



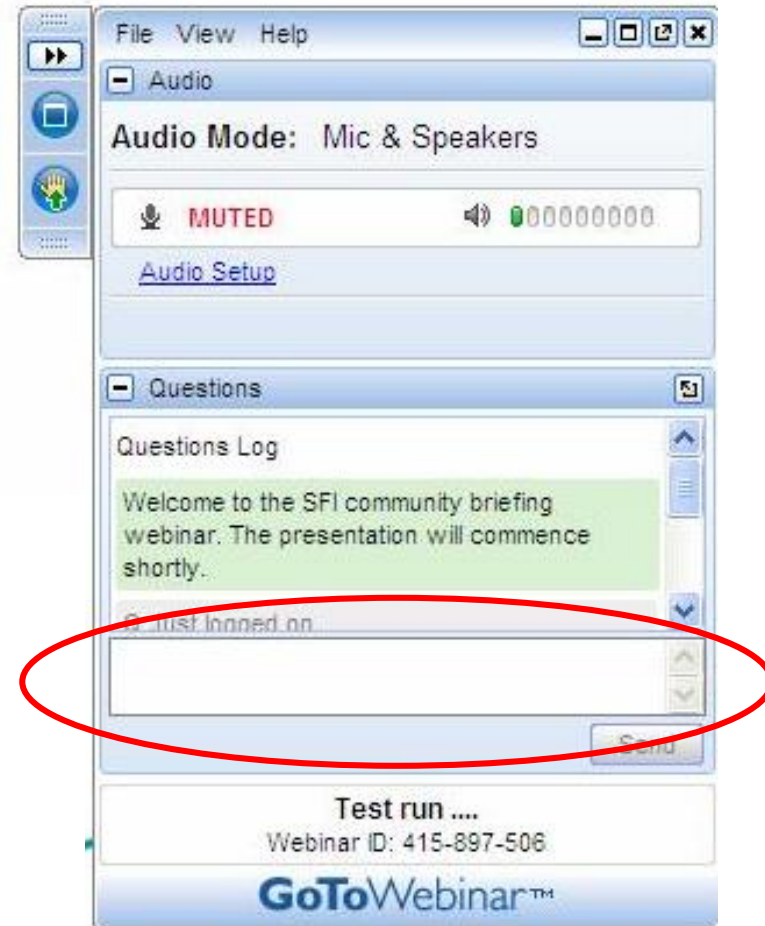
## **SFI Centres for Research Training Programme 2018**

***Expression of Interest deadline: 26 June 2018, 13:00***

***Full Proposal deadline: 5 September 2018, 13:00***

# Webinar information

- This webinar consists of a presentation with voiceover (participants muted) and a Q&A session
- We will walk you through the presentation and collect questions at the end
- You may submit questions by typing them in the Questions text box on the GoToMeeting control panel – please try to be concise
- The webinar will be made available on the programme webpage
- **If you experiencing any audio-visual issues please let us know using the Questions text box**



# CRT Programme Team



**Darragh O'Neill**  
**Scientific Programme Manager,**  
**Innovation Team**



**Lisa Higgins**  
**Head of Innovation Team**



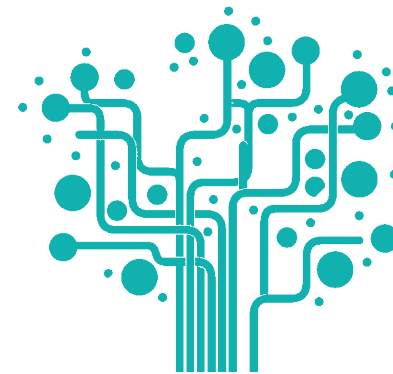
**Laura Taajamaa**  
**Fellow, Innovation Team**



