

#### SFI INVESTIGATORS PROGRAMME 2016 FAQs

Last updated 24th October 2016

#### **APPLICANT/CO-APPLICANTS & COLLABORATORS**

### Q1a: Can researchers in Research Bodies outside the Republic of Ireland be Co-Applicants and Collaborators on an Investigators Programme grant?

Researchers in Research Bodies outside the Republic of Ireland cannot be Applicants or Co-Applicants but can be listed as Collaborators on Investigators Programme proposals.

### Q1b: Is it possible for Collaborators on the SFI Investigators Programme to receive funding from the grant?

Only <u>Academic</u> Collaborators based in an <u>SFI Eligible Research Body</u> are eligible to receive funding through the Investigators Programme grant. The funding allocated should reflect the supporting role that such Collaborator(s) are expected to play in the research programme. Clear indication should be given where funding is apportioned to Collaborators. Please note that Collaborators outside the Republic of Ireland or those not located within eligible Research Bodies in the Republic of Ireland are not eligible to receive funding through the Investigators Programme.

Industry Collaborators may not receive funding from Investigator Programme grants, regardless of their location.

In exceptional cases, a project may require the use of facilities or services not available in Ireland. Funding for such a request may be considered, subject to a detailed justification for the funding being provided upon application.

### Q1c: In an Investigators Programme application, is it ok to request funds to support a postgraduate student who will be based in the lab of a named Academic Collaborator on the proposal?

Yes, as long as the Collaborator is based in an SFI Eligible Research Body. Academic Collaborators may not be the primary supervisor/mentor of postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers or research staff enrolled on the grant, but may be the local supervisor if these team members are based in a different institution to the Lead or Co-Applicant. CVs must be provided for Academic Collaborators. Academic Collaborators intending to act as a local supervisor to team members should be able to demonstrate a competitive track record of achievements and must have previously held a supervisory role in research programmes.

#### Q1d: When is it appropriate for the CV of a senior team member to be submitted?

CVs of Senior Team Members (e.g., Research Fellows) should never be submitted. If you are requesting budget for a senior team member, please refer to <u>SFI's Grant Budget Policy</u>.

### Q1e: Is a researcher who is currently under review as a Co-Applicant under the SFI Strategic Partnership Programme eligible to apply as an Applicant to the IvP 2016 call?

Yes, subject to all eligibility criteria being met.

#### Q1f: Is it mandatory to include a Co-Applicant on an IvP proposal?

No, inclusion of a Co-Applicant is optional unless you are applying through the SFI-Teagasc Partnership.



#### Q1g: How many Co-Applicants are permitted on an IvP proposal?

For proposals outside the SFI-Teagasc Partnership, we do not have a limit on the number of Co-Applicants, however, it is advised to limit the number of Co-Applicants to less than two. The majority of proposals submitted to the programme have either no Co-Applicants or a single Co-Applicant. Inclusion of two Co-Applicants is less common and we very rarely see more than two included.

As outlined in the call document, the Co-Applicant has a well-defined, critical and continuing role in the proposed investigation. For the purposes of eligibility, reviewing and monitoring, a Co-Applicant applying for funding under the SFI Investigators Programme will receive equal evaluation to the Lead Applicant and will hold equal accountability for the delivery of the proposed research objectives.

#### Q1h: How many Collaborators are permitted on an IvP proposal?

There is no limit on the number of Collaborators, however, Applicants must make sure that the role of any listed Collaborator fits the description available in the call document.

#### **SUBMISSION**

#### Q2a: How many applications can an individual make to the SFI Investigators Programme?

Individuals may only submit **one** single proposal, as Applicant or Co-Applicant, to the SFI Investigators Programme 2016 call. The Partnership and the non-Partnership components are part of the same call; therefore, individuals may not submit proposals to both components.

A Collaborator can be included and named on multiple applications.

If an Applicant or Co-Applicant submits more than one proposal to a call, both applications will be returned without review.

### Q2b: Can the abstract submitted as part of the preliminary information request in September differ from the abstract in the proposal submitted in advance of the December deadline?

SFI expects the content of the abstract submitted as part of the preliminary information to be, in the main, consistent with the abstract submitted as part of the proposal. The abstracts do not need to be identical in terms of wording but should describe similar concepts and describe a similar programme of research.

