

Frequently Asked Questions

1. ELIGIBILITY

Q1a. *Under the SFI Fellowship Programme what is the definition of an eligible applicant?*

The applicant must be

- i) A team member currently funded through an SFI award who has obtained their PhD degree or equivalent
- ii) A member of staff currently working in a relevant research administrative office of an eligible Research Body
- iii) The candidate must currently be on a contract in an eligible research body. It is the expectation that the applicant may be at a natural break between projects or nearing the end of their current contract.

Q1b. *Are PhD students funded through SFI awards eligible to apply for the Fellowship Programme?*

No. Applicants must have obtained their PhD degree or equivalent.

Q1c. *Are team members funded through other funding agencies eligible to apply to the SFI Fellowship Programme?*

The candidate must currently be on a contract in an eligible research body. It is the expectation that the applicant may be at a natural break between projects or nearing the end of their current contract.

Q1d. *Are postdoctoral fellows in receipt of a TIDA award eligible to apply for the Fellowship scheme?*

Yes. A postdoctoral fellow in receipt of a TIDA award is eligible to apply to the scheme. Postdocs in this position are typically contracted to their host institute for a 12-month period. In order to take up a fellowship position they would need their relevant research body to extend their contract to cover the duration of the Fellowship.

2. DURATION

Q2a. *Will Fellowships be offered for a period of less than 36 months?*

Yes. Successful applicants will be offered a fellowship for a maximum period of 36 months. However, SFI are prepared to offer successful applicants a fellowship of lesser duration if the applicant prefers. The minimum duration of a fellowship position is 12 months.

Q2b. *What is the latest date that will be considered as a starting date for the Fellow?*

The applicant is asked to indicate a start date not longer than 6 months from the date of application.

Q3. *Is the Research body permitted to hire a replacement for the loss of a team member?*

A supplement will be paid by SFI to the VP of Research in the eligible research body to compensate for the cost of the team member. The award holder is permitted to hire a replacement team member if they so wish.

3. QUALIFICATIONS

Q3a. *Will Fellows require specific qualifications to work in different SFI divisions?*

Yes. Fellows who indicate that they would like to work in the scientific and technical divisions of SFI (pre-award, post-award and policy) will be expected to have obtained a PhD degree or equivalent.

Fellows who indicate they would like to work in other divisions (IT, Finance, HR, Education & Public Engagement & Communications) will be expected to hold a graduate degree and hold relevant qualifications as appropriate to the division they express a preference for.

4. OTHER

Q4a. *For successful candidates who take up a fellowship position with SFI, do the benefits associated with their current contract with their Research Body (e.g. pension, sick leave, annual leave) continue to apply during the fellowship period?*

Yes. All terms and conditions associated with the Fellow's current contract of employment with their Research Body will continue to apply.

Q4b. *What organisations have the Fellows joined subsequent to completing the Fellowship Programme?*

The SFI Fellowship Programme has proved very successful and on conclusion all Fellows have secured excellent positions within international funding agencies, research offices and training & research centres.