**Orla O'Neill**  
**Administration Manager**

# Webinar overview

- Programme Overview
- Application Preparation and Submission
- Proposal Review



# Programme Overview

- **Innovation 2020**, Ireland's strategy for research and development, science and technology, **outlines a commitment to the development of a talented and skilled workforce and researcher base** that can respond to emerging industrial and societal needs
- A public consultation was conducted by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in advance of the programme launch
- **SFI Centres for Research Training (CRT)** programme will build on research excellence to train **cohorts of academically outstanding future research leaders**
- CRTs will be **initiatives of scale** encouraging centres of excellence in Ireland to collaborate with enterprise on delivering world-class programmes of research and training

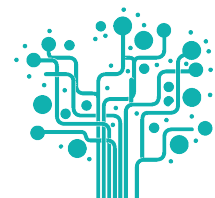


# Thematic area:

## Data and ICT Skills for the Future

- **Scope of thematic area**
  - To enable underpinning software- and hardware-based technologies in relevant areas of research in computer science, information science, data science, data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, security, privacy, robotics, artificial/virtual reality, mathematics, statistics, networks and communications; and/or
  - To explore potentially transformative applications of these technologies in research sectors that align with any National Priority Areas
- **Alignment with one of the National Priority areas under the ICT Theme**
  - Future Networks, Communications and Internet of Things
  - Data Analytics, Management, Security, Privacy, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (including Machine Learning) or
  - Digital Platforms, Content and Applications, and Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality
- **Potentially align with a secondary “application” Priority Area**

Applicants may wish to contact SFI in advance of submission if they are uncertain of alignment with the thematic area ([crt@sfi.ie](mailto:crt@sfi.ie))



# Objectives

- Highly trained, **well-networked research talent**
- World-class, **cohort-based, interdisciplinary training programmes**
- **Skills for ever-evolving workplaces**
- **Partnerships** with enterprise and other external bodies
- Intersectoral and international **mobility**
- **Leverage** non-SFI funding for postgraduates
- Improving **gender balance** in postgraduate training
- **Inter-institutional collaboration** and efficiency in the provision of excellent postgraduate training





# Guiding Principles

- **Cohort model**
  - Provide scale and sustainability
  - Wider scientific relevance, peer-to-peer learning and networks
- **Build partnerships with enterprise in the design and delivery of training**
  - Skillsets to meet the needs of enterprise and to attract investment to Ireland
  - Placements in enterprise, non-academic establishments, or international collaborators
- **Research excellence with a critical mass of supervisors and cutting-edge infrastructure**
- **World-class training**
  - Delivered nationally, internationally or online
  - Transversal skills to enable students to adapt to rapidly evolving workplaces