### Q2c: If I do not submit the requested preliminary information in advance of the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, will I be able to submit a proposal in advance of the December deadline?

No - only Lead Applicants that have submitted the requested preliminary information through their host institution Research Office will be permitted to submit a proposal to the call. Any information submitted directly to SFI, and not through the host institution Research Office, will not be accepted, and submission of a proposal will not be permitted.

#### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

#### Q3a: Can current SFI grant holders apply to the SFI Investigators Programme?

Investigators funded through an existing award from the SFI programmes listed below may apply to the Investigators Programme 2016 call at any stage of their award and once all other eligibility criteria are met:

- \* Research Frontiers Programme
- \* Investigators Programme Projects
- \* SFI ERC Development Programme
- \* US-Ireland R&D Partnership



- \* HRB-SFI Translational Research Award
- \* SFI-HRB-Wellcome Trust Biomedical Research Partnership
- \* Royal Society Science Foundation Ireland University Research Fellowship
- \* SFI-Pfizer Biotherapeutics Innovation Award Programme
- \* SFI Strategic Partnerships Programme
- \* SFI Technology Innovation Development Award
- \* SFI Industry Fellowship Programme
- \* SFI Research Centres Programme
- \* SFI Spokes Programme
- \* BBSRC-SFI Joint Funding of Research

Investigators currently funded by SFI as either a Principal Investigator (PI) or co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) under certain programmes may not apply to the SFI Investigators Programme 2016 call unless the deadline of the call (9<sup>th</sup> December 2016) is less than 24 months before the expiry date of the award. These programmes include, but are not limited to: SFI PI/PICA, SFI Investigators Programme Awards, SFI Investigators Programme (IvP), SFI PIYRA, SFI SIRG, SFI CDA, SFI Future Research Leaders and the SFI Research Professorship Programme. Such individuals must provide justification and rationale for how they would manage two or more major SFI grants under the heading: "Management of More Than One Major SFI Award" as part of the information concerning scientific overlap.

PIs/co-PIs under the SFI Research Centres Programme should note that their progress on the Research Centres grant(s) will be assessed if they submit an application to the SFI Investigators Programme 2016. Individuals who are funded as either a PI or co-PI under the Research Centres Programme must provide justification and rationale for how they would manage two or more major SFI grants under the heading: "Management of More Than One Major SFI Award" as part of the information concerning scientific overlap.

### Q3b: Can applicants who are currently under review for other SFI programmes apply to the SFI Investigators Programme?

Applicants currently under review by SFI as either Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant under certain programmes are not entitled to apply to the SFI Investigators Programme. These programmes include, but are not limited to: SFI PIYRA, SFI CDA, SFI Future Research Leaders and the SFI Research Professorship Programme. Researchers are not permitted to apply to both the Investigators Programme 2016 and the SFI CDA 2016 call. Researchers currently under review as Lead Applicants or Co-Applicants in the 2016 Research Centres call may apply to this call assuming all other eligibility criteria are met.

### Q3c: Who is eligible to apply to the SFI Investigators Programme under the Investigator Career Advancement (ICA) criteria?

ICA applicants must be eligible under all of the standard Investigators Programme criteria as outlined in the call document (with the exception of the publication number requirement). In addition, to be eligible for the ICA programme, the applicant must fall into one of the following categories:

**Category 1**: Any applicant who has taken consecutive documented eligible leave (minimum 12 weeks) since  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  **January 2008** and has since returned to work. Applicants in this category must have  $\underline{5}$  or more international peer-reviewed articles as senior author.

Category 2: Permanent or contract academic staff who have returned to an academic research position since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, having worked for a minimum of two years in a science- or



engineering-related industry. Applicants in this category must have <u>5 or more international peer-reviewed articles</u> as senior author.

#### Q3d: How does SFI define a senior author?

A senior author is one who is that is listed as first or joint first author, reflecting the fact that he/she has provided the greatest intellectual contribution, has held the primary responsibility for collecting and analysing data, and for the writing of the manuscript and associated drafts. The last author will also be considered as a senior author, since this position generally reflects his/her overall responsibility for the study and suggests that a level of mentorship has been provided.

It will be noted that different publishers have differing rules on how the senior authorship is indicated (e.g., by using asterisks, underlining, placing the name first or last in the list of authors, etc.); of overriding importance however is that the applicant should be able to convince and reassure reviewers that they are the key author on these publications. Joint first authorship may only be claimed where the article clearly states that two (or more) authors have provided equal and significant contributions to the work described. Please note that senior authorship does not necessarily mean that they were responsible for the finance associated with the research that was reported.

