

HRB Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

How to apply

How do I apply for the Emerging Clinician Scientist Award?

Applicants are strongly advised to carefully read the Guidance Notes prior to application.

The scheme will use a two-stage application process consisting of:

1. Open call for Pre-application stage (Stage 1)
2. Invitation of selected applicants to submit a Full Application (Stage 2).

All applications must be made using the HRB online Grant E-Management System GEMS <https://grants.hrb.ie>

Once the Lead Applicant starts the application s/he will be asked to go through a check list of mandatory questions prior to completing the form. In order to continue with the application, the Lead Applicant must satisfy the conditions of this check list.

What is the closing date for submission of applications?

The closing date for the call is the **16 May 2019 @ 1pm.**

Lead Applicant

I just completed my PhD, can I apply to this scheme?

There is no minimum amount of postdoctoral experience required for eligibility. However, some postdoctoral experience is required and information on this will be requested in the application form. Please note that a Clinician Scientist Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme will be launched at the end of August 2019, which may be more suitable to some potential applicants.

Does a Lead Applicant need to have a minimum of postdoctoral research experience?

There is no minimum amount of postdoctoral experience required for eligibility. However, Lead Applicants must be able to demonstrate some experience in terms of consolidating and progressing the research skills and knowledge after their doctoral studies in order to demonstrate they are ready to transition from postdoctoral to independent investigators.

I have considerable research experience but no PhD, am I eligible to apply?

No. You must have a PhD or a MD to be eligible to apply for an Emerging Clinician Scientist Award.

I have completed my PhD before my medical (or other) degree, is there any maximum limit of year from the PhD that would exclude me from applying?

No there is no limit.

Is there a maximum number of years post clinical registration as eligibility criterion?

No there is not.

I am currently working abroad; can I apply to the scheme?

Yes, once you have the support from the Host Institution who will recognise you upon receipt of the HRB Award as independent investigator and member of the academic staff and will provide you with an employment contract for the duration of the award. Also, you must demonstrate that you have made arrangements or are in the process of making arrangements to work in the Irish Health services or in private clinical practice in Ireland.

I already have a joint academic position, can I apply to the scheme in order to protect clinical time for research?

Yes, but the scheme will not buy out any research time already protected for research in your current position.

I have a combined academic and clinical post. Is there a certain percentage of time that applicants should be working clinically in order to be eligible to apply?

It is expected that once you protect 40-50% of your time for research the remainder will be dedicated to clinical practice.

Can I apply for more than 50% protected time?

No, you cannot. You can apply for 40% to 50%.

If someone has a faculty position at an early career stage, does a faculty position automatically make someone ineligible?

No, we do not specify what type of position or level. The importance is the suitability of the lead applicant to this scheme and the particular career stage and the type of time you are requesting to be protected during the award.

I have a joint academic appointment with 50% clinical and 50% academic, can I apply to protect the clinical time?

No it is expected you will continue to be involved in clinical practice alongside 40% to 50% research protected time. You can request the academic non-research time to be protected.

I already have a joint academic appointment with 20% private clinical practice and 80% academic, can I apply to protect the 40 to 50% of the academic time?

Yes, you are eligible to apply. Although we would expect that the balance is close to 50% research and 50% clinical practice, we acknowledge people have different type of arrangements already in place.

I am currently on a research only contract with small percentage of time dedicated to clinical practice, can I apply?

The HRB will not buy out established research time through this scheme. You are eligible to apply once you can apply to cover 40% to 50% of your current clinical practice time or academic non-research time.

Is there a specific type of faculty position which will make me ineligible?

No, we do not specify them in the eligibility criteria. Please read carefully "Lead Applicant Suitability" in page 8 of the Guidance Notes and contact the HRB for additional clarity.

Mentor(s)

Can my current supervisor/sponsor be my mentor?

Yes, but you are encouraged to think carefully about the choice of your mentor and how you can best achieve research independence (see page 9-10 in the Guidance Notes). Please also note that your current sponsor may be added as co-applicant or collaborator.

Does my mentor have to be a health and care practitioner?

Not necessarily. The mentor can be either a health and care practitioner with joint faculty position or an academic investigator. You should choose the most suitable individual to guide you during your award in terms of your research, career milestones and overall vision beyond the award.

Can I have more than one mentor?

Yes, there is an option to add an additional mentor, especially as additional guidance on your career and also within your institution and/or department.

Can my mentor be based abroad?

