

## SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards 2021 FAQs

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### 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.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

**Q1a: *I am a Research Fellow whose salary is funded through a grant in my name, am I eligible to apply to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards?***

As stated in Section 2.5.1 of the call document, Applicants to the programme must be members of the academic staff of an eligible Research Body (permanent or with a contract that covers the period of the grant), or a contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant, who is recognised by the Research Body as an independent investigator at proposal submission and will have an independent office and research space at the host Research Body for which the researcher will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the SFI grant, or an individual who will be recognised by the Research Body upon receipt of the SFI grant as a member of the academic staff or as a contract researcher as defined above. Applicants must obtain their salary either from an award in their own name (excluding fellowship-type awards) or be salaried by the host institution. Research Fellows are not eligible to apply to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call if their fellowship only provides funding for their salary. However, where a fellowship granted in the Research Fellow's name provides funding for their own salary, consumables and the salary for an FTE team member, the Research Fellow may be eligible to apply to the call subject to all other eligibility criteria being met. A letter of support from the Research Body of an applicant should detail the employment status of the applicant, including how the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for this call as detailed in Section 2.5 of the call document.

**Q1b: *Are Academic staff on contracts of indefinite duration eligible to apply to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards?***

As stated in Section 2.5.1 of the call document, Applicants to the programme must be members of the academic staff of an eligible Research Body (permanent or with a contract that covers the period of the grant), or a contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant, who is recognised by the Research Body as an independent investigator at proposal submission and will have an independent office and research space at the host Research Body for which the researcher will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the SFI grant, or an individual who will be recognised by the Research Body upon receipt of the SFI grant as a member of the academic staff or as a contract researcher as defined above. Applicants must obtain their salary either from an award in their own name (excluding fellowship-type awards) or be salaried by the host institution. If the staff member is an independent researcher and funded either through the host institution or a grant in their own name, that's not a fellowship-type grant, and the grant covers consumables and salary for a FTE team member, they may be eligible to apply to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards subject to all other eligibility criteria being met. A letter of support from the Research Body of an applicant should detail the employment status of the applicant, including how the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for this call as detailed in Section 2.5 of the call document.

**Q1c: *I am in the process of moving to an SFI Eligible Research Body to take up an independent research position but have not yet signed a contract of employment. Am I eligible to apply?***

Yes, applicant(s) in the process of moving from another organisation may apply to this call, subject to meeting all eligibility criteria outlined in the call document. The applicant must be recognised by the Research Body upon receipt of the SFI grant as a member of the academic staff or as a contract researcher as outlined in the call document. Should the application be successful, the applicants must have taken up their independent position at their host institution before a grant can commence.

**Q1d: *Are postdoctoral researchers eligible to apply for this call?***

No. Postdoctoral researchers (or equivalent) are not eligible to apply to this call. Applicants must be members of the academic staff of an eligible Research Body (permanent or with a contract that covers

the period of the grant), or a contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant, who is recognised by the Research Body as an independent investigator at proposal submission and will have an independent office and research space at the host Research Body for which the researcher will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the SFI grant, or an individual who will be recognised by the Research Body upon receipt of the SFI grant as a member of the academic staff or as a contract researcher as defined above. Applicants must obtain their salary either from an award in their own name (excluding fellowship-type awards) or be salaried by the host institution.

**Q1e: Can a MD/Professor, but not a PhD, working in a hospital apply to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards call if they hold an affiliate position with an eligible Research Body?**

Applicants without a PhD must refer to SFI's PhD equivalence policy to establish if they are eligible to apply under this criterion ([http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/eligibility-related-information/PHD-equivalence-policy\\_September\\_2018.pdf](http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/eligibility-related-information/PHD-equivalence-policy_September_2018.pdf)).

Regarding an affiliate position, the applicant must liaise with the Research Office of the Research Body with which they hold an affiliate position to determine if they can support an application and supply a Letter of Support for the candidate. It is important to note that applicants to the programme must obtain their salary either from an award in their own name (excluding fellowship-type awards) or be salaried by the host institution.

**Q1f: I am the corresponding author on a number of publications where I am not listed as first or last author. Is being listed as corresponding author enough to prove senior authorship for the Frontiers for the Future Programme?**

For the purposes of eligibility for the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards call, being listed as corresponding is not sufficient as evidence of senior authorship (See Section 2.5.3 of the call document for details).