Q3e: I am the corresponding author on a number of publications where I am not listed as first or last author. Is being listed as corresponding author enough to prove senior authorship for IvP 2016?

For the purposes of eligibility for the Investigators Programme, being listed as corresponding is not sufficient as evidence of senior authorship. Senior authorship is defined in Q3d above.

#### Q3f: What qualifies as an independent research grant?

The Lead Applicant and Co-Applicants are required to have demonstrated research independence through securing at least one independent research grant as lead investigator or as co-investigator. Eligible research grants would be expected to support at least one full-time equivalent, excluding the applicant(s), and include research team costs (e.g., materials and consumables). This excludes smaller awards such as travel grants, equipment grants, postgraduate fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships, and awards of short duration (12 months or less). Laboratory fit-out/start-up funding, and awards that have not been subject to external international peer review are also excluded. Applicants may be required to provide evidence to support the validity of an award upon request. If you are uncertain regarding the eligibility of funding you have received, please contact SFI at <a href="investigators@sfi.ie">investigators@sfi.ie</a>.

#### Q3g: Can SFI Research Centres Directors and co-PIs apply to the Investigators Programme 2016?

Research Centre Directors and co-PIs are eligible to the Investigators Programme, assuming all other eligibility criteria are met. PIs/co-PIs under the SFI Research Centres Programme should note that their progress on the Research Centres grant(s) will be assessed if they submit an application to the SFI Investigators Programme 2016. Individuals who are funded as either a PI or co-PI under the Research Centres Programme must provide justification and rationale for how they would manage two or more major SFI grants under the heading: "Management of More Than One Major SFI Award" as part of the information concerning scientific overlap.

### Q3h: What qualifications are necessary as a basic requirement for Applicants/Co-Applicants to the SFI Investigators Programme?

The Applicant/Co-Applicant must have a PhD or equivalent\*, and must be at least **five** years post the year of conferring of this qualification by the proposal deadline (i.e., the year on the certificate must be 2011 or earlier). Also the Applicant/Co-Applicant must be a senior author on at least **10 international peer reviewed articles.** 



\*SFI's Policy on PhD Equivalence can be found at this link: <a href="http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-policy-on-phd-equivalence.html">http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-policy-on-phd-equivalence.html</a>. Applicants holding an equivalent qualification may be eligible, but should nevertheless seek approval from SFI in advance of submitting a proposal.

Q3i: Do abstracts, patent applications, or invention disclosures count as publications for the senior author publications requirement?

No, they do not. Only original research publications are acceptable.

Q3j: Applicants who hold certain SFI Awards can only apply to Investigators Programme 2016 within the last 24 months of their existing awards. Does this 24-month period apply to the submission date (i.e., 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016) or the start date of the IvP 2016 project?

The relevant date here is the submission deadline 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. SFI awards are scheduled to conclude at the end of a given month. The end date of a grant's SFI Letter of Offer should be on or before 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018 for an applicant to be eligible to apply to the Investigators Programme 2016 call.

Q3k: If an applicant submits the Preliminary Information (for the Investigators Programme) to SFI by 30th September, does this preclude them from applying to the CDA 2016 programme?

If an applicant submits the Preliminary Information required for the Investigators Programme, they will not be precluded from applying to CDA. Submission of a full proposal to the Investigators Programme will preclude them from applying to CDA. For planning purposes, we would appreciate it if a researcher who has submitted the preliminary information would let us know if they decide against applying for the Investigators Programme.

Q3I: Can a lead applicant of one Investigators Programme application also be a co-applicant on a second one?

Individuals may only submit, as Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant, one proposal to an open call of the SFI Investigators Programme. If a Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant submits more than one proposal to an open SFI Investigators Programme call, both applications will be returned without review. It is permissible, however, to be a Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant on one proposal and a Collaborator on other proposals to the same call.

#### **SALARIES AND BUDGETS**

Q4a: I am a postdoctoral researcher on a contract; can I apply to the SFI Investigators Programme and request my own salary?

No. Lead PI/co-PI salary is not an eligible cost. Further details about SFI's Grant Budget Policy are at <a href="http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/grant-applications-budget-policy/">http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/grant-applications-budget-policy/</a>

Q4b: I am a team member on an SFI research grant but am not the PI and do not have a faculty position; can I apply to the SFI Investigators Programme?