Yes. However, you are also encouraged to think how the mentorship arrangement will be fulfilled and you have the option to add a second mentor in this instance based in Ireland. This is not mandatory but advisable.

Co-applicants and Collaborators

How many co-applicants can I have?

The maximum number allowed is five.

Can a co-applicant receive funding for their role in the project?

Yes, a co-applicant may receive funding for items such as running costs and personnel but will not receive support towards his/her own salary if they are in salaried positions.

Can an international co-applicant receive funding for their role in the project?

Yes, an international co-applicant may receive funding for items such as running costs and personnel but will not receive support towards his/her own salary if they are in salaried positions.

Will co-applicants approve my applications before submitting it?

No.

Will the HRB pay for visits from or to co-applicants?

Yes, visits to or from co-applicant where justified may be included under running costs.

Do I need collaborators at pre-application stage?

No, information will not be requested on collaborators until full application stage, but you are advised to start identifying and working with key collaborators at an early stage. A Collaborator agreement form must be signed by each Collaborator and uploaded with your application at full application stage.

Can a Collaborator be from private enterprise?

Yes, a collaborator may be from private enterprise. Collaborators from a private enterprise are encouraged where they add value to the project for example in terms of access to expertise, technologies or reagents. The HRB does not have the capacity to broker these arrangements. The terms of the collaboration should be determined early and relevant agreements must be in place by the onset of the project. Consideration should be given to issues such as relative responsibilities, governance arrangements, intellectual property rights, reporting and access to data and samples. Please see the HRB Guidelines on Intellectual Property <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/hrb-guidelines-on-intellectual-property/>

Can a Collaborator receive payment for their role in the project?

Yes, collaborators are eligible to receive funding from the award when properly detailed and justified in the application. Please see the HRB Guidelines on Intellectual Property <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/before-you-apply/all-grant-policies/hrb-guidelines-on-intellectual-property/>

Scope

I'm not sure if my application fits with the scope of the call.

Guidance and details of the research areas covered in page 6 and 7 of the guidance notes. If you are still unsure after reading this please contact the HRB for further guidance.

Duration

Awards are up to 48 months duration.

Funding

Please note that more details on the budget will be provided at full application stage.

How much can I apply for?

Awards can be up to €775K for direct costs

- 40% to 50% FTE salary and related costs for the Lead Applicant or the replacement of the Lead Applicant
- Research-related costs

How much can I apply for overheads?

The overhead contribution will be calculated during contract negotiation stage. Overheads should not be included in the budget at application stage.

The maximum value of the award inclusive of overheads is €1.0M

Institutional support

What does it mean by support beyond the duration of the award?

The expectation is that a host institution will provide support to the individuals after the award is completed for example by offering a joint faculty position. If individuals are already part of their staff (already with such a position) any additional support such as promotion, negotiation of additional protected time for research or other would be welcomed.

Supporting Documents

What documents should be uploaded with my application form?

At Pre-Application stage there are no supporting documents to be submitted

Submission

Do I need to contact the Dean of Research to sign off on my application?

As part of the online application process you will be asked to select the **Dean of Research or equivalent person** authorised to endorse research grant applications for your Host Institution. Their approval is necessary to allow the application to be submitted to the HRB. **Please note that as part of the online system the Host Institutions will approve and submit each application on behalf of the applicant.**

Submission process using GEMS

Prior to final submission to the HRB, all applications must first be reviewed and approved within GEMS by the signatory approver at the research office (or equivalent) at the Host Institution (see Appendix V of Guidance Notes). It is critical therefore that Lead Applicants leave sufficient time in the process for the Research Office (or equivalent) in their nominated Host Institution to review, seek clarifications and approve applications prior to the final submission date. This may involve being aware of and complying with any internal Host Institution deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline.

What is the closing date for submission of applications?

All pre-applications must be submitted to the HRB by using HRB GEMS by **Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 13:00.**

How will I know that my application has been successfully submitted?

Once the HI endorses your application it will be sent automatically to the HRB to be considered for funding, a grant application number will be assigned to the application and you will receive a confirmation email.

I have submitted my application but have just realised I have amendments to make; can I amend the application?

No, once you have submitted your application, you cannot edit or unsubmit it.

Stage 2 Application (Full application)

When will I know if I have been short listed for stage 2?

The Panel will meet to discuss all eligible applications at the end of June. We plan to notify you by early July 2019 and if shortlisted the full application stage will be opened then.

Will I receive feedback from the panel?

Yes, all applicants will receive brief feedback after the panel discussion.