**EU Joint Transnational Co-funding ERA-NET on Quantum Technologies (QuantERA II)**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY**

As per the QuantERA II Consortium requirements, it is mandatory that Irish researchers inform SFI of their intention to submit a pre-proposal in advance of the pre-proposal deadline. Therefore, Irish based partners must submit a completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form, prior to the submission of a pre-proposal, by **30th April 2021 at 13:00 (Dublin time).**

The EOI template and further information can be found [here](https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/era-net-cofund-in-quantum/index.xml). Completed EOIs should be

e-mailed to maria.nash@sfi.ie & eu-cofund@sfi.ie.

**Only Applicants that have submitted a completed EOI will be eligible to submit a pre-proposal to the call requesting SFI funding. All sections of the EOI must be completed.**

**Applicant Eligibility Criteria**

Who Can Be Funded?

* Legal entities (Higher Education Institutions/ Public Research Bodies) in the Republic of Ireland with the appropriate scientific and technical qualifications and expertise can be funded as partners in a joint proposal.
* The Ireland based partner must hold a **PhD or equivalent qualification for at least 3 years** by the pre-proposal deadline (please visit the SFI website for further details on equivalence).

**The partner must:**

* be a member of the academic staff of an eligible Research Body (permanent or with a contract that covers the period of the grant) **OR**
* be a contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant, who is recognised by the eligible Research Body as an independent investigator and will have an independent office and research space for which he/she will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the SFI grant **OR**
* be an individual who will be recognised by the eligible Research Body upon receipt of the grant as an academic staff or as a contract researcher as defined above. The applicant does not necessarily need to be employed by the Research Body at the time of the application submission.
* The applicant must be a senior author (first, last or corresponding or in those fields where alphabetic order authorship is the norm, joint author) on at least 3 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles. Please note that only original research publications, and not review articles or other secondary research literature, are acceptable.
* **Under the Quantera call SFI will grant funding to support successful Irish applicants who, as part of the Grant awarded, will only be engaging in collaborative research with others based in publicly-funded research organisations i.e. public to public funding only.**

Applicants must ensure that proposals align with Science Foundation Ireland’s legal remit. Please refer to the

Science Foundation Ireland website for more information.

**Funding**

Funding is provided for up to 100% of eligible costs. The following indicates the maximum levels of funding that may be requested:

* Irish HEI/PRB as the consortium coordinator: up to 300,000 Euro direct costs
* HEI/PRB as sole Irish partner: up to 200,000 Euro direct costs

**Budget Preparation**

Please refer to Science Foundation Ireland’s Grant Terms & Conditions and Grant Budget Policy.

Note that overheads need to be included in the budget requested and the budget needs to be fully justified.

Eligible Costs

Salary-related costs

Small equipment costs

Travel

Direct running costs

Dissemination and knowledge exchange costs

Overheads (overhead is calculated as 30% of the direct costs, but excluding therefrom the cost of all equipment identified in the application)

Ineligible Costs

The partner cannot request a salary.

PhD funding through QuantERA II:

As detailed in the Call Text document for the QuantERA II ERA-NET 2021 Cofund programme funding call, funding is awarded as a grant for a maximum of three years. As per Science Foundation Ireland’s Grant Budget Policy, it is the Foundation’s preference to provide funding for four year PhD programmes. However, in this instance, as the maximum duration of awards funded through the QuantERA II ERA-NET 2021 Cofund programme funding call cannot exceed 3 years, SFI will accept applications for funding which include three year PhD programmes. In these cases, where applications for funding advance from the pre-proposal to full-proposal stage of the review process, applicants will be required to provide the Foundation with a letter of commitment from the host institution confirming that the financial support required for a fourth year of PhD funding (stipend + fees), if required, will be the responsibility of said institution. Furthermore, the project co-ordinator must submit a final scientific report at the end of the three- year funding period, even if the PhD extends beyond the term of the award.

**Contact**

Any queries should be directed to SFI through eu-cofund@sfi.ie or maria.nash@sfi.ie mailbox.

Applicants are directed to the QuantERA website for further information and guidance on the QuantERA II 2021 co- fund call.

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Science Foundation Ireland’s Grant Terms & Conditions:

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

Science Foundation Ireland’s Grant Budget Policy:

<http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/sfi-general-terms-and-conditions/index.xml>

QuantERA website: <https://www.quantera.eu/>