS research staff through an organised knowledge sharing session and/or working with individual members of L&RS research staff. Knowledge transfer may relate to identifying emerging policy issues around the theme of *'The economic, social and ethical implications of technological innovation'* and their subject expertise and skills (e.g. research methodologies, research resources, research tools and technologies such as qualitative or quantitative applications).

**Task 5:** The Fellow will be expected to write up a short 'self-reflective assessment' document at the end of the Fellowship documenting their work; indicating how they intend to track and measure the impact of their work and reflections on how engagement with the Oireachtas has impacted on their approach to research.

**Other related tasks:**

The L&RS will actively seek opportunities and facilitate the researcher's direct engagement with other Houses of the Oireachtas Units and other L&RS services including its legislative analysis work and work for individual Members and Oireachtas Committees. Any additional outputs arising (to the deliverables listed above) will be discussed and agreed with the researcher.

**5. Skills/Expertise Required**

On or before the closing date for applications have obtained their PhD degree or equivalent but can be at any stage of experience thereafter;

Be able to demonstrate:

- Expertise in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths discipline;
- Strong research and analytical skills with excellent attention to detail;
- Strong editorial skills and the ability to write and present research in a concise, accessible and plain English style;
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and team working skills;
- Strong information technology skills particularly using relevant research databases and online resources.

Desirable interest and experience include:

- Knowledge of current affairs
- Data visualisation skills (e.g. infographics, GIS)

**6. Expected Outputs of Project**

The researcher will be required and expected to deliver the following:

- a) A Spotlight briefing paper for Members on the policy topic as per the researcher's application. The Spotlight must be accessible for a parliamentary audience and must be of an acceptable standard to the L&RS and SFI.

- b) Contribution to shorter articles on the associated policy topics for publication to Members in various L&RS publications.
- c) Dissemination activities to inform and disseminate their work to internal audiences and externally.
- d) Knowledge transfer to L&RS research staff through knowledge sharing sessions to L&RS staff.
- e) Completion of a short 'self-reflective assessment' document at the end of the Fellowship documenting their work.

#### **7. Working Arrangements**

The researcher must be able to take a period of 3 months (continuous) away from their current research activities or other position within the Research Body. The placement is full-time and will run during a parliamentary session (September-July). The Researcher will be based in the L&RS offices in 91-93 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Remote working can be facilitated; however, researchers are expected to be onsite in the Oireachtas on sitting days (Tuesday-Thursday inclusive). Any flexible arrangements will be agreed in advance of the placement between the L&RS and the researcher.

#### **8. Expected Timeline**

The duration of the placement is 3 months full-time. Exact start dates will be agreed in advance with the L&RS. Sufficient time should be allowed to ensure that necessary Garda vetting checks and required agreements between the researcher and the Houses of the Oireachtas Service have been completed.