**Q1g: Do abstracts, patent applications, or invention disclosures count as publications for the senior author publications requirement?**

No, they do not. Only original research publications are acceptable.

**Q1h: I have a Projects proposal currently under review for the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme 2020 call, can I apply to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards 2021 call?**

Yes, applicants currently under review by SFI under the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme (Projects or Awards) are permitted to apply to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership call, subject to all eligibility criteria being met, and subject to the applications being distinct.

**Q1i: I have an Awards proposal currently under review for the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme 2020 call, can I apply to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards 2021 call?**

Yes, applicants currently under review by SFI under the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme (Projects or Awards) are permitted to apply to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership call, subject to all eligibility criteria being met, and subject to the applications being distinct.

**Q1j: If I submit an application to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards call can I submit a proposal to the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme 2021 call?**

Yes, subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria, applicants who are under review for the current Frontiers for Partnership Awards call, may apply to the Frontiers for the Future Programme Projects 2021 call.

Subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria, applicants who are successful in the current Frontiers for Partnership Awards call, may apply to the Frontiers for the Future Programme Projects 2021 call

or any other future Frontiers for the Future Programme Projects call at any stage during their Frontiers for Partnership Awards grant.

Subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria, applicants who are under review or are successful in the current Frontiers for Partnership Awards call, may apply to the Frontiers for the Future Programme Award rolling call at any time.

## APPLICANT/CO-APPLICANTS, COLLABORATORS & MENTORS

**Q2a: *Can researchers in Research Bodies outside the Republic of Ireland be Co-Applicants and Collaborators on SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards grant?***

Researchers in Research Bodies outside the Republic of Ireland cannot be Applicants or Co-Applicants but can be listed as Collaborators on a SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards proposal. The Lead Applicant must be a Researcher based in a Technological University or Institute of Technology within the Republic of Ireland. The Co-applicant must be from any other SFI Eligible Research Body but cannot be from another Technological University or Institute of Technology.

**Q2b: *Is it mandatory to include a Co-Applicant on Frontiers for Partnership Awards proposal?***

Yes, it is mandatory to include a Co-Applicant on a Frontiers for Partnership Awards proposal. The Lead Applicant must be a Researcher based in a Technological University or Institute of Technology within the Republic of Ireland. The Co-applicant must be from any other SFI Eligible Research Body but cannot be from another Technological University or Institute of Technology.

**Q2c: *How many Co-Applicants are permitted on a Frontiers for Partnership Awards proposal?***

There is a limit of one Co-Applicant on a SFI Frontier for Partnership Awards proposal.

**Q2d: *In the "Research funding history" section, it states that only grants where you are PI or Co-PI should be listed - can "funded investigator" status be included here, as this involves direct receipt of funding?***

Holding the position of "funded investigator" is not currently an option for inputting the position held on an award. Only grants where the applicant is listed as a PI or Co-PI should be listed in the application form.

**Q2e: *Is it possible for Collaborators on the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards to receive funding from the grant?***

Only Academic Collaborators based in an SFI Eligible Research Body are eligible to receive funding through the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards grant. The funding allocated should reflect the supporting role that such Collaborator(s) are expected to play in the research programme. Clear indication should be given where funding is apportioned to Collaborators. Please note that Collaborators outside the Republic of Ireland or those not located within eligible Research Bodies in the Republic of Ireland are not eligible to receive funding through the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards.

Industry Collaborators may not receive funding from the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards grants, regardless of their location.

In exceptional cases, a project may require the use of facilities or services not available in Ireland. Funding for such a request may be considered, subject to a detailed justification for the funding being provided upon application.

**Q2f:** *In a SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards application, is it ok to request funds to support a postgraduate student who will be based in the lab of a named Academic Collaborator on the proposal?*

Yes, as long as the Collaborator is based in an SFI Eligible Research Body. Academic Collaborators may not be the primary supervisor/mentor of postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers or research staff enrolled on the grant, but may be the local supervisor if these team members are based in a different institution to the Lead or Co-Applicant. CVs must be provided for Academic Collaborators at proposal submission. Academic Collaborators intending to act as a local supervisor to team members should be able to demonstrate a competitive track record of achievements and must have previously held a supervisory role in research programmes.

