



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 "*Staff mobility to programme and partner countries under Erasmus+ and non-EU bilateral programmes will be actively encouraged as a key mechanism for the professional development of teaching, technical, management and administrative personnel and for the internationalisation of curricula.*"³

Objectives:

The Government of Ireland Academic Mobility Programme will contribute to the achievement of national aims and objectives as outlined in the following:

- International Education Strategy (2016-2020), "Irish Educated, Globally Connected".
- Action Plan for Education 2016-2019
- Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025

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

² Ibid p. 32

³ Ibid p. 43

- National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019
- System Performance Framework
- International Education Mark – Code of Practice
- Foreign Language Strategy (imminent)
- Individual HEI International Education Strategies

Amount available: €500,000

Implementation Period: 1 January 2018 – 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 (THEA) with delegated authority to make awards
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- The seven Irish Universities

Higher education institutions may however involve as an associate partner only organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors from Ireland and/or the programme/partner country if such is deemed necessary to ensure the success of the project.

Applicant HEIs may include multiple partners/colleagues from **within** their own HEIs and HEIs may submit more than one application. Applications that draw from the “Cluster” categories defined in the system performance framework are also welcome.

There is no minimum or maximum limit on the number of partners an HEI may have but the applicant is reminded of the need to keep projects within manageable levels.

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

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:

- The advancement of a research concept to the application stage
- 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 embedding of the principles of European integration in the Irish higher education sector through short-term student and staff mobilities outside the scope of the Erasmus+ Programme

Eligible Destinations: Mobilities to **programme** and **partner** countries are covered under the programme. The definition of Programme Countries is the same as employed under the Erasmus+ Programme – EU28, Norway, Iceland, Turkey, Liechtenstein and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Partner countries are all other countries in the world. Applicant institutions will be aware that certain core markets have been identified in recent years but new areas of potential can also be included. Programme and Partner countries with whom Ireland has diplomatic relations are also eligible.

For guidance see Annex 1 attached for a selection of bilateral agreements that Ireland has signed with selected countries in the recent past.

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. 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.

Management:

The programme will be managed by the Higher Education Authority. Following a competitive process based on an annual 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 will align with the Government's International Strategy in terms of adopting an ethical and sustainable approach to partnerships with a focus on ensuring, as far as possible, a fair gender-balance and broad social inclusion.

When framing proposals, the applicant should give attention to demonstrating how the proposal demonstrates:

(Maximum Score 100 points)

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1) Relevance (30 marks)

Details of how the proposed mobility project is consistent with Ireland's 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 with higher institutions in a Programme or Partner country. 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) Impact (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?

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?

Selection Criteria: 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 be2017.

Annex 1 Countries with whom Ireland has International Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding

- [Memorandum of Understanding with Brazil \(CAPES/MEC\) - Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Brazilian agency the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development \(CNPq\) 2012](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation 2015 \(signed by DES\)](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding with Bolivia 2015 \(signed by HEA\)](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding with Confap \(Brazil\) 2015 \(signed by SFI\)](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding with the USA 2014 \(signed by SFI\)](#)
- [Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation with India 2006 \(signed by the Government\)](#)
- [Partnership for Innovation and Growth Joint Declaration with Japan 2013 \(signed by the Taoiseach\)](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Innovation Co-operation with China 2012 \(signed by Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation\)](#)
- [China Ireland Science and Technology Collaboration Research Fund 2002 \(signed by SFI\)](#)
- [Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation with China 2000 \(signed by the Government\)](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding with Israel 2007 \(signed by the Government\)](#)