SFI Centres for Research Training

WHAT ARE THEY?

SFI Centres for Research Training will provide funding for the training of PhD and Research Masters students in areas of identified skills needs. Building on research excellence, the purpose of the Centres will be to provide cohorts of academically outstanding future research leaders with the skills and knowledge required to address the challenges of an ever-changing work environment.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

As a partner on an SFI Centre for Research Training, you will be involved in:

- Designing and delivery of **training programmes.**

- Ensuring that postgraduates have the necessary skillsets to **meet the future workforce needs.**

- Serving as a **high-value talent pipeline** for the research and innovation sector in Ireland.

- Equipping students with **transversal skills including entrepreneurship and innovation.**

- Students will also undertake **placements** in enterprise, other non-academic establishments, or in the groups of international collaborators.

FEATURES OF THE PROGRAMME

SFI Centres for Research Training 2018 Call will operate on a thematic basis aligned with the broad area of Data and ICT Skills for the Future. The scope of this thematic area encompasses the development of innovative software- and hardware-based information and communications technologies (ICT) as well as the diffusion of ICT as a key enabling technology in other application areas of science and technology. Specifically, SFI Centres for Research Training will have programmes of research and training that are either or both:

○ **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;**

○ **To explore potentially transformative applications of these technologies in research sectors that align with any of the National Priority Areas, which are grouped under six themes (ICT, Health and Wellbeing, Food, Energy, Climate Action and Sustainability, Manufacturing and Materials and Services and Business Processes).**

MATHS

AI

MACHINE LEARNING

STATISTICS

DATA ANALYTICS

DATA SCIENCE

WHO IS IT FOR?

Applications to the programme will be led by groups of academic researchers that represent a **critical mass of internationally recognised expertise** in an area with access to **cutting-edge infrastructure.** Applicants must **engage closely with enterprise partners** in the design and delivery of an **innovative programme of training** that will be **relevant to the needs of the workforce of the future.** Centres can partner with both Irish and international companies (SMEs and MNCs). There is no requirement for the partner to have an operating base in Ireland.

FUNDING

Each Centre will fund a total of approximately **120 students over its lifetime, with an intake each year of approximately 30 students**. Science Foundation Ireland will fund a maximum of 80% of students, with applicants being required to secure funding for the remaining 20% from enterprise, philanthropic, public or institutional sources.

DURATION

PhD studentships will be for 4 years and Research Masters for 2 years.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are submitted to Science Foundation Ireland by the academic lead and are evaluated by international peer review.

The deadline for applications is 5 September 2018, and awards will be announced early in 2019.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Full details are available on the funding section of the SFI website at **www.sfi.ie**

If you would like to find out more about getting involved in an SFI Centre for Research Training, please contact Darragh O'Neill, Tel: 00 353 1 607 3239 or email crt@sfi.ie