**Q2g:** *How many Collaborators are permitted on a Frontiers for Partnership Awards proposal?*

There is no limit on the number of Collaborators, however, Applicants must make sure that the role of any listed Collaborator fits the description available in the call document.

**Q2h:** *Is it mandatory to include a Collaborator, either industry or academic, on Frontiers for Partnership Awards proposal?*

No, inclusion of a Collaborator is optional.

**Q2i:** *Can an individual be a Collaborator on multiple applications to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards call?*

Yes, an individual may be named as a Collaborator on more than one proposal to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call.

**Q2j:** *Can a named Collaborator on one proposal, be a Lead or Co-Applicant on another proposal?*

Yes, a Collaborator can be an Applicant (Lead or Co-Applicant) on another proposal.

**Q2k:** *Can an Applicant (Lead or Co-Applicant) be a Collaborator on another proposal?*

Yes, an Applicant (*Lead or Co-Applicant*) on one proposal may be a Collaborator on another proposal.

## SUBMISSION

**Q3a:** *How many applications can an individual submit to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership call?*

Individuals may only submit one single proposal, as Applicant or Co-Applicant, to the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards call.

## SALARIES AND BUDGETS

**Q4a:** *Are requests for funding to allow personnel to train at a Collaborator's lab acceptable?*

Reasonable requests for travel costs including accommodation, subsistence and transport to allow personnel to participate in necessary training at a collaborator's lab are acceptable. A detailed justification must be provided in the budget justification.

**Q4b:** *Are requests for funding to allow Collaborator travel to the lab of the Frontiers for Partnership Awards applicant an acceptable expense?*

Funding requests to bring high-calibre international collaborators to Ireland to work with researchers in the applicant's lab to carry out research for a fixed period of time are acceptable. These collaborators must be prominent high-profile international researchers from academia or industry. The visit must encourage further collaborations with world-class centres of research excellence and

help raise international awareness and recognition of high-quality research taking place in the Investigator's lab.

**Q4c: Can budget be requested to send reagents and consumables to a Collaborator based outside Ireland?**

If there is appropriate justification that a specific experiment can only be conducted outside Ireland and is needed to advance the project, then requests for an Irish team member to go to that lab to do the work and to provide the necessary consumables will be considered by SFI.

**Q4d: Is it possible to include costs to recruit one or more PhD students recruited to work on an Award as part of this funding?**

Yes, there is no limit to the number of PhD students which can be added to the requested budget as long as it is justified in the Budget Justification.

**Q4e: What salary scale should I use?**

All information required to complete the Staff section of the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme budget can be found in Section 4.1 of the SFI Grant Budget Policy (version April 2021: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/SFI-Grant-Budget-Policy-April-2021.pdf> ) and the associated SFI Grants Team Member Budgeting Scale (version April 2021: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/SFI-Team-Member-Salary-Scales.pdf> ).

**Q4f: Is pension contributions an eligible cost for team members?**

No, applicants must use the SFI team member salary scales updated in April 2021. Pension contribution will not be provided by SFI. All information required to complete the Staff section of the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme budget can be found in Section 4.1 of the SFI Grant Budget Policy (version April 2021: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/SFI-Grant-Budget-Policy-April-2021.pdf> ) and the associated SFI Grants Team Member Budgeting Scale (version April 2021: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/SFI-Team-Member-Salary-Scales.pdf> ).

**Q4g: Should the teaching replacement percentage have to match an Applicants time commitment percentage?**

The teaching replacement percentage does not have to specifically match the percentage of time commitment that is declared by the Applicants, however all the costs requested for teaching replacement must be reasonable and well-justified.

**REMIT**

**Q5a: I'm not sure if my research topic aligns with SFI's legal remit?**

Additional guidance on SFI's Legal Remit is available at this link: <https://www.sfi.ie/about-us/about-sfi/what-we-do/>.

**Q5b: Can SFI fund clinical trials through Frontiers for Partnership Awards call?**

No. SFI only permits early-stage regulated clinical trials (Phase I or combined Phase I/II) and investigations to be undertaken under the scope of the following SFI programmes: SFI Research Centres, Spokes, and Strategic Partnerships in addition to SFI Research Professorship where the successful candidate will become a Co-Principal Investigator within an SFI Research Centre. Clinical trials and investigations requiring approval by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) will

not be permitted through other SFI funding programmes, including the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme.

