



SFI-NSF I-Corps@SFI Entrepreneurial Training Programme Call 2023

Information Webinar – 02/11/2023

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For further information:

<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/i-corps@sfi/>

Contact Email:

i-corps@sfi.ie

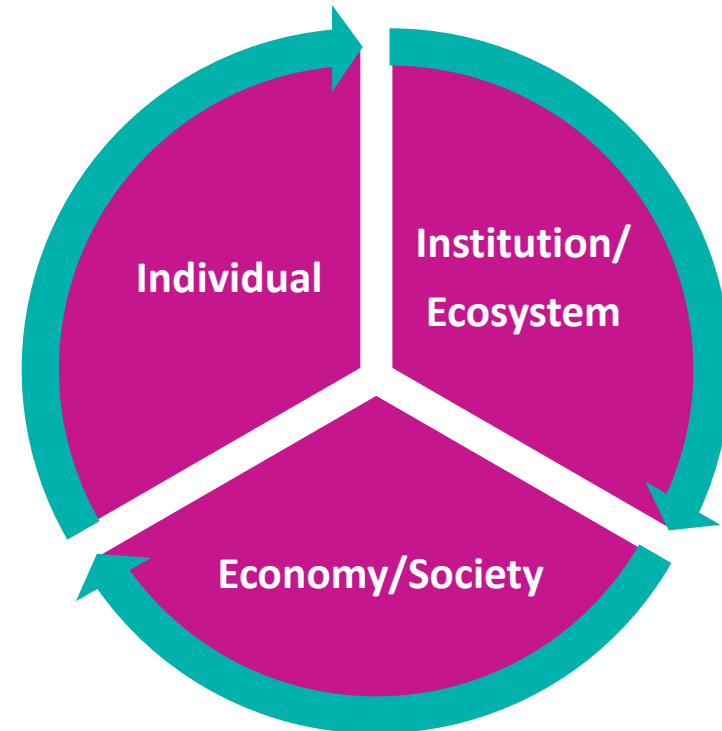


Purpose

Support SFI researchers to develop entrepreneurial and innovation skills that will enable them to realise new economic and societal impact opportunities for their research.

Objectives

- Support researchers to develop skills in entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Enable researchers to realise economic and societal impact opportunities from publicly funded research.
- Accelerate the translation of publicly funded research to impact.
- Raise awareness of entrepreneurial thinking and skills amongst researchers at different career stages.



I-Corps@SFI Partnership

SFI-NSF I-Corps@SFI Entrepreneurial Training Programme

I-Corps@SFI Academy

Funding

Training

Training

Up to €35k

Duration of 6-months

NSF I-Corps Teams
(7-weeks)

Local Training
(7-weeks)

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NSF I-Corps

The NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Programme is one of the most successful entrepreneurship and innovation programmes in the world. Developed by the NSF with Steve Blank, launched in 2012.

To-date:

- Trained over **5,800 researchers** (over 2,500 teams).
- **1,400 startups** formed.
- Startups have cumulatively raised **\$3.16 billion**.
- Progressive improvement in methodology and training processes.
- Obama Administration supports scale-up of NSF I-Corps in 2015.
- One international partner – SFI.

1 for 2

**1 STARTUP FORMED FOR EVERY 2 TEAMS
THAT PARTICIPATE**

€1.8M

ON AVERAGE, €1.8M RAISED PER STARTUP

NSF I-Corps Teams

Specifically, the ETP provides access to the *NSF I-Corps Teams Programme*. This is an intensive 7-week training programme delivered by the NSF during which teams receive training in evidence-based entrepreneurship and undertake extensive opportunity (e.g., stakeholder, beneficiary, customer) discovery activities.

Details

- Training duration 7-weeks.
- All training/mentoring delivered online.
- Time commitment approx. 15 hours per week.
- Team members are required to attend all elements of the training programme.



Why Apply? - Researcher

As a researcher, why should you apply?

- Grant **funding of up to €35k.**
- Develop **transferable skills** that will support career development – *Entrepreneurial and innovation skills are in demand.*
- Develop **sectoral insights** to give you a competitive advantage in research – *Go beyond secondary research.*
- Explore the **impact potential** of your idea (quickly) – *Can your idea deliver the impact you think?*
- **Prestige** - *NSF I-Corps is world-renowned.*
- **Self-discovery** – *Do you have the qualities to commercialise research or pursue an entrepreneurial venture?*

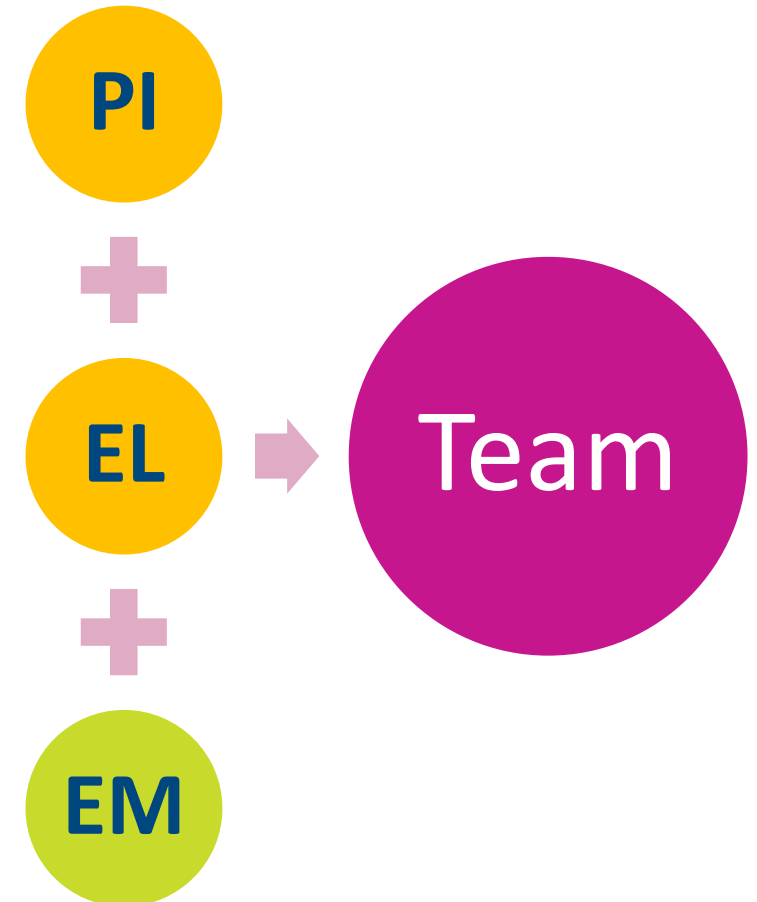
Why Apply? - Institution

As an institution, why should you encourage researchers to apply?

- Focus of training is to establish **problem-solution fit.**
- Rigorously discover and **validate unmet needs** – *deal flow.*
- Identify **high potential prospects** – *deal flow.*
- Trains researchers in opportunity discovery and recognition – *deal flow.*
- Horizon scanning.
- Expand network.

Who Can Apply?

- Teams comprising a Principal Investigator, Entrepreneurial Lead and Entrepreneurial Mentor.
- **Principal Investigator (PI)** must be **member of academic staff** at an Eligible Research Body (permanent or with a contract that covers the period of the award) and hold an SFI-funded grant (active in last 3-years).
- **Entrepreneurial Lead (EL)** must be **member of academic staff** at an Eligible Research Body (permanent or with a contract that covers the period of the award) or contract researcher or postgraduate researcher.
- **Entrepreneurial Mentor (EM)** should come from outside academia and have significant innovation, entrepreneurial, industry or other relevant experience appropriate to this role. May be selected from a non-academic commercialisation/business development role within an Eligible Research Body.

