



Government of Ireland Academic Staff Mobility Programme

Call 2017

Introduction

The internationalisation of Irish higher education is a key element in the delivery of a quality teaching, learning and research experience for students and staff and for building international engagement for the sector. Published in 2016, the Government's International Education Strategy "Irish Educated, Globally Connected"¹ states *"Internationalisation of education can be described as a comprehensive approach to education that prepares students, **academics and staff** to be active and engaged participants in an interconnected global world"*.

The strategy further emphasises in particular the importance of supporting the outward mobility of staff. *"The HEIs will also actively encourage **staff mobility** to programme and partner countries under the Erasmus+ and bilateral programmes as a key mechanism for the professional development of teaching, technical, management and administrative personnel and for the internationalisation of curricula."*²

The realisation of these objectives is now being supported by national and International sources of funding including the EU's Erasmus+ Programme (2016-2020) and a new Irish Government initiative. Under the provisions of the International Education Strategy (2016), the Government is putting in place a special fund to support the mobility of teaching, technical, management and administrative personnel.

This fund will be open to eligible categories of staff in eligible institutions, engaging in eligible activities with partners in eligible destinations, to support activities that will have and/or will lead to a collaborative activity in high potential markets.

Objectives: The Globally Connected Academic Mobility Programme will contribute to the achievement of national aims and objectives including the implementation of key strategies, policies and initiatives such as:

- International Education Strategy (2016-2020), "Irish Educated, Globally Connected".

¹ Irish Educated, Globally Connected – An International Education Strategy for Ireland, 2016-2020 (2016), p. 7

² Ibid p. 32

- Action Plan for Education 2016-2019
- Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025
- National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019
- System Performance Framework for higher education
- International Education Mark – Code of Practice
- Foreign Language policy
- Individual HEI International Education Strategies

Total amount available: €500,000

Implementation Period: 1 December 2017 – 31 December 2018

Eligible Institutions: Awards may be made to public, private or not-for-profit higher education providers which have access to the *Education in Ireland* brand and belong to one of the following degree awarding categories:

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI);
- Institutes of Technology with delegated authority or full statutory authority to make awards;
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland;
- The seven Irish Universities.

Applicant HEIs may include multiple partners/colleagues from **within** their own HEIs, and HEIs may submit more than one application. Joint HEI applications are only eligible where they involve HEIs from the same Cluster category defined in the system performance framework, with an Administration Lead HEI identified.

Eligible Categories of Staff: The Programme is open to teaching, technical, management and administrative personnel from eligible institutions.

Eligible Activities: The purpose of the funding is to support activities that will have and/or will lead to a **collaborative activity** rather than an exercise that might be described as part of a more traditional continuing professional development process. Possible types of activity (list not exhaustive) include projects that might lead to:

- Preparation of a joint teaching programme;
- Shared exploration on innovative approaches to *inter alia* a teaching pedagogy, student support activity, internationalisation of curricula, digital education and delivery;

- Development of new student mobilities streams outward and inward;
- The exploration of new inter-institutional partnerships with individual countries;
- The advancement of a research concept to the application of funding stage.

Eligible Destinations: Applicant institutions will be aware that certain new high potential markets have been identified in recent years to implement the *Government's International Education Strategy*. This does not preclude HEIs from proposing mobility projects with other high potential markets. No specific weighting will be attached to specific high potential markets but the inclusion of high potential markets that will advance the International Education strategy can be viewed as aligning with national priorities.

Duration of Mobility The minimum duration is 5 days. The maximum duration is 2 months. An extra day may be added at the start and conclusion of the project to facilitate travel arrangements. For example, for a 5 days' project, funding will be made available for 7 days.

Eligible Costs: Return air travel fare and a *per diem* of a minimum €160 will be provided. Projects requiring a higher per diem will be considered on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the destination country. There are no minimum or maximum limits on the costs associated with each project but the emphasis will be on achieving optimal utilisation of the available funding.

Applicants will be asked to confirm that funding for this project is not available from any other source.

Management: The programme will be managed by the Higher Education Authority. Following a competitive process based on a call for proposals from eligible HEIs, the HEA will approve a number of awards under the scheme to successful HEIs. Successful HEIs will be responsible for the implementation of the mobility projects approved and will be required to comply with the reporting, financing schedule and monitoring conditions associated with the Programme.

Application Process: Applications will be made to the Higher Education Authority via the online link provided here.

Selection Criteria: Each HEI should ensure that as a general principle, proposals align with the *Government's International Education Strategy*.

When framing proposals, the applicant should demonstrate:

(Maximum Score 100 points)

1) Relevance (30 marks)

Details of how the proposed mobility project is consistent with Ireland's national priorities set out in the international education strategy, the HEI's own internationalisation strategy and wider institutional strategy. Please be specific in relating the proposal to published or linked reports that substantiate the claims. The destination country, higher education institution(s) involved and contact person in the host institution must be named,

2) Innovation (15 marks)

Is this new? Explain how you have come to this conclusion?

3) Quality of the mobility arrangements (15)

The extent to which the applicant has previous experience of working on related projects. The proposal should outline clearly the responsibilities, roles and tasks to be shared with the partners.

4) Quality of the activity design and implementation (15 marks)

Details of when and how the proposal will be implemented and what measures will be put in place to report on the activity.

5) Impact³ (15 marks)

What impact (short, medium and/or long term) as well as (local, national and international) will the project have on the target audience and how will you know?

³ For an explanation of 'Impact' please refer to '*Engaged Research: Society and Higher Education Addressing Grand Societal Challenges Together*' <http://www.iua.ie/publication/engaged-research-society-and-higher-education-addressing-grand-societal-challenges-together-2/>

What measurements/approaches have you in place that will ensure best practices will be followed?

6) Sustainability (10 marks)

Will the outcomes have a life after the project is over?

Assessment Panel:

The HEA will establish a panel which will include independent external expertise to evaluate the HEI proposals received.

Deadline:

The closing date for receipt of applications will be 17.00 hours Friday 3 November 2017.