Research Ireland x Month 2025

Three Park Place

Hatch Street Upper

Dublin 2

**Re: Letter of Support for UCD Lead Applicant <*Lead Applicant name*> and <*UCD* > Co-Applicant: <*Co-Applicant name (if applicable)*> for the Frontiers for the Future proposal <*proposal title*> under the Awards stream**

Dear Research Ireland,

On behalf of UCD, I wish to confirm our full support for the submission of this proposal *<proposal title*> led by <*Lead Applicant name*> to the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme. The proposed research programme is aligned to two central strategic pillars of the *UCD Breaking Boundaries Strategy* to 2030, *Advancing Research* and *Innovation* and *Engaging for Impact* which are supported by a UCD cross-cutting strategic initiative to focus research activity on *Research with Ambition.* This proposal will meet this initiative as it will <*provide a line on how your research aligns with this theme>*. The impact of this research will be considerable. <*1-2 lines in relation to what you see the impact of the research being – think about the end result - for example: how will society change due to this research?*>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant Eligibility Criteria** | **Response** |
| What is the applicant’s job title? | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| Does the Applicant have a permanent contract? **(Yes/No)** | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| If ‘**No**’, please provide the Applicant’s current contract start and end dates. | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| Does this contract cover the duration of the proposed research programme? **(Yes/No)** | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| If ‘**No**’ please declare that a contract of sufficient duration will be provided to the applicant in the event of the application’s success. | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| Is the Applicant recognised as an independent researcher? **(Yes/No)** | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| Will the Applicant be provided with an independent office and research space at the host research body, for which the Applicant will be fully responsible throughout the duration of the proposed grant? **(Yes/No)** | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| What year did the Applicant obtain their PhD? | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| Is the Applicant a first or senior author on at least three peer-reviewed original research publications **(Yes/No)** | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| Does the Applicant hold a joint appointment with any other research-performing organisation, or have a non-full time contract position with the host research body? **(Yes/No)** | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| If ‘Yes’, please describe the Applicant’s contract details and/or joint appointments (including FTE where relevant). | Lead: Co: ***(if applicable):*** |
| Is the budget request over €1M? **(Yes/No).** If ‘**Yes**’, please confirm the contract status **Pending** or **Signed**. If ‘**Signed**’, please confirm that the start date is ≤ 12 months from submission. |  |

<*A few sentences on the proposal, overall aim and objective. Particularly important if choosing Emerging Investigator category however please do not refer to the Emerging Investigator category in name. Mention why this research is being undertaken*>

**Access to Advanced Research Infrastructure: <***A few sentences on the equipment, laboratory, computing, animal or other facilities available, including specifications where appropriate and access plans. Identify if there is technical support available to operate this equipment. Also detail the office and local administrative supports (research managers etc) available to you*>

**Research Management Services and Other Supports:** UCD has a very extensive portfolio of large-scale national and international research programmes ([www.ucd.ie/research/](http://www.ucd.ie/research/)). The proposed research team will be fully supported by the wider administrative infrastructure at UCD. UCD Research provides research supports for funded research activity at UCD. UCD’s post-award Research Finance Office (RFO) provides support for financial administration at all stages of university research projects and will assist researchers in the preparation of cost statements/statements of expenditure. Research IT Services provide a range of services designed to support and facilitate researchers in their use of IT as an enabler for their research activities. The UCD Human Resources (HR) Office will fully assist with all HR management, including orientation and provision of other practical assistance for incoming researchers. In addition, Post-Doctoral Fellows will be supported by the UCD Research Careers Framework (RCF), which establishes a structured and supportive skills and early career development model for Post-Doctoral Fellows at UCD. PhD students will participate in UCD’s structured doctoral programmes*.*The UCD Animal Research Ethics Committee (AREC) and Humanities and Science Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) conduct ethical reviews using an internationally recognised approvals system. The Research Ethics Committee (REC) oversees and advises on policy regarding the work carried out by these three main sub-committees. UCD is committed to the promotion of the highest standards of Research Integrity, provides education and training to prevent breaches of Research Integrity, and promotes a collaborative and collegiate research culture throughout the institution. UCD’s Gender Equality Action Plan, which is linked to the university’s Athena SWAN Silver Institutional Award, seeks to deliver changes in related policies and procedures along with everyday behaviours and attitudes. The university stresses the exploitation of research findings through academic-industry engagement and licensing, with management of intellectual property and commercialisation available through the technology transfer office, NovaUCD.

**Management of Conflict of Interest:** UCD researchers must comply with UCD’s published Policy on Conflict of Interest - *UCD is committed to the promotion of an environment which maintains the highest standards of integrity. It is the policy of UCD that all persons engaged in UCD activity have the obligation to manage or avoid ethical, legal, financial or other conflicts of interest and to ensure that their activities and interest do not conflict with their obligations to the University or its welfare.*

In summary, it is without hesitation that I support this application by <*Lead Applicant name>* to the Frontiers for the Future Programme.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor Kate Robson Brown**

**Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact**