



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

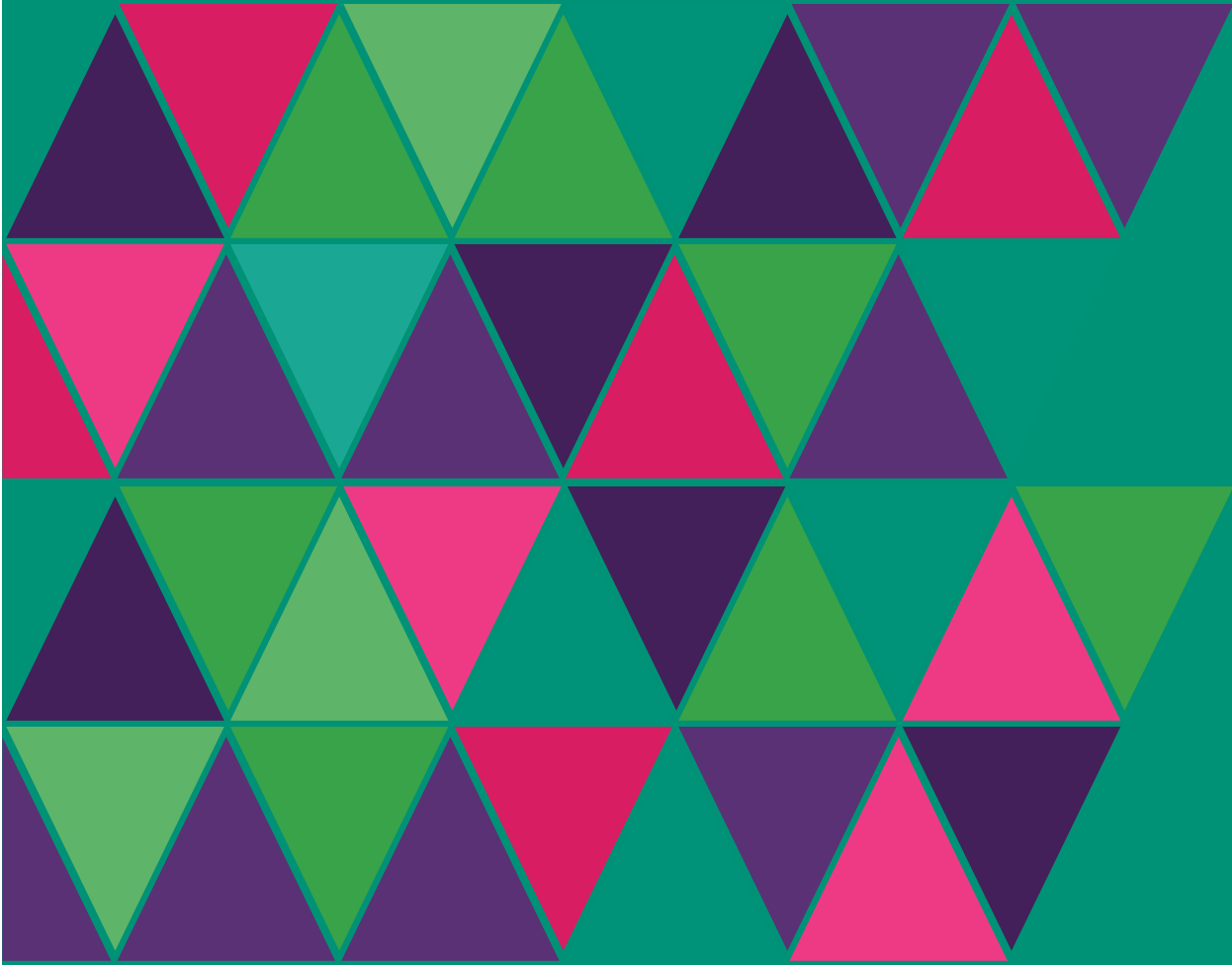
INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018-2021



#Global Ireland



#LoveIrish
Research



The mission of the Irish Research Council (hereinafter referred to as 'the Council') is to enable and sustain a vibrant research community in Ireland by supporting excellent researchers in all disciplines from arts to zoology.

The Council funds basic research in over 70 separate disciplines, and is the only national research funder that supports pure research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS). Our focus is ensuring that exceptional researchers are supported to develop their research ideas and their career as a researcher, ensuring that their potential is fully realised and that Ireland can reap the full benefit of those ideas and innovations.

The Council invests in a range of partnerships, both nationally and internationally, to enable the development and transfer of knowledge to underpin social, economic and cultural progress, and to connect researchers and expertise with the wider community. Partnerships span industry and enterprise, the public sector, and civil society.

The Council and its precursors have a strong track record in international engagement. Within what is a small country on the western edge of Europe, the research community and eco-system in Ireland benefits very strongly from international collaboration. The Council plays an active role on the international stage, and will continue to do so into the future.

Established in 2012 following the merger of two separate councils, the Council is an associated agency of the Department of Education and Skills under the aegis of the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

June 2018



Message from the Minister of State for Skills, Training, Innovation, Research and Development

I am delighted to see the launch of this international engagement strategy by the Irish Research Council. Developing research talent across all disciplines for Ireland's current and future needs is central to the Council's mission, and making international connections is seen as key to the development of researchers. With this strategy, the Council will further ramp up support for the flow of knowledge and people that is so important to a healthy research eco-system.

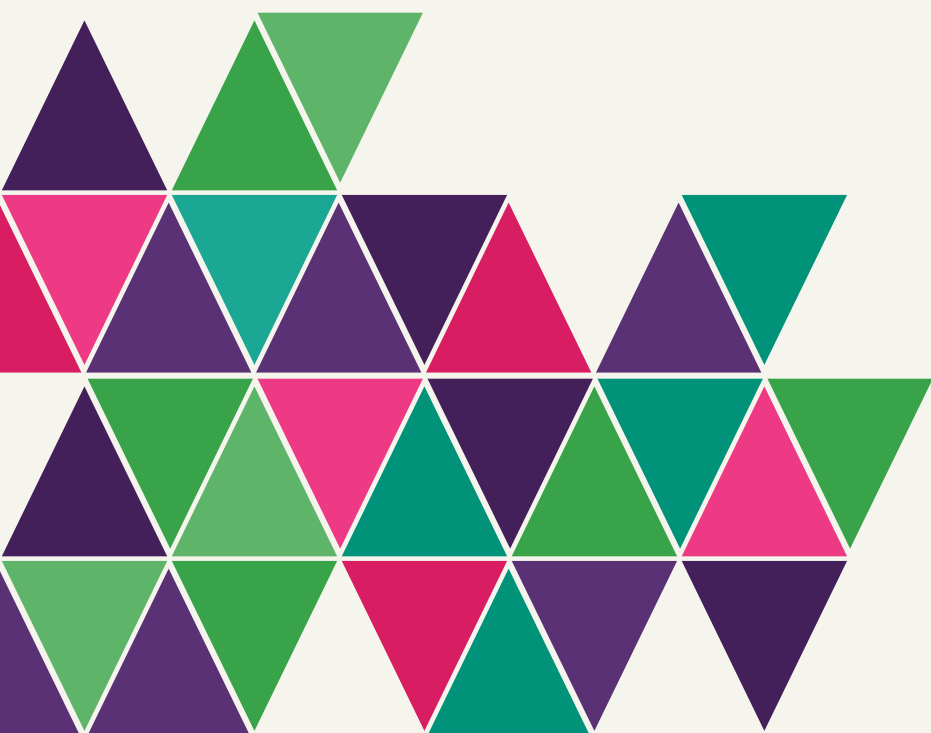
As Minister of State with responsibility for research and innovation in Ireland, I am very proud of what the Irish system has achieved in recent times and it is a top priority of mine to ensure that we maintain and indeed further build our reputation for world-class research and world-class researchers, across all career stages.

It is clear that the international research and innovation landscape is changing, not least arising from Brexit but also more globally as new countries emerge as significant R&D players.

Irish researchers have much to contribute to research collaborations internationally, and our own system is enriched by the involvement and participation of researchers from around the world. We face many challenges which require a truly global, coordinated response. We in Ireland, together with many countries in Europe and around the world, are committed to connecting our communities of researchers to contribute to successfully addressing these challenges.

I welcome this international engagement strategy, and my officials and I look forward to working with the Council in its successful implementation over the coming years.

John Halligan TD





Foreword from the Chair

This strategy extends the hand of partnership to the global research community. It recognises that Ireland is part of a interdependent, international research network that together can achieve mutually beneficial outcomes that would not be possible in isolation.

As Council Chair, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub and in my former role as Founding Vice Provost for External Affairs in Trinity College, I have met and interacted with a great many international colleagues, including academics, policymakers and country representatives. It is clear that Irish researchers are held in very high esteem internationally, as is the contribution to knowledge and innovation by the Irish research system in many areas across both STEM, the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

We encourage research and innovation leaders and policymakers around the world to learn more about the unique but complementary role of the Council in the Irish system, and to consider the potential for cooperation and collaboration.

Research and innovation is critical to addressing challenges which are increasingly globalised in nature and which require an internationally coordinated response. Climate change is an obvious example. It is by working strongly together as a global community that researchers can drive the use of evidence for critical decisions, and can both broaden and deepen the collective impact of our endeavours for positive change.

The Council's work is all about supporting exceptional research talent, and through this international engagement strategy we aim to contribute to an eco-system in which both 'home-grown' and international research talent thrives. We are looking forward to building on existing international links and forging new relationships over the coming years.

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer



1 Introduction and context

International engagement strongly supports the Council's mission to enable and sustain a vibrant research community. International activities provide new opportunities for the Irish research system and the development of research talent, across all disciplines and career stages.

International engagement on research and innovation is strongly encouraged within Irish government policy. *Innovation 2020*¹, the State's strategy for science and technology, research and development, recognises that international cooperation maximises the impact of international and national investment in research and innovation, underscoring and enhancing excellence in our system.

This imperative is strongly supported within the Council's parent government department. The Department of Education and Skills' International Education Strategy for Ireland, 2016–2020² targets, inter alia, a more strategic approach to the recruitment of international scholars, close monitoring of Brexit developments and appropriate responses, and enhancement of academic staff mobility.

"I want Ireland to be able to shape and to influence the critical international debates and events of this generation. I want us to be able to access new and important markets for our exports. I want us to make our contribution to the world, building on our distinctive traditions."

Leo Varadkar TD, Taoiseach, Global Ireland Strategy

In June 2018 the government launched a new strategy 'Global Ireland – Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025'³, recognising the importance of a strong international presence and the strategic, economic and wider benefits that this will bring to Ireland. The Council strongly welcomes the initiative, and it is committed, through the framework of this international engagement strategy, to helping realise the vision for Global Ireland.

The Council's international engagement strategy will seek to exploit Ireland's very positive scientific, economic and social standing among the international community. Factors include our very high level of academic autonomy by international standards, the reputation of our scientists and researchers at home and abroad, and the fact that we are an English-speaking nation.

The Council's international engagement strategy will build in a sustainable way on existing activities and initiatives – of which there are many – while also recognising that strategic engagement beyond our immediate borders is critical to respond effectively to Brexit and the continuing uncertainties associated with it.

It is important that there is clarity from the outset on the Council's definition of international engagement. The following definition is used for the purposes of this strategy:

International bi-lateral or multi-lateral programme cooperation or policy engagement by the Council, leading to new opportunities for collaboration that enhance career development opportunities for researchers, and which contribute to the ongoing development of the Irish research system.

1 Innovation2020: Ireland's strategy for research and development, science and technology, Government of Ireland (2015)

2 Irish Educated, Globally Connected: An international education strategy for Ireland, 2016-2020, Department of Education and Skills (2016)

3 Strategy available on www.ireland.ie

2 Building on the Council's existing international engagement

The Council already supports a highly international community of researchers, something that we wish to build on. In an age when research knows no national boundaries we also want to support the international mobility of researchers from Ireland and their capacity to collaborate with the best from around the world.

The Council's international engagement strategy will build on our already extensive range of international activities. These can be broadly grouped within the following themes:

- ▶ Joint funding programmes, including ERA-NETs and MSCA COFUNDS
- ▶ The Council's core research awards, which are open to the world
- ▶ European and international policy cooperation and networks
- ▶ Support for European research infrastructures (ERICs)
- ▶ National contact point and delegate roles for European framework programmes

Appendix 1 provides a matrix of current Council activities.

The various activities undertaken together create a pipeline of opportunities for international research collaboration. The Council provides key support for researcher mobility through its funding of the Irish MSCA office in the Irish Universities Association. In addition, the Council administers or participates in a range of other initiatives which offer researchers across all disciplines and career stages opportunities to collaborate internationally.

The Council's scholarship and fellowship schemes, as well as the new Laureate Awards⁴ scheme, are open to researchers anywhere in the world. In addition, the Council's work is highly internationalised by reason of all applications for programmes being sent for independent international peer review. Analysis of our early-career awardees and peer reviewers shows that:



The Council supports 1,200 early-career researchers from 62 countries worldwide. Council awardees are drawn from every continent except Antarctica.

Excluding Irish awardees, 403 awardees are from 61 countries worldwide.



Demonstrating the close links with our nearest neighbour, the Council used 500 peer reviewers from the UK from January to September 2017.



240 early-career awardees are drawn from 26 countries in the European Economic Area other than Ireland



In addition, the Council used peer reviewers from 32 other countries worldwide.



A heatmap of Council awardees is contained in Appendix 2.

⁴ Individual awards supporting frontier basic research across all disciplines and career stages

3 Principles for international engagement

Ten guiding principles will inform the strategic actions the Council implements in furtherance of international engagement. These are as follows:



1 ALIGNMENT

The Council's international engagement strategy will be consistent with its overall mission to support excellent research and researchers, across all disciplines. It will also be aligned with and support delivery of the wider strategic framework, in particular *Innovation 2020* and the Department of Education and Skill's *International Education Strategy for Ireland, 2016–2020*.



2 LEADERSHIP

The Council will lead in key areas core to our mission, including basic research, researcher career development and support for the arts, humanities and social sciences.



3 TARGETED

The Council will prioritise areas/themes where it believes it can add value and generate impact, having regard to its mission.



4 REVIEW

Progress on international engagement will be regularly reviewed, and the data requirements to facilitate this will be built into the implementation. In addition, the Council's Advisory Group on International Engagement will become a standing committee (see Appendix 3 for current membership).



5 SUSTAINABILITY

Only activities that are sustainable from the point of view of human and financial resources will be pursued.



6 LEVERAGING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS AND SYNERGIES

Where possible the Council will leverage and build on existing relationships and networks to foster international development.



7 PARTNERSHIP

Partnership is one of the core values of the Council, and this will underpin all international engagement.



8 INCORPORATING GOOD PRACTICE

Established and emerging areas of good practice in research will be fostered as part of international activities, including open science, research integrity and gender equality.



9 COMPETITIVE

Programmatic cooperation will continue to be competitively based, in order to assure excellence.



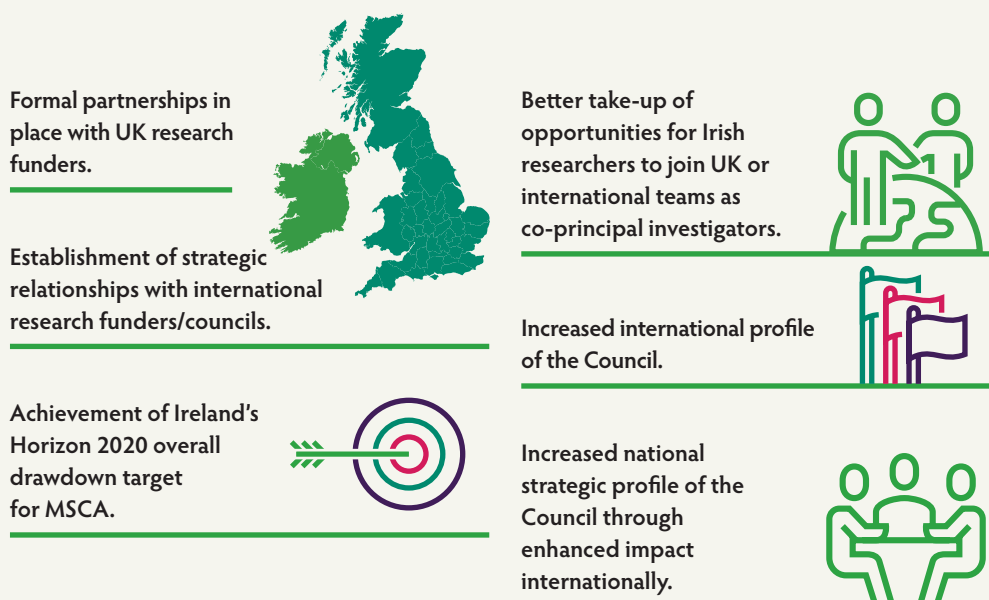
10 OPEN

The Council will pursue an open approach to international cooperation, ensuring that opportunities are open to as wide a range of researchers as possible, both at home and abroad.

4 What will success in international engagement look like?

The Council's ambition for international engagement is to deliver tangible new opportunities and outcomes for excellent researchers, across all disciplines and career stages. Progress will be achieved within the existing funding structure for the Council, i.e. via funding of researchers hosted by eligible Irish research-performing institutions. The international strategy will follow a 'twin-track approach'. Firstly, new opportunities will be explored and developed that allow existing Ireland-based researchers to collaborate internationally. Secondly, new ideas will be developed for measures that attract excellent international researchers of any discipline and career stage to re-locate to or spend time in Irish research-performing organisations as part of their career development.

Our vision for the progress achieved by the end of 2021 is the following:



It will not be possible for the Council to deliver on this vision alone; internationalisation is a policy priority for the higher education and research system as a whole, and there is a strong, ongoing impetus among stakeholders to work collaboratively, not least to address the risks of Brexit and take advantage of the opportunities. The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) Brexit Taskforce⁵ identifies the need for actions to align national research and internationalisation strategies that will grow Ireland's international research connectivity and enhance its reputation as a hub for international research talent. The Council is committed to working with all agencies, departments, institutions and other organisations to cultivate a coordinated approach that delivers identifiable results.

5 Research and Higher Education on the Island of Ireland After Brexit: A Report by the Royal Irish Academy Brexit Taskforce, Royal Irish Academy (2017)

5 Towards a set of strategic objectives for international engagement

Two core goals will form the basis for the Council's international engagement strategy. These are:

Goal A: Generating new opportunities for Ireland-based researchers to collaborate internationally

Goal B: Generating new opportunities for international researchers to work in Ireland.

In addition to these two core goals, the Council has identified a number of strategic action areas that underpin the strategy as a whole (see 'Underpinning actions' below).

Goal A: Generating new opportunities for Ireland-based researchers to collaborate internationally

(i) Activate new mechanisms to enhance Irish participation and success in Council-supported international joint funding programmes

Actions will include:

- ▶ Actively participate in European joint funding initiatives, including HERA, NORFACE, CHIST-ERA and GENDER-NET PLUS
- ▶ Further develop the Council's New Foundations small award scheme to focus on incubating collaborative projects/consortia
- ▶ Gather views from applicants to existing joint programmes on how to increase support and engagement
- ▶ Enhance information awareness and dissemination on funding opportunities for collaboration
- ▶ Work with national coordination offices of Council-funded ESFRI infrastructures to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from Irish membership
- ▶ Work with stakeholders to achieve Irish membership of strategically important infrastructures
- ▶ Encourage participation of Irish researchers as evaluators on European and international funding programmes.

(ii) Develop new co-funding initiatives with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

The Council welcomes the commitment from UKRI to 'developing existing and creating new collaborative research and innovation programmes that target countries with high-performing research and innovation sectors to engage in joint-funded bilateral or multilateral agreements.'⁶

The Council will work with other research funders, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) in progressing strategic collaboration between the research systems of the UK and Ireland. The focus will include future-proofing cross-border collaboration on the island of Ireland.

