



Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology

IRCSET INSPIRE: IRCSET-Marie Curie International Mobility Fellowships in Science, Engineering and Technology

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SCHEME

Scheme Objective

The objective of the IRCSET INSPIRE cofunded Scheme is to encourage Irish-based Experienced Researchers (ERs)¹ who have gained most of their research experience in Ireland, to avail of a structured period of overseas mobility with associated career development actions.

The overall goal of the scheme is to encourage international mobility amongst Irish-based Experienced Researchers at the early stage of their experienced researcher career (those who have been ERs for no more than 5 years excluding career breaks), particularly those who have not had the opportunity for previous international mobility periods during their career as an ER.

The Scheme will add an international dimension to their research experience and overall career development and consequently raise their scientific excellence. The return phase will allow them to integrate fully back into Ireland, both utilising and transferring the various skills they acquired during the outgoing phase.

The Scheme is structured as an “outgoing phase” of up to two years duration which may be held at any host institution of the Fellows choice in any country outside Ireland, followed by a one year “return phase” at a host institution of their choice in Ireland.

The 8 general subject areas that will be funded under the IRCSET INSPIRE Scheme are: Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth/Environmental Science, Engineering, Macro/Microbiology, Mathematics, Molecular Biology/Biotechnology and Physics. Interdisciplinary applications will also be supported.

The applicant will identify a host institution and research mentor outside of Ireland for the outgoing phase, and within Ireland for the return phase. The Irish-based mentor will act as a “senior” mentor for the fellowship, providing advice and support to the fellow during both phases of their fellowship. When a fellowship is awarded to the applicant, the Irish host institution will be responsible for administering the fellowship award for the entire three years, particularly with respect to financial matters, social security and pension arrangements. The successful applicant

¹ Experienced Researchers are those individuals who, at the deadline for application (i) be in possession of a doctoral degree, independently of the time taken to acquire it; or (ii) have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience (including the period of research training) after the degree which formally allowed them to embark on a doctorate in the country in which the degree/diploma was obtained or in the country where the fellowship is taking place.





will hold an “IRCSET-Marie Curie International Mobility Fellowship In Science, Engineering And Technology”.

Who can apply?

The suitable applicants for this scheme consists of ERs resident in Ireland, who have carried out the majority of their research **after** gaining ER status (termed “ER career period”) at an Irish host institution.

Priority will be given to candidates who will benefit most from the mobility afforded by the Fellowship; those who have spent 80% of their ER work period in Ireland will be eligible.

In general applicants would fall into one of two categories:

- 1) Experienced Researcher Type 1 (ER-1), an individual who at the deadline for applications:
 - Holds a doctoral degree (PhD) awarded by any institution worldwide.²
 - Has spent at least 80% of their ER work period in Ireland.
- 2) Experienced Researcher Type 2 (ER-2) an individual who at the deadline for applications:
 - Does not hold a doctoral degree, but holds a Masters Degree or an undergraduate degree such as a Bachelors Degree, Diplom, Laurea, Licenciatura, Maitrise or equivalent awarded by any institution worldwide **and**
 - Have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience after the degree which formally allowed them to embark on a doctorate in the country in which the degree/diploma was obtained or in the country where the fellowship is taking place. This 4 years research experience can have taken place at a Higher Education Institution or non-industry-based Reseach Centre worldwide.
 - Has spent at least 80% of their ER work period in Ireland.

Regardless of whether the applicant is ER-1 or ER-2, they must:

- be currently living in Ireland; they do not have to be an Irish citizen or hold permanent residency.
- have been an ER for no more than 5 years (career breaks of up to 5 years are taken into account). Applicable career breaks include parental leave or periods working in an industrial setting where the applicant was not able to publish peer-reviewed publications.
- ensure that their research proposal subject falls into one of the 8 subject areas described above, or is interdisciplinary within those 8 areas.

The fellowships awarded under INSPIRE will be funded at Marie Curie rates and hence extremely competitive on an international level. The fellows will be full Marie Curie Fellows, with the prestige that comes with such a designation. Individuals supported by the institutions in applying for these fellowships should be considered as Ireland’s research professionals of the future, and strong candidates for positions in Ireland’s Higher Education Institutions as well as elsewhere in Ireland.

² Note: At the deadline for application, the applicant does not have to have formally graduated with their PhD, they just need to provide proof that they have passed their thesis defense or viva voce.



The value of the fellowship is based on the rates quoted in the Marie Curie Workprogramme 2008. The exact value of an individual fellowship will depend on the country where the host institution outside Ireland is located: as is standard for Marie Curie awards, an appropriate country-specific correction factor will be applied to the base rates for living and mobility allowance. A typical Fellowship award will be based on the following cost categories:

- Living Allowance
- Mobility Allowance
- Travel Allowance
- Social costs (employers Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI))³
- Research Costs Contribution

Please note that the net salary for the fellow⁴ will be subject to income tax deductions. For information on taxation in Ireland as it relates to researchers, please visit <http://www.researchcareersireland.com/Page.aspx?SP=27>

For more information on the Scheme, please contact Dr. Jennifer Brennan, Programme Manager (contact details below) or visit our website at www.ircset.ie.

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³ In accordance with the policy of the Irish Host Institution, normally 10.75% for employers PRSI.

⁴ The base salary value is under negotiation and will be published prior to the opening of the Call.