# Guiding Principles

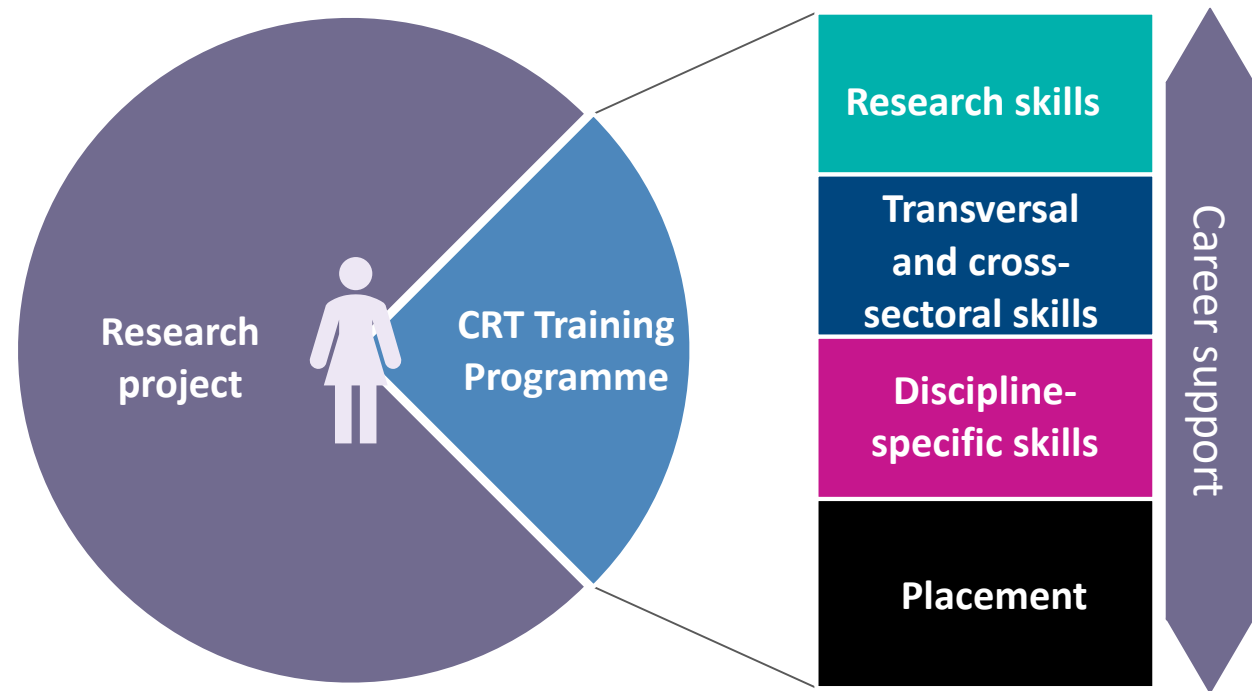
- **Inter-/multidisciplinary training**
  - Appreciation for research contribution to society and the economy
  - Engagement with a broad spectrum of stakeholders
- **Student-focused research experience**
  - Supports and mentorship for students' career development.
  - Empowered to define research and training programmes
  - Student voice present in the oversight and execution of CRT
- **Complement and add value to existing opportunities**
- **Research Postgraduate Training**
  - Focus will be on doctoral training
  - If justified, Research Masters degrees may also be designed, delivered and funded through this programme



- **Defining feature of the SFI Centres for Research Training**
- Annual intake of students to undertake programme of research and training
- **Integration within and between cohorts** exposes students to the wider scientific relevance of their research, encourages peer-to-peer learning and facilitates the establishment of networks
- **Student-focused research experience**
  - Members of cohort but also empowered to define their individual research and training programme
  - Representation in the execution of the CRT



# Research and training programme



# Training programme

- Differentiated through **the cohort structure**
- **Close engagement with enterprise in design and delivery**
- Mandatory and optional training opportunities with **individual development plan**
- Delivered by thought leaders or centres of excellence in the field - **nationally, internationally or online**
- **Innovative** approaches encouraged
- Aim is not to duplicate high-quality existing courses
- Acceptable and encouraged for **non-CRT students to participate CRT courses** (where no additional cost to the CRT is incurred)



- Purpose **to enhance students' employability and mobility**
- Mandatory element of training programmes in CRTs
- May be related to the research project undertaken by the student or may be in a different area
- May be undertaken either in a non-academic environment or in an academic research group outside the Republic of Ireland
- **Minimum duration of 12 weeks**
- **Appropriate support for the student in the selecting and securing placement**



# Programme scale: Leverage

- **CRTs are required to leverage a minimum of one additional student for every four funded by SFI**
  - Leverage may be secured from enterprise, charity, philanthropy, public agencies, or institutional funding sources
  - Non-SFI *cash contribution* must cover all costs associated with a student
  - Funding already committed for other activities cannot be used
  - CRTs expected to maintain leverage over lifetime of award but may bring in new Partner Organisations
  - Additional cash and in-kind leverage above the minimum may also be included

# Programme scale: Size of CRTs

Number of students per cohort			Total number of students per CRT (4 cohorts)
SFI funded	Minimum additional leverage	Total	
12-24	3-6	15-30	60-120



- **Student costs (max. €40,000 per student per annum)**
  - Student stipend and fees
  - Research materials and consumables
  - Training
  - Placement costs (including travel and subsistence)
  - Travel costs
- **Operational costs (max. €40,000 per annum)**
  - Programme Manager
  - Supervisor training directly related to CRT
  - Facilitating events or EPE activities directly related to CRT
  - Other Operational Costs
- **Overheads payable at normal rate**
  - Applicants required to include a statement on how these will be used

