

---

# Science Foundation Ireland Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers - Ukraine

Version: 23 August 2022

## Terms of Reference

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of this document, it is provided for information purposes only and as a guide to expected developments. It is not intended, and should not be relied upon, as any form of warranty, representation, undertaking, contractual, or other commitment binding in law upon Science Foundation Ireland, the Government of Ireland, or any of their respective servants or agents. SFI Terms and Conditions of Research Grants shall govern the administration of SFI grants and awards to the exclusion of this and any other oral, written, or recorded statement.

All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the proposal or as may be required under law, including the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act, 2003, the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) (Amendment) Act 2013 and the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.

## Scope and Objectives of the Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers - Ukraine

Science and scholarly research relies upon the exchange of ideas through peaceful cooperation. In line with the Government of Ireland's response, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) condemns in the strongest terms the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in violation of international law. In an effort to help tackle the humanitarian and economic loss, SFI is launching a new supplemental grant scheme to encourage and enable holders of existing SFI grants, and their associated Host Institutions, to provide opportunities for displaced STEM researchers from Ukraine to join and collaborate on existing SFI-funded grants in order to integrate swiftly into the Irish research system, to enable them to maintain continuity in their research career and to bring added benefit to the SFI grant from their expertise.

Applications are open to [principal investigators](#) of existing SFI-funded grants to provide relevant research positions to displaced researchers from Ukraine at any stage of their research career.

## Application Overview

SFI aims to support STEM researchers from Ukraine that have been displaced due to the Russian invasion. The purpose of the application form for this supplemental grant is to capture:

- (i) Primary grant information.
- (ii) Proposed activities to be undertaken by the incoming researcher, including skills development, alignment of their experience and skills to the primary grant, and how they will complement the primary grant.

(iii) Information and supporting documentation relating to the career stage and relevant experience of the incoming researcher.

(iv) Duration and start date of the supplemental grant.

### Additional Application Details

<b>Eligibility of Research Body</b>	The research body of the lead applicant is the body responsible for the overall financial and administrative co-ordination of research programmes supported by funding from SFI. The research body must also provide assurance that the space and infrastructure to carry out the proposed research are available for the duration of the supplemental grant.
<b>Eligible Grants</b>	Applications are welcomed from principal investigators on active SFI grants across all schemes with the exception of Research Infrastructures Awards, SFI Discover Awards and SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Awards.  The host institution for the Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers - Ukraine will be the same as for the active SFI grant.
<b>Deadline</b>	This programme will remain open until further notice.  Notification of closure of the call will be made at least one week in advance through the SFI website and SFI email alerts.  SFI will accept applications at any time while the call remains open and will endeavour to issue grants as soon as possible thereafter for successful applications.
<b>Grant Duration</b>	These supplemental grants will be issued for a maximum period of 1 year and a minimum period of 3 months.
<b>Eligible Costs</b>	Eligible costs in this scheme include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary-related costs for research staff (see further details below).</li> <li>• Materials and consumable costs up to a maximum of <b>€2,000</b>.</li> <li>• A contribution of <b>€2,000</b> towards the purchase of a computer.</li> </ul> <p>SFI will contribute to the indirect costs of the research through an overhead payment of 30% of Total Direct Costs (excludes student fees and equipment costs).</p> <p>Grants will have a duration of up to 12 months. The duration of the supplemental grant cannot exceed the expiration date of the host grant.</p> <p><i>Salary Costs</i></p> <p>The total funding per grant will largely be determined by one of the four appropriate salary scales listed below. Eligible costs include gross salary, an Employer's PRSI contribution at 11.05% of gross salary and pension provision up to a maximum of 20% of gross salary. The level of employer contribution should be in accordance with SFI's Grant Budget Policy.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Applicants must use one of the following four salary scales:</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing PhD postgraduate student. SFI will fund postgraduate student stipends at a flat rate of <b>€18,500</b> per annum plus a contribution of €5,500 towards fees.</li> <li>SFI will fund a contribution to the salary of Research Assistants at the SFI Team Member Budget Scale, <b>Research Assistant Point 1</b>.</li> <li>SFI will fund a contribution to the salary of Postdoctoral Researchers at the SFI Team Member Budget Scale, <b>Level 2A Point 1</b>.</li> <li>For senior team members who have unique and essential skills, SFI may fund a contribution to the salary of a Research Fellow at the SFI Team Member Budget Scale <b>Level 3 Point 1</b>.</li> </ul> <p>SFI will consider contributions to Research Fellow positions only where such an appointment is justified within the application form and through the supporting documentation (see below). Further detail on budget categories and Staff can be found in SFI's Grant Budget Policy.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>The Host Institution will review and administer the SFI grant funding and is responsible for compliance with the grant conditions including those outlined in the Letter of Offer and SFI's Terms and Conditions of Research Grants.</p>
<p><b>Applicant Team</b></p>	<p>The Lead Applicant is the Principal Investigator of the host grant and will serve as the primary point of contact for SFI during the review process and on the supplemental grant, if successful. The Lead Applicant will be responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the research programme associated with this supplemental grant. He/she has primary fiduciary responsibility and accountability for carrying out the research within the funding limits granted and in accordance with the terms and conditions of SFI. Lead Applicant eligibility is determined by the eligibility of the original SFI grant.</p> <p>Funded Personnel: The individuals supported by this supplemental scheme should be located in the Republic of Ireland and should provide a copy of their permission letter from the Department of Justice in Ireland confirming Temporary Protection has been granted under the EU Directive.</p> <p>An outline of how their STEM research-related skills and experience will complement the existing SFI-funded project and research group should be included. Responsibility for determining an individual's academic and professional qualifications and checking the legal requirements for the integration of named researchers rests with the Host Institutions.</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities of the displaced researcher to be funded through this grant must be differentiated and clear.</p>
<p><b>How To Apply</b></p>	<p>Interested PIs should email <a href="mailto:displacedresearchers@sfi.ie">displacedresearchers@sfi.ie</a> with their name, and the proposal ID of their existing funded SFI project to which the Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers - Ukraine will align to. Following an eligibility check, the PI's SESAME profile will be updated to provide access to the supplemental grant application form.</p>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/SFI-Grant-Budget-Policy-November-2021.pdf>