The Council will target the development of new co-funding partnerships that open up avenues for Irish PIs to work with UK-based colleagues on UKRI-funded projects, across all disciplines. Engagement is already underway with a number of Councils, and areas have been jointly identified for progression.

In addition, other mutually beneficial co-funding partnerships will be scoped out and cultivated, including with private research foundations.

6 Strategic Prospectus: Building the UKRI Strategy, UK Research and Innovation (2018)

(iii) Forge new alliances with major European and global public research funders, and pilot new co-funding partnerships

Actions will include:

- ▶ Instigate a study of engagement policies and potential of key research funders in Europe, the Americas, and Australasia
- ▶ Leverage existing relationships to build partnerships, including via Ireland's embassy/ consular network
- ▶ Identify an agreed set of priority countries for collaboration, using the 'high-medium-low' prioritisation approach
- ▶ Agree pilot co-funding measures with at least one research council in each global region by end 2020
- ▶ Develop new strands of the Council's Ulysses programme (Ireland–France cooperation) in areas of mutual strategic importance for both countries
- ▶ Develop in cooperation with Irish Aid new programme strands cultivating opportunities for Irish researchers to contribute to global north-global south research collaboration and capacity building
- ▶ Work with DBEI and other stakeholders to leverage opportunities for researchers arising from Ireland's new membership of ESO.

(iv) Work with institutions and agencies to enhance the success of academic and non-academic applicants in Horizon 2020

Actions will include:

- ▶ Strengthen awareness of the value of AHSS expertise within Ireland's Horizon 2020 NCP support network
- ▶ Mainstream the Council's pilot interdisciplinary workshops call into a rolling annual programme
- ▶ Working with Science Foundation Ireland and Enterprise Ireland, enhance coordination support funding for Irish-led consortium proposals
- ▶ Working with Enterprise Ireland (national coordinators of Horizon 2020 engagement) and other bodies such as The Wheel, support enhanced engagement of civil society organisations in European framework programmes
- ▶ Monitor progress on the Council's interdisciplinary funding strand and plans for Horizon 2020 follow-on application
- ▶ Support the development of capacity for Ireland to develop large-scale proposals under the final work programme of Horizon 2020
- ▶ Support AHSS applications to the European Research Council Synergy Grant ⁷ call
- ▶ Establish an ongoing campaign to enhance the participation of Irish researchers as expert evaluators in European research framework programmes
- ▶ Work with other research funders to promote interest in and applications to European prizes for research and/or innovation.

7 <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/synergy-grants>



Goal B: Generating new opportunities for international researchers to work in Ireland

(v) Work closely with the Department of Education and Skills and the HEA, other government departments, the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) and other stakeholders as part of a coordinated approach to Brexit

Actions will include:

- ▶ Support departmental policy and strategy on Brexit, including the development of the concept of a British–Irish Research Area
- ▶ Support the RIA Brexit Taskforce research, data gathering and dissemination
- ▶ Work with the Northern Ireland administration for joint funding of all-island strands of policy-orientated research programmes.

(vi) Work with stakeholders to further develop the Laureate Awards scheme to engage excellent international researchers, including UK and Northern Ireland-based researchers

Actions will include:

- ▶ Consult with institutions on the funding structure for the Laureate Awards and how new approaches could provide greater potential to host exceptional researchers re-locating from overseas
- ▶ Work with the Department of Education and Skills to secure additional funding to accelerate the roll-out of the Laureate Awards, in particular to enhance the number of Advanced Grants arising from the first iteration getting underway in 2018
- ▶ Continue to build awareness of the Laureate Awards among the wider international research community.

(vii) Continue to offer opportunities for early-career international researchers through the Council's scholarship and fellowship programmes

Actions will include:

- ▶ Develop new channels for raising awareness of Council scholarship and fellowship programmes in key overseas 'markets', in partnership with the international team in the Department of Education and Skills, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Enterprise Ireland
- ▶ Establish a Council panel of international awardees to provide an international awardee voice in the development of Council international policy and strategy
- ▶ Develop opportunities to cultivate country ambassadors from international Council scholars and fellows



- ▶ Raise the profile of the Council among the international offices of Irish HEIs and enhance engagement with this constituency via IUA/THEA and an annual information meeting hosted by the Council
- ▶ Scope out the feasibility of an application to MSCA COFUND for an international doctoral programme.

(viii) Continue to support the national MSCA office

The Council recently signed a new four-year memorandum of understanding with the IUA to fund and jointly operate the Irish MSCA office. Work will continue to support the success of the Irish research system in securing MSCA funding and implementing opportunities for international early-career researchers to work in Ireland. In addition, the participation of enterprise and the not-for-profit sector will be developed.

Underpinning actions

(ix) Data and impact evaluation

The Council will develop a data collection framework to underpin its suite of international activities. This will include monitoring indicators for all actions within the international strategy so as to provide a basis on which to evaluate progress. An annual report on progress under the international strategy will be presented to the Council annually.

(x) Influence European Union research and innovation agenda

The Council will contribute to the development of European framework programmes which offer strong opportunities for Ireland and which support the development of the Irish research eco-system. Existing avenues, both at national and European level will continue to be used, as well as strengthening new strategic relationships within Europe.

Actions will include:

- ▶ Policy engagement with the European Commission, including on the development of *Horizon Europe* (FP9)
- ▶ Carrying out national delegate roles
- ▶ Ongoing participation in the High-Level Group on Horizon 2020, the Higher Education Research Group (HERG) and other relevant groups/committees
- ▶ Engagement with and input to Science Europe as a member organisation
- ▶ Maintenance of up-to-date knowledge of agendas of key European R&I committees, and ongoing liaison with Irish representatives on Council activities
- ▶ Encouragement of Council awardees (past or present) at the appropriate career stage to put themselves forward for EU Research and Innovation committees.



(xi) Develop strategic engagement with embassies at home and abroad and internationally facing agencies

The Council will step up its engagement with Ireland's embassies and consulates abroad, particularly at key points in the year such as St Patrick's Day. New partnerships with foreign embassies in Ireland will be fostered. Lastly, the Council will ensure that externally facing departments and agencies are fully informed of the role of the Council and the opportunities for international engagement. Engagement will be informed by Global Ireland, the government's strategy for enhancing Ireland's global footprint.

Actions will include:

- ▶ Circulate annual report and other updates to embassy network, including Ireland's ambassadors to the EU and the UN, and internationally-facing agencies
- ▶ Conduct a survey of Irish embassies abroad to gather information on partnerships with high potential
- ▶ Monitor future plans for bi-lateral state/trade visits with a view to catalysing opportunities for signing bi-lateral research agreements
- ▶ Further strengthen relationships with embassies in Ireland of key research-performing countries around the world
- ▶ Further develop engagement with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Irish Aid, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Culture Ireland, British-Irish Chamber of Commerce and Am-Cham.

(xii) Convene an annual stakeholder forum on international engagement

The Council will host a stakeholder forum annually to facilitate consultation with the research community on key aspects of international engagement. The Council's Advisory Group on International Engagement will assist and support the Council in planning the event and choosing the theme(s) for the event. Attendees will be invited based on the theme of the forum meeting, but as a general principle the audience will be broadly representative of disciplines and career stages in the Irish research community.

Annual action plan

The international engagement strategy will generate an annual action plan, agreed by the Council, where the specific priorities for the year ahead will be set out. The Council will address specific resource implications with the Department of Education and Skills as part of the estimates and related budget planning processes.



APPENDIX 1

MATRIX OF CURRENT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Joint funding programmes	International opportunities	Policy cooperation and networks	Supporting research infrastructures	EU R&I
HERA	Lindau	Science Europe (SE)	European Social Survey (ESS)	NCP and ND – SC6
NORFACE	ESA Traineeships	SE Working Group on FP9	DARIAH	Joint NCP – ERC
CHIST-ERA	GOI PG*	VITAE	CESSDA	Irish MSCA office
GENDER-NET PLUS	GOI PD*			Input to development of FP9 (via DBEI and directly)
CAROLINE MSCA COFUND*	EPS/EBP*			Advisory Group for the MSCA on skills, training and career development
Ulysses*	Laureate Awards*			New Horizons
MOU – ANRT				AHSS engagement

***These programmes cater for all disciplines across both STEM and AHSS. See glossary for further guidance.**

APPENDIX 2 (contd.)

OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

Country	No. of awardees	Country	No. of awardees	Country	No. of awardees
Argentina	1	Hungary	6	Portugal	1
Australia	2	Iceland	1	Romania	8
Austria	2	India	31	Russia	4
Bangladesh	2	Iran	9	Serbia	1
Belgium	1	Ireland	797	Slovakia	5
Brazil	7	Italy	58	Slovenia	1
Bulgaria	2	Japan	1	South Africa	1
Canada	6	Kenya	2	South Korea	2
China	22	Latvia	2	Spain	20
Colombia	1	Lebanon	2	Sri Lanka	5
Croatia	1	Lithuania	3	Switzerland	3
Cyprus	2	Malaysia	2	Taiwan	3
Czech Republic	4	Malta	1	Tunisia	1
Denmark	2	Mexico	2	Turkey	1
Egypt	1	Netherlands	4	Ukraine	1
Ethiopia	2	Nigeria	1	United Kingdom	46
Finland	2	Norway	1	United States	34
France	19	Pakistan	5	Uruguay	1
Germany	26	Paraguay	1	Venezuela	1
Greece	5	Peru	1	Vietnam	3
Honduras	1	Poland	17		

APPENDIX 3

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Name	Organisation
Professor Michael Breen	University of Limerick
Professor Maurice Bric	University College Dublin
Peter Brown	Irish Research Council
Professor Orla Feely	University College Dublin
Professor Peter Gallagher	Trinity College Dublin
Dr Felicity Kelleher	Waterford Institute of Technology and Council Member
Professor Anita Maguire	University College Cork
Dr Orla Murphy	University College Cork
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer	Trinity College Dublin and Council Chair
Professor Sean Ryder (Chair)	NUI Galway
Professor Alan Smeaton	Dublin City University

APPENDIX 4

GLOSSARY

Am-Cham	American Chamber of Commerce Ireland
ANRT	Association Nationale Recherche Technologie, France
AHSS	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
CAROLINE MSCA COFUND	MSCA co-funded international fellowship programme of the Irish Research Council
CESSDA	Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives
CHIST-ERA	European Coordinated Research on Long-term Challenges in Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies
DARIAH	Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities
DBEI	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland
DES	Department of Education and Skills, Ireland
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
EEA	European Economic Area
EI	Enterprise Ireland
EPS/EBP	Irish Research Council Enterprise Partnership Scheme; Employment-based postgraduate programme
ERA-NET	European Research Area Network
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
E-RIHS	European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science
ESA	European Space Agency
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
ESO	European Southern Observatory
FP9	Successor framework programme to Horizon 2020
GENDER-NET PLUS	A consortium, co-funded by the EU, focusing on gender equality and gender research in the European Research Area
GOI PD	Government of Ireland postdoctoral fellowship scheme
GOI PG	Government of Ireland postgraduate scholarship scheme
HERA	Humanities in the European Research Area (ERA-Net)
Horizon2020	The European Union's eighth framework programme for research and innovation
IDA	Industrial Development Authority

IUA	Irish Universities Association
Lindau	Fellowship programme of the Irish Research Council enabling early-career researchers to attend the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, a pillar of Horizon 2020
NCP	National Contact Point for Horizon 2020
ND	National (country) delegate for Horizon 2020
New Foundations programme	A small grant scheme of the Irish Research Council supporting knowledge transfer and exchange
New Horizons programme	A research funding programme of the Irish Research Council, enabling interdisciplinary research to be conducted across AHSS and STEM
NORFACE	New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe
RIA	Royal Irish Academy
SC6	Societal Challenge Six of Horizon 2020 – ‘inclusive, innovative and reflective societies’
SFI	Science Foundation Ireland
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
THEA	Technological Higher Education Association
Ulysses programme	A knowledge transfer and exchange programme between Irish and French researchers, administered jointly by the Irish Research Council and Campus France
VITAE	UK-based organisation supporting the professional development of researchers



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