**Reviewers will assess the value for money in terms of the budget requested from SFI and non-SFI contributions secured**



# CRT structure

Representatives from the Research Body(ies), students and supervisors, and if relevant external members

Governance  
Committee

-Lead and co-applicants  
-Multi-institutional applications must include a co-applicant from each institution

Management  
Committee

Named Supervisor sufficient capacity to supervise cohort  
Partner Organisations may include enterprise, charity, philanthropy or public agencies

Named  
Supervisors

Partner  
Organisations

Gender strategy

# Eligibility: Lead/Co-applicant

- Independent member of academic staff / contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant
- Minimum of five years post-PhD
- Minimum of five senior-author, peer-reviewed publications
- One previous independent research grant
- Track record of mentoring and supervising
  
- Each application must have three applicants
  - A co-applicant from each institution must be included
  - If there are more than three institutions, there may be more than three in the applicant (one from each institution)



# Eligibility: Named Supervisors

- Independent member of academic staff / contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant
  - Minimum of three years post-PhD
  - Minimum of three senior-author, peer-reviewed publications
  - Authority to supervise CRT students or be provided with supports and mentorship by the CRT to do this
- 
- Sufficient numbers of Named Supervisors should be identified to accommodate cohort
  - New Named Supervisors may be recruited over the course of the award

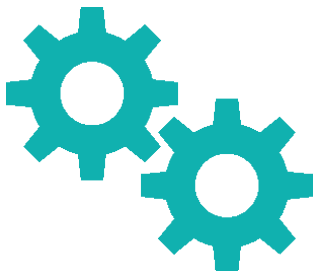


# Partner Organisations

- Enterprise partner or relevant non-academic institution, such as a government agency, representative body, philanthropic organisation or non-governmental organisation
- Will contribute to the research and/or training agenda
- May or may not make a financial contribution to the budget
  
- Academic collaborators on individual research projects or organisations that may provide placements to students do not need to be included

**The demonstrable contribution that excellent research and training makes to the economy and society**

- **The development of Ireland's human capital** through *meeting the current and future needs of Ireland's labour market*, but also through *the development of highly trained talent with the potential to create and attract new job opportunities and become leaders of the future.*
- Please consult the call document, as well as the SFI Impact Guidance and Impact webinar:  
<http://www.sfi.ie/funding/award-management/research-impact/>



# Application and review overview



Expression of Interest  
**Deadline 26 June 2018**  
crt@sfi.ie



Full proposal  
**Deadline 5 September 2018**  
SESAME



International  
remote review



Interview panels



Approval by  
SFI Executive/  
SFI Board



Ongoing  
monitoring using  
international peer  
review

# Review process



# Evaluation criteria

- 1. Strategy and vision for the CRT**
  - 2. Applicant group and research environment**
  - 3. Training programme, including engagement with enterprise and mobility**
  - 4. Execution and delivery of the CRT including value for money**
  - 5. Impact statement**
- Equally weighted (20%)
  - Same criteria used for both stages of review
  - Detailed description of each criterion in the call document



# Application Process

# Expression of interest

- Submission to [crt@sfi.ie](mailto:crt@sfi.ie) by Research Office by **26 June 2018, 13:00**
- Full proposals will only be accepted if an EoI has been received
- Will not be assessed for eligibility, quality or alignment with thematic area
- If SFI deems there to be significant overlap between EoIs, information may be shared between applicant groups

PROGRAMME NAME: <b>SFI Centres for Research Training 2018</b>	CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2018, 13:00 Dublin, Ireland localtime
TITLE OF PROPOSAL (up to 30 words) SFI CENTRE FOR RESEARCH TRAINING IN...	
FULL NAME OF LEAD AND CO-APPLICANT(S)	NAME OF HOST RESEARCH BODY(IES)
ALIGNMENT WITH THEMATIC AREA (up to 250 words) <i>Please describe clearly how the proposed SFI Centre for Research Training aligns with the thematic area of this call.</i>	
ABSTRACT (up to 500 words) <i>Please briefly outline the vision for the proposed SFI Centre for Research Training.</i>	