Funding requests for early-stage research involving human volunteers and/or human samples that do not require regulatory approval are permitted under SFI Frontiers for Partnership call. Where there is any doubt, applicants are advised to contact the HPRa prior to submission to ensure eligibility and are required to indicate in their application that the proposed study does not require HPRa approval.

SFI's Clinical Trial and Clinical Investigation Policy can be found at the following link: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/ethical-and-scientific-issues/>

Please direct any queries you may have to [ffp@sfi.ie](mailto:ffp@sfi.ie).

**Q5c: *Does my research require ethical approval?***

SFI will require evidence that relevant ethical and regulatory approval has been granted for studies involving human or animal subjects prior to an award commencing. In exceptional cases where such research may not commence until a late stage of an award, SFI may permit submission of ethical and regulatory approvals following the award start date but prior to commencement of the research involving animal and/or human subjects.

**Q5d: *I am interested in applying to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call under the SFI-GSI Partnership, but I cannot see how to register this in SESAME. What do I need to do?***

It is not necessary for applicants to indicate in SESAME that they are specifically seeking support under the SFI-GSI Partnership. All applications that demonstrate a clear alignment to the themes of interest the co-funding partner (as stated in Section 2.2 of the call document) will have the potential to be funded under the relevant Partnership agreement. SFI and the GSI will agree upon which proposals can be supported through these agreements. Any proposal deemed to fall outside of the agreement between SFI and its Partner can still be supported through the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call; if successful, such a proposal would be funded by SFI in its entirety.

Applicants who believe that their proposal may be supported under partnerships with the GSI are not required to state this in their proposal.

**Q5e: *I am interested in applying to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call under the SFI-SEAI Partnership, but I cannot see how to register this in SESAME. What do I need to do?***

It is not necessary for applicants to indicate in SESAME that they are specifically seeking support under the SFI-SEAI Partnership. All applications that demonstrate a clear alignment to the themes of interest the co-funding partner (as stated in Section 2.2 of the call document) will have the potential to be funded under the relevant Partnership agreement. SFI and the SEAI will agree upon which proposals can be supported through these agreements. Any proposal deemed to fall outside of the agreement between SFI and its Partner can still be supported through the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call; if successful, such a proposal would be funded by SFI in its entirety.

Applicants who believe that their proposal may be supported under partnerships with the SEAI are not required to state this in their proposal.

**Q5f: *If my proposal is suitable to be co-funded by the programme co-funding partner, is this taken into account in the review process?***

No, proposals falling within the remit of the programme co-funding partner will be reviewed equally to those that fall outside the co-funding remit.

## REVIEW PROCESS

**Q6a: *If an application to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call is based on a previous submission to SFI, to what extent must the 'subsequent' proposal be different?***

Full details on SFI's Resubmission Policy are available on the SFI website: <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/eligibility-related-information/>

Applications to any call that are based primarily on unsuccessful submissions (following peer review) to any SFI programme must demonstrate that the review comments resulting from the initial application have been taken into account in the preparation of the new submission. SFI will not review resubmissions that have failed to take into account the major comments or concerns resulting from the prior review; such proposals will be withdrawn from the review process. Applicants to an SFI call for proposals must declare whether a new submission relates to a previously submitted application to any SFI scheme. If the application is a resubmission, a statement referencing the previous application and explaining the differences must be provided and make reference to reviewer comments where relevant. This information can be provided within the relevant section of the SESAME application. This statement will assist SFI Scientific Staff in the assessment of eligibility of a revised application and will not be shared with reviewers.

**Q6b: *Will science and impact be reviewed by the same reviewers?***

All eligible proposals will be forwarded to distinguished international peer reviewers for evaluation of scientific excellence and potential economic and societal impact. Each reviewer will evaluate both scientific excellence and impact.

**Q6c: *Who will make up the "Oversight Panel Review(s)" of the Evaluation Process?***

Reviewers on the oversight panel will be distinguished international reviewers with generalist expertise who will oversee the fairness of the written reviews and the applicant response. Panel reviewers will receive the written reviews, the applicant's response to those reviews and the scores before and after the applicant response was submitted. Panel reviewers will make a funding recommendation and may modify scores where an application is judged to have been treated unfairly and there is sufficient justification and rationale for doing so.

**Q6d: *Are the review criteria weighted?***

Yes. The review criteria are weighted as follows:