<b>Supply of Additional Information</b>	<p>Additional information that is required beyond the completion of the Application Form is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A permission letter from the Department of Justice in Ireland confirming Temporary Protection has been granted under the EU Directive.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>2. A Letter of Support from the hosting HEI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ indicating that the space and infrastructure to carry out the proposed research are available and,</li> <li>○ endorsing the salary scale of the researcher</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. A CV outlining the incoming researcher’s experience and background including a short list of publications, if appropriate. The researcher’s CV should be in English, and while a narrative CV is preferable, it is not essential.<sup>4</sup></li> </ol>
---	---

### State Aid and SFI Grant Funding

As per SFI’s grant conditions (inclusive of SFI’s General Terms & Conditions,<sup>5</sup> Letters of Offer and SFI Policy documents<sup>6</sup>), all SFI funding granted is subject to, and must be compliant with, State aid legislation based on Article 107(1) of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).<sup>7</sup>

Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a grant awarded under the SFI Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers - Ukraine, and agreed to subject to SFI’s grant conditions, must be “non-economic” in nature and be designed to ensure that any funding received does not, directly or indirectly, give rise to the granting of State aid.

Where recipients of grant funding engage with an ‘undertaking’<sup>8</sup> or industry party, under the SFI Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers - Ukraine they are required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of “effective collaboration” as per the Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (2014/C 198/01). For further guidelines please see <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/state-aid/>.

### Review Process

Given the urgency to support displaced Ukrainian researchers, SFI will endeavour to review all applications as quickly as possible and will include input from agency staff.

Applications will be initially checked for eligibility by SFI staff members. Following the initial eligibility check, the SESAME profile of the PI will be updated to provide them with access to the call. Each eligible application will undergo an in-house review process by SFI staff.

As the active grants have already been peer reviewed, the application for a supplement grant largely focuses on information on the incoming researcher to be incorporated into the project and the case for how they will augment the project funded through the primary grant.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0f773-temporary-protection/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://sfdora.org/read/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/sfi-general-terms-and-conditions/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/>

<sup>7</sup> [Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107\(1\) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/1198/oj/1) [TABLE OF CONTENTS \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/1198/oj/1)

<sup>8</sup> The concept of an “undertaking” under EU competition law rules is an entity that is engaged in an “economic activity” regardless of its legal status or the way that it is financed. An activity is economic in nature when it involves offering goods or services on a market.

---

SFI staff will conduct the review of applications in accordance with the following criteria:

- Does the incoming researcher have the appropriate experience and the potential to complement the original SFI-funded project?
- Does the incoming researcher have the appropriate experience and skillset for the requested salary scale?
- What plans are in place to integrate and support the incoming researcher into the research team and the project, including details of other relevant supports such as language classes and skills development opportunities?

## Grant Management

The State has made a significant investment via SFI into scientific research and, as such, it is the responsibility of SFI to monitor the progress and outcomes of all funding it administers. All SFI grant holders are required to report on outputs and impacts arising from their research programme for the duration of their grant and for up to five years after the grant end (close) date. The progress reporting requirements for grants made under the SFI Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers include the completion of an Annual Report and SFI Research Outputs (formerly referred to as the SFI Census). The annual report is used to monitor the progress of individual grants against the overall objectives. Each of the objectives of this call, with expected outputs, are discussed below:

**Objective:** To encourage and enable SFI grant holders of existing SFI grants, and their associated Host Institutions, to provide opportunities for displaced STEM researchers from Ukraine to join and collaborate on existing SFI-funded projects.

**Expected outcome:** Displaced Ukrainian researchers become valued members of Irish society through contributing to the research ecosystem. The employment of qualified displaced Ukrainian researchers will somewhat mitigate the humanitarian and economic loss caused by the war in Ukraine.

**Objective:** To integrate displaced Ukrainian researchers into SFI-funded projects, so that they may gain valuable research experience, relevant to their field of STEM.

**Expected outcome:** Incoming researchers from Ukraine will achieve continuity in their research career. The displaced researcher will learn and develop new knowledge and skills, relevant to their field of STEM, from their colleagues in the SFI-funded research group. Integration of the displaced researcher will also build the networks of all researchers involved in the SFI-funded project.

**Objective:** The displaced Ukrainian researcher will add significant value to the research project.

**Expected outcome:** The knowledge and skills of the incoming researcher will have a positive impact on the SFI-funded (parent) project, contributing to, for example research papers, conference proceedings and/or training of students.

## SFI's Policies and Positions

In addition to complying with SFI's grant conditions, which are inclusive of those outlined in the Letter of Offer and SFI's Grant General Terms & Conditions, applicants are expected to be familiar and consult with SFI policies/positions <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/> and with all relevant national policies when preparing their application to any SFI programme and in conducting their programme of research. All team members should be appraised of relevant policies, which may be revised from time to time.