Yes, assuming you meet all other eligibility criteria and the research body will recognise that you will be an employee of the institution for at least the duration of the new Investigators Programme 2016 grant and that your salary will be provided from a source other than a SFI-funded award. PI salaries are not eligible costs. If your application is successful and you accept the Investigators Programme grant, your participation in the existing research grant must terminate.

**Q4c:** Are requests for funding to allow personnel to train at a collaborator's lab acceptable?

Reasonable requests for travel costs including accommodation, subsistence and transp

Reasonable requests for travel costs including accommodation, subsistence and transport to allow personnel to participate in necessary training at a collaborator's lab are acceptable. Please provide detailed justification in the budget justification.



### Q4d: Are requests for funding to allow collaborator travel to the lab of the Investigators Programme awardee an acceptable expense?

Funding requests to bring high-calibre international collaborators to Ireland to work with researchers in the Investigator's lab to carry out research for a fixed period of time are acceptable. These collaborators must be prominent high-profile international researchers from academia or industry. The visit must encourage further collaborations with world-class centres of research excellence and help raise international awareness and recognition of high-quality research taking place in the Investigator's lab.

Q4e: My Research Body does not pay employer's pension at a rate of 20% as detailed in the SFI Grant Application Budget Policy. How do I calculate the Cost to Grant figure for team member salaries?
Please refer to the SFI Grants Team Member Budgeting Scale and note that the 'Cost to Grant' figures in these scales include employer's pension at a rate of 20%. This figure should be adjusted to reflect the employer's pension contribution rate of your Research Body and the resulting 'Cost to Grant' figure should be updated accordingly.

#### **REMIT**

#### Q5a: I'm not sure if my research topic aligns with SFI's legal remit?

Additional guidance on SFI's Legal Remit is available at this link:

http://www.sfi.ie/assets/media/files/downloads/About%20SFI/SFI%20Remit%20Guidance%20for%2 OApplicants March%202016.pdf

#### **Q5b:** Can SFI fund clinical trials through Investigators Programme 2016?

SFI only permits early-stage regulated clinical trials (Phase I or combined Phase I/II) and investigations to be undertaken under the scope of the following SFI programmes: SFI Research Centres, Spokes, and Strategic Partnerships in addition to SFI Research Professorship where the successful candidate will become a Co-Principal Investigator within an SFI Research Centre. Clinical trials and investigations requiring approval by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) will not be permitted through other SFI funding programmes, including Investigators Programme 2016.

Funding requests for early-stage research involving human volunteers and/or human samples that does not require regulatory approval are permitted under Investigators Programme 2016. Where there is any doubt, applicants are advised to contact the HPRA prior to submission to ensure eligibility and are required to indicate in their application that the proposed study does not require HPRA approval.

SFI's Clinical Trial and Clinical Investigation Policy can be found at the following link: <a href="http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-clinical-trial-and-clinical-investigation-policy.html">http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-clinical-trial-and-clinical-investigation-policy.html</a>

Please direct any queries you may have to investigators@sfi.ie.

#### Q5c: Does my research require ethical approval?

SFI will require evidence that relevant ethical and regulatory approval has been granted for studies involving human or animal subjects prior to an award commencing. In exceptional cases where such research may not commence until a late stage of an award, SFI may permit submission of ethical and regulatory approvals following the award start date but prior to commencement of the research involving animal and/or human subjects. See Section 8 of the call document for further details.



### Q5d: I am interested in applying to the IvP 2016 call under the SFI-EPA Partnership, but I cannot see how to register this in SESAME. What do I need to do?

In contrast to SFI-Teagasc Partnership, it is not necessary for applicants to indicate in SESAME that they are specifically seeking support under the SFI-EPA Partnership (n.b., the same is true for the Partnerships with the Marine Institute and the GSI). All applications that demonstrate a clear alignment to the themes of interest for a given co-funding partner (as stated in Appendix A of the call document) will have the potential to be funded under the relevant Partnership agreement. SFI and the EPA (or the Marine Institute or the GSI, where relevant) will agree upon which proposals can be supported through these agreements. Any proposal deemed to fall outside of the agreement between SFI and its Partner can still be supported through the IvP 2016 call; if successful, such a proposal would be funded by SFI in its entirety (assuming that no other co-funding Partner, such as Teagasc, is involved).

