

SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Award Programme FAQs

Q1. How should the research body identify candidates who are adequately qualified for the President of Ireland Young Researcher award?

For this highly prestigious competition SFI expects the research body to seek the very best early career scientists who want to pursue research in Ireland.

Q2. Is the President of Ireland Young Researcher award directed primarily towards Irish graduates?

No. Through this award, SFI will identify the most promising of a new generation of top-tier cutting edge researchers in fields that are critical to Ireland's economic and social prosperity. SFI expects a diverse group of nominees, including Irish and foreign nationals, currently based anywhere in the world, who will conduct their research in Ireland.

Q3. What does SFI consider as the official date of a PhD/MD award?

The official date is defined as the year that the degree was conferred, i.e. the year printed on the official PhD/MD certificate. Verification of this official date by the awarding research body must be available upon request. The number of years since the degree is defined from the date of submission to SFI of the original Expression of Interest. That is, those wishing to apply in 2015 for the PIYRA programme, which requires candidates to be 3-8 years post PhD, must have been conferred with their degrees in the period 2007-2012.

Q3a. Is any allowance made for those applicants who have taken documented eligible leave?

Allowance is made for those applicants who have taken documented eligible leave – they may have been awarded their PhDs within the last twelve and a half (12.5) years. Please see Section 4.2a of the call document for further details.

Q4. Are permanent members of staff eligible for the President of Ireland Young Researcher award?

Yes. Both permanent and contract staff are eligible for nomination by a Research Body, provided all other eligibility criteria are fulfilled.

Q5. Can permanent academic staff request salary i.e. buyout of their time for the duration of the grant?

No. SFI does not contribute to the salary of permanent academic faculty staff within Irish Research Bodies who are in receipt of salaries from the Research Body. An independent non-academic/non-faculty contract researcher is eligible to apply for salary according to the SFI Grant Application Budget Policy.

Q6. Can supplementary information not solicited in the call be included with the proposal?

Only information requested in the call document should be submitted. Proposals are **submitted via SESAME, SFI's online grants and awards management system**. Additional information may cause your application to be returned without review.

Q7. May a President of Ireland Young Researcher Award applicant apply in parallel for other SFI research awards?

No. Individuals may not, while their SFI PIYRA proposal is under active review, submit an application named as an applicant or co-applicant to any of the following programmes: SFI Investigators Programme, SFI Research Professorship, SFI SIRG or similar career development programmes, or to SFI Research Centres. Please refer to individual call documentation for additional information

- Q8. Do PIYRA applicants have to have an existing relationship with the nominating research body?**
This prestigious award is aimed at recruiting the best young scientists from around the world including Ireland. No pre-existing relationship is necessary.
- Q9. What employment contract would a successful PIYRA awardee receive?**
PIYRA awardees will be employees of the nominating Research Body. While any contract should be consistent with SFI's Terms & Conditions, employment contracts should be negotiated between the PIYRA applicant and the nominating Research Body.
- Q10. Can a recipient of a Stokes Lectureship apply for a President of Ireland Young Researcher Award?**
No. As this programme is aimed at attracting a new generation of researchers, applicants may not have previously received an SFI Investigator-type award, such as Principal Investigator, Investigator Award (IA), Stokes Professorship or Lectureship, Research Professorship, or SFI PIYRA, nor should they have received a SFI CDA award or a SFI Research Centre as a lead or co-PI. However, applicants holding or having held smaller awards such as Starting Investigator Research Grant (SIRG), Research Frontiers Programme (RFP), Investigators Projects (IP), Walton, TIDA, Industry Fellowship and UREKA supplement **MAY** apply to SFI PIYRA. Please note that SIRG award holders may only apply to SFI PIYRA in the last 12 months of their active award.
- Q11. Can the research body's contribution to the programme be in a form other than salary (for example, research costs)?**
No. The research body must undertake to provide at least 50% of the successful applicant's salary over the course of their PIYRA. The research body may, however, elect to gradually increase their contribution over the course of the award, rather than contributing 50% each year.
- Q12. Is the PIYRA programme open to researchers based in Ireland?**
A key objective of the SFI PIYRA programme is to fund outstanding young researchers in Ireland. This programme emphasises the importance that Science Foundation Ireland places on the development of research careers and is focused on the attraction of the best international talent, as well as home-grown research excellence.
- As a result, the programme is aimed both at *recruitment* of new researchers into the Irish system as well as the *retention* of existing young researchers, where all relevant eligibility criteria have been met. A 50% salary contribution is also required from the research body where applicants do not currently hold positions (*see call document*).
- Q13. Within the call document, it is stated that researchers currently funded as a PI or co-PI within a Research Centre are not eligible to apply to the PIYRA programme. Does this also apply to PIs and co-PIs within other centre-type awards such as CSETs and SRCs?**
Yes, those currently funded as PIs and co-PIs within SFI Research Centres, CSETs and SRCs are not eligible to apply to the PIYRA programme.
- Q14. What is required in the two-page research description section of the EoI?**
The research description section of the Expression of Interest (EoI) application should include a two-page description of the proposed research, its scientific importance and potential applications. Please clearly describe the specific aims and objectives of the programme and link with real deliverables. Describe how what is proposed will advance the state-of-the-art. Ensure that information is provided regarding how collaborators (if any) will input on aspects of the proposed research as well as how the

research proposed fits with/complements current activity within the host institution/other institutions in the state. It is important to clarify how the proposed research is independent of work ongoing with previous supervisors. Please note that references are to be included within the 2-page limit.

Q15. What additional information should be included in the CV?

Please provide details of invited presentations, awards, patents, and as well as further information on supervisory experience to date clarifying whether this has been as a supervisor in an official role or as a lab-based supervisor. Note a 5 page CV is now required both at EoI and full proposal stage.

Q16. Is a CDA award holder eligible to apply to SFI PIYRA?

No a CDA awardee is not eligible to apply to PIYRA as CDA aims to support early- to mid-career researchers who already hold a salaried, independent research posts and are looking to expand their research activities. See Q10

These FAQs will be updated as queries are received.