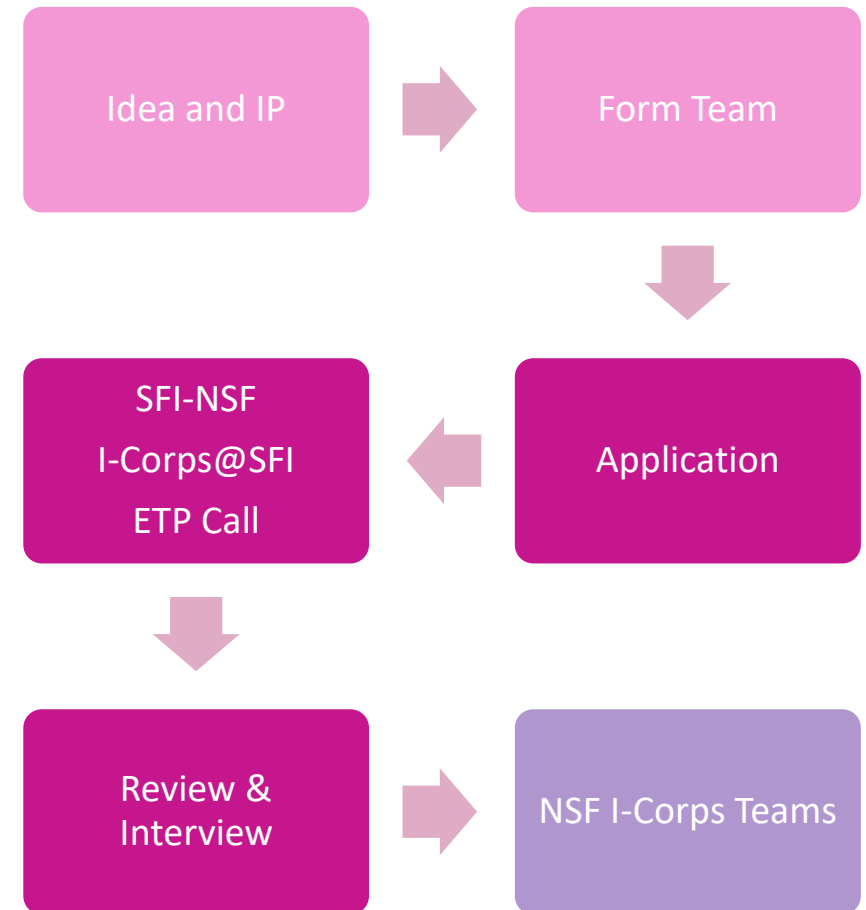


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Application Process Overview

How to Apply?

- Read the **Call Document**.
- Identify or develop an **idea based on intellectual property (IP)**.
- Form a **team** comprising:
 - Principal Investigator;
 - Entrepreneurial Lead;
 - Entrepreneurial Mentor.
- Write your **application**. Consult with Research and Tech Transfer Offices.
- Select the **Application Track**.
- **Submit** your application.
- (Successful teams awarded grant and place on upcoming NSF I-Corps Teams cohort).



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Two Application Tracks

Standard Track

- **Standard Application Track** is open to researchers (Principal, Co-Principal or Funded Investigators) who **currently hold, or are funded by, any active SFI grant or an SFI grant active in the past 3 years.**
- **Funding of up to €35k** can be requested for up to **6-months.**
- Applications must be submitted through **SESAME.**
- Application form available on programme call webpage.
- Applications must be submitted in advance of specific deadlines.

Accelerated Track

- **Accelerated Application Track** is open to **researchers** (Principal, Co-Principal or Funded Investigators) who **currently hold, or are funded by, any active SFI grant awarded under an affiliated SFI programme.**
- Affiliated SFI programmes: **Challenges** (incl. NCF), **Research Centres** and **ARC Hubs.**
- **No funding** may be requested.
- Applications can be submitted at any time and will be processed on-demand.
- *Researchers may also apply under the Standard Track.*

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Budget Request

What Can The Budget Be Used For?

- **Salary Contribution**
 - Contribution to Postdoctoral Researcher Salary.
- **Principal Investigator (PI) Teaching Buyout**
 - Teaching buy-out of up to €15k can be applied for by the lead applicant (PI) (Irrespective of institution type).
- **Materials & Consumables**
 - Materials and consumables associated with small-scale prototyping may be permitted to assist in opportunity discovery.
- **Travel**
 - Travel costs associated directly with undertaking training and opportunity discovery activities may be requested.
- **Entrepreneurial Mentor**
 - A contribution of up to a **maximum of €5k** to secure an independent expert to act as Entrepreneurial Mentor (EM) on a team may be requested.

Review Process

Standard Track

- Two stage review process.
- Review of submitted (written) application:
 - Quality, experience and ambition of the **team**.
 - Quality of **problem** understanding.
 - Quality of the **solution**.
 - Quality of the **impact** opportunity.
- Interview with SFI/NSF Staff.
- Review of applications undertaken by SFI staff with independent international oversight.

Accelerated Track

- Two stage review process.
- Review of submitted (written) application*:
 - Quality of strategic alignment.
- Interview with SFI/NSF Staff.
- * Contact Programme Team at i-corps@sfi.ie in advance of application preparation.

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Key Dates

- Four Call Deadlines Under 2023 Call (Relevant to Standard Application Track Only)

Call A

Launch: October 9th, 2023

Application Deadline: **January 19th, 2024**, 13:00 Dublin Local Time

Call B

Launch: January 22nd, 2024

Application Deadline: **March 15th, 2024**, 13:00 Dublin Local Time

Call C

Launch: March 18th, 2024

Application Deadline: **May 24th, 2024**, 13:00 Dublin Local Time

Call D

Launch: May 27th, 2024

Application Deadline: **July 19th, 2024**, 13:00 Dublin Local Time

Contacts

For further information please contact:

Programme Team: Laura Quinn, Carla Marina Soriano or Stephen O'Driscoll

E: i-corps@sfi.ie

W: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/i-corps@sfi/>

W: <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/i-corps/about-teams>

You can also **book a meeting** with us from the call webpage.