Applicants who believe that their proposal may be supported under partnerships with the EPA, Marine Institute or the GSI are not obliged to state this in their proposal. However, if deemed to be a potential advantage to do so, they may explain, for example, how their proposed research will align to the objectives of the given Partnership, as outlined in Appendix A.

#### **REVIEW PROCESS**

## Q6a: If an application to the Investigators Programme is declined following review and the applicant intends to resubmit a revised application, to what extent must the 'subsequent' proposal be different?

Full details on SFI's Resubmission Policy are available on the SFI website: <a href="http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-policy-on-resubmission.html">http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-policy-on-resubmission.html</a>

Applications to any call that are based primarily on unsuccessful submissions (following peer review) to any SFI programme must demonstrate that the review comments resulting from the initial application have been taken into account in the preparation of the new submission. SFI will not review resubmissions that have failed to take into account the major comments or concerns resulting from the prior review; such proposals will be withdrawn from the review process. Applicants to an SFI call for proposals must declare whether a new submission relates to a previously submitted application to any SFI scheme. If the application is a resubmission, a statement referencing the previous application and explaining the differences must be provided and make reference to reviewer comments where relevant. This information can be provided within the relevant section of the Sesame application. This statement will assist SFI Scientific Staff in the assessment of eligibility of a revised application and will not be shared with reviewers.

### Q6b: If my Investigators Programme application is declined, can I submit to the next Investigators Programme deadline call?

An Applicant (or co-Applicant) who submits an application to the Investigators Programme 2016 call and is subsequently declined can submit an application to the next open call, assuming that they meet all relevant eligibility criteria for that call.

#### **Q6c:** Will science and impact be reviewed by the same postal reviewers?

All eligible proposals will be forwarded to distinguished international experts for evaluation of scientific excellence and potential economic and societal impact (postal reviewers). Each postal reviewer will evaluate both scientific excellence and impact.

#### Q6d: Who will make up the "Sitting Panel(s)" of the Evaluation Process?

Reviewers on the sitting panels will be leading international scientific experts who have both the ability and experience to conduct a review of a number of proposals on the basis of scientific



excellence and impact. The panel members will exhibit a broad range of expertise relevant to the proposals under review and will assess the inputs of the postal reviews, the applicants' response to these reviews and the overall merit and priority of applications. Panels will be invited to rank proposals and to make recommendations on which applications should be given consideration for funding by SFI.

**Q6e:** Are the review criteria weighted?

No, each of the programme's three review criteria are treated equally.

#### **SESAME**

Q7a: I am requesting funding for 40 months, but the options in the drop-down menu do not allow me to do this. How should I proceed?

The funding period for an Investigators Programme 2016 award is either 48 or 60 months. 40 months is not a valid funding period for this award.

Q7b: Will SESAME alert me if the required documents have not been uploaded or if fields have not been completed, as part of my submission to Investigators Programme 2016?

To check that required fields have been completed prior to submission, click "Validate". Validation will also automatically occur when "Submit" is selected. However, it is important to note that there is no system validation on multiple upload file fields, including for example collaborator CVs, coapplicant CVs, ICA documents and letters of support, where required. The number of documents required may vary depending on each application. There is also no system validation on the addition of funding support. You should view the PDF of your application prior to submission to allow you to verify content, print or save your application. It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that all documentation is included and that page lengths are not exceeded. Please refer to the checklist in the Investigators Programme call document.

Q7c: Can you list the most common issues that researchers have identified when submitting proposals using the SESAME system?

**Failure to submit before the call deadline:** In all circumstances, you should aim to submit your proposal well before the deadline to have time to solve any problems or omissions with your application. Research Officers will need ample time to review submissions. Please note that SFI will not extend deadlines for system failures that are not its own responsibility. Additionally, applications cannot be submitted after the deadline.

**Issues with PDF generation:** (created with open source software, page count issue, etc.) Please ensure to use unencrypted, non-password protected PDFs with the copying function disabled, developed using either Adobe or Microsoft Word PDF convertor software ONLY. Also do NOT use commas or special characters in the title of your uploaded PDF document.

#### Issues with PDF document titles:

Do NOT use commas or special characters in the title of your uploaded PDF document.

