

## Research Ireland Pathways Programme: Internal Selection

**Only the applicants who are selected by UCD will have their application submitted to Research Ireland via SESAME for review. Research Bodies will be permitted to put forward a maximum of 16 candidates to the STEM-led stream and a maximum of 8 candidates to the AHSS-led stream.**

Research Ireland is aware of the need to address gender imbalance in academia and is supportive of the Athena SWAN initiative, which is endorsed by Irish Research Bodies. In recognition of this, a maximum of eight applications to the STEM-led stream, out of the 16 permitted from each eligible Research Body, can be submitted by men. Similarly, a maximum of four applications to the AHSS-led stream, out of the eight permitted from each eligible Research Body, can be submitted by men. Upon submission to Research Ireland all applications will be treated equally regardless of the gender of the applicant.

### UCD Internal Selection Process

- UCD will host two review panels, AHSS and STEM, to ensure a fair and transparent selection of 8 (AHSS) and 16 (STEM) candidates for full proposal submission.
- The deadline for submission of an Expression of Interest will be **10am on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 via [RMS](#).**
- Each EoI will be reviewed and marked by three reviewers drawn from a pool of UCD College Vice-Principals for Research, Institute Directors and members of academic staff. The evaluation process will be based on the Research Ireland evaluation criteria and their weighting as set out in the official call document:
  1. Quality, significance and novelty of the research plan (weight 40%)
  2. Quality, significance and relevance of the Applicant's key achievements, research track record and career development plan, considering the research discipline and commensurate with their career stage and years of research experience, taking any periods of leave into account (weight 30%)
  3. Potential impact, and value to Ireland (weight 15%)
  4. Quality of institutional and mentor support and infrastructure provided (weight 15%)
- The reviews will be discussed at a panel meeting of reviewers with the option of adjusting scores as necessary.
- Successful submissions to the UCD Internal Selection Process will be informed by **19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**
- **The Panels' decisions are final and there will be no appeals process.**
- A reserve list will be appointed for the unlikely event that a selected applicant will be unable to submit their full application. **We strongly advise that those on the reserve list do not begin to prepare a full application to this call unless informed that a place for submission has become available.**
- The UCD Research Office will provide Research Ireland with the list of approved Applicants by 13:00 on the 20th February.
- UCD's Proposal Support Team will then work with successful submissions from the Internal Selection Process to develop their full applications in advance of Research Ireland's deadline for Research Office endorsement by **1pm 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026**. We will directly inform these applicants of the supports available through our office. Internal deadlines will apply for budget submission, letter of support submission, draft proposal submission and final submission on

SESAME to ensure all applicants selected for full proposal submission can be supported to meet the Research Ireland endorsement deadline. These deadlines **MUST** be adhered to.

## How to Apply

- Read the [call document](#) carefully to ensure that you are eligible for this scheme. Any applicants found ineligible will not be put forward for internal review. If you have queries or are unsure about eligibility, please contact [proposalsupport@ucd.ie](mailto:proposalsupport@ucd.ie).
- Ensure that you have secured a mentor at UCD who can confirm that they will have the time and capacity to support your application and who will give advice, co-supervise the PhD student and provide access to laboratory space (where relevant) and related infrastructure for the duration of the grant. A confirmation email from your mentor must be uploaded to RMS when submitting your EOI.
- Discuss your application with your Head of School to secure their support for the Pathway Programme and to ensure that they will be in a position to authorise a contract to cover the full duration of the award, should the application be successful. A confirmation email from your Head of School confirming this must be uploaded to RMS when submitting your EOI.
- Complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form which is comprised of a shortened proposal and narrative CV. Ensure that you consult the evaluation criteria in the [call guidance](#) when completing the form.
- If you are internal to UCD, you can send your EOI to the Research Office via the [Funding Opportunity on RMS](#), answering the eligibility questions and attaching your EOI form, proof of your mentor support, and proof of Head of School support by **10am 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**. For external applicants, mentors must submit EOIs and answer eligibility questions on the applicant's behalf on [RMS](#) by the same deadline.
- Ensure you complete the additional [Google form](#) which will comprise the information to be provided to Research Ireland by the UCD Research Office if your EOI is one of those selected by the internal selection panel for full proposal submission.
- The EOIs will then be checked for eligibility and sent to the internal review panel.
- **UCD internal selection checklist and key date:**

Deadline: **10am 4th February 2026**

Required uploads to RMS

- EOI form
- Proof of Mentor support
- Proof of Head of school support

Required to be completed

- Google form