- Please use template provided

# Full proposal preparation

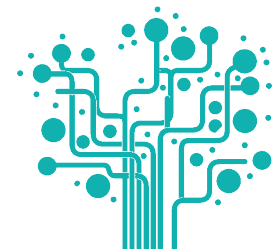
- Submission through SESAME by **5 September 2018, 13:00**

Lead/Co-Applicant details, CVs and funding	n/a	} PDF upload
Named Supervisors details and CVs	n/a	
Partner Organisations details	n/a	
Research and Training Programme (incl. references)	15 pages	
Indicative Student Training Programme	2 pages	
List of all supervisors	n/a	
Impact Statement	3 pages	
Support from Host Research Body(ies)	2 pages	
Budget templates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Student budget</li><li>- Operational budget</li><li>- Centre for Research Training budget</li></ul>	n/a	
Budget justification	3 pages	
Letters of support (Host Research Body(ies) and Partner Organisations)	n/a	

- Use templates provided for CVs and budget

# Full proposal preparation: Research and training programme

- Vision for the Centre for Research Training
- Applicant Group and Research Environment
- Training Programme
- Engagement with Enterprise and Mobility
- Execution and Delivery of the Centre for Research Training



**Applicants should review the Guiding Principles and the detailed review criteria in the call document when preparing their application**

# Full proposal preparation: Indicative training programme

- Outlines activities that a typical student in the SFI CRT will undertake
  - Mandatory/optional/cohort-based elements
  - ECTS / timeline / learning outcomes
  - Delivered through host Research Body or CRT
  - Placement
- Other training opportunities may also be included here



# Budget

- Please use Excel template is provided
- Please follow guidance provided in template
- A number of worksheets will be included in the proposal
- The budget as it appears in template should be input into SESAME budget form
- Upload Excel template as part of application



# Call timeline

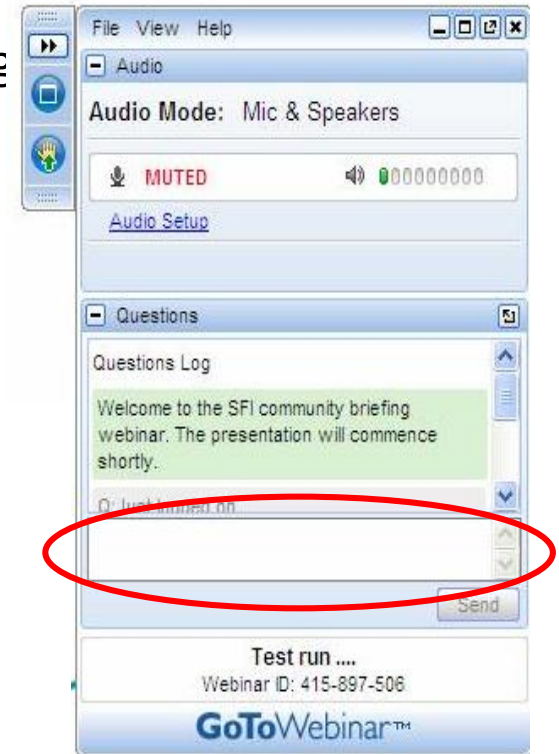
<b>Deadline for submission of Eols</b>	<b>26 June 2018, 13:00</b>
<b>Deadline for submission of full proposals</b>	<b>5 September 2018, 13:00</b>
<b>Interviews of applicant groups</b>	<b>November 2018</b>
<b>Funding Decision</b>	<b>Q1 2019</b>
<b>First intake of students</b>	<b>Q3/Q4 2019</b>





# Q&A Session

- Please **submit** your **questions now** via the GoToMeeting control panel
- We will pause the webinar for a few minutes while we collate the questions



- A recording of the webinar will be posted on the programme webpage:  
[www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/centres-for-res-training](http://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/centres-for-res-training)



# Thank you

Further queries:

- Consult [Call Document & FAQ](#)
- Contact your Research Office
- Remaining queries to [crt@sfi.ie](mailto:crt@sfi.ie)