#### Password issues/resets:

If you forget your password, click on the 'Forgot password?' link on the SESAME homepage.

Pop-ups enabled in browser:



Please ensure that popups ARE ENABLED in your browser configuration.

#### SESAME checks word counts and pages queries?

Yes, SESAME does perform system validation around word/page counts, but it is the responsibility of the researcher/research body to check that the correct documents are uploaded and reviewed within the full PDF prior to submission.

#### Single/multiple upload field:

If you wish to use the multiple upload field, please ensure that you have the Java plugin installed. If you click the "multiple files" button and it does not work, you will see a link to the Java website where you can download the latest plugin.

#### Browser "Back" button:

Please do NOT use the browser "back" button when navigating SESAME.

#### **Documentation uploads:**

Please ENSURE all documents are uploaded into the correct fields in the application.

#### **Funding support from profile:**

Creating new funding support details while working on the application will add those details to both the application and to the profile. If you are not adding these new funding support details direct to your application, but are instead adding them directly to your profile, please ensure that you later also attach the relevant details to the application. Please refer to the SESAME researcher user guide.

#### **Co-Applicant access issues:**

It is only possibly for one person to work on the proposal at any one time. To allow your co-applicant to access the proposal, please save the proposal and close the browser window. Your co-applicant will then be able to access the proposal.

#### **IMPACT**

#### Q8a: What is impact?

Please refer to Section 2 of the Investigators Programme 2016 call document. Please also see the <a href="Impact page">Impact page</a> on the SFI website. Applicants are advised to view the SFI Impact webinar in advance of preparing their Impact Statements - <a href="http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-research-impact/sfi-impact-webinar.html">http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-research-impact/sfi-impact-webinar.html</a>

#### Q8b: What if my research has no potential economic or societal impacts?

SFI recognise that impact can take time and in many cases is unforeseen. It is not possible to predict all impacts at the research stage. For the Investigators Programme, scientific excellence is both necessary and paramount but is not sufficient in isolation; applications must also demonstrate potential impact. If applicants feel that achieving impact as defined in the call document is not possible for their research, alternative funding programmes should be considered.

# **Q8c:** What if my proposed research is reviewed as excellent but my impact statement is reviewed as poor? For the Investigators Programme, scientific excellence is both necessary and paramount but is not sufficient in isolation; applications must also demonstrate potential impact. If the impact statement is not reviewed positively, the proposal overall will not be competitive and will not receive funding.

#### Q8d: Will impact be assessed at the postal review stage?

Yes, the impact statement will be reviewed at the postal review stage.



#### **NATIONAL FACILITIES**

**Q9a:** How do I apply for access costs to national facilities costs through the Investigators Programme?

Full details on how to apply for access costs are available on the SFI website: <a href="http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-access-charge-plans.html">http://www.sfi.ie/funding/grant-policies/sfi-access-charge-plans.html</a>

#### SFI-TEAGASC PARTNERSHIP

Q10a: How will PhD student supervision work for the Lead Applicant/Co-Applicant team?

Reasonable arrangements should be made to resolve any issues arising due to Teagasc not being a degree-granting institution. Co-supervision of PhD students is an acceptable way to resolve any issues.

**Q10b:** How many Co-Applicants are allowed on proposals submitted under the SFI-Teagasc Partnership?

A maximum of 3 PIs can apply for a joint proposal under the SFI-Teagasc Partnership (one Lead Applicant and one or two Co-Applicants). In order to be eligible for the SFI-Teagasc Partnership, at least one of the applicants must be a Teagasc employee and one of the applicants must NOT be a Teagasc employee.

**Q10d:** How will the SFI-Teagasc Partnership proposals be reviewed?

Proposals submitted under the SFI-Teagasc Partnership will be reviewed following the same review process as the non-Partnership proposals. The strength of the proposals in meeting the objectives of the Partnership will be reviewed as part of the economic and societal impact review criterion.

Q10e: May a researcher submit a proposal under the SFI-Teagasc Partnership as a (Co-)Applicant, and to the non-Partnership component of the call as a (Co-)Applicant?

Applicants and Co-Applicants are treated identically. Only one submission per researcher is allowed; in no circumstances may applicants apply more than once. This disallows a researcher applying to both Partnership and non-Partnership components of the call. This does not apply to official named collaborators. If an Applicant or Co-Applicant submits more than one proposal to a call, both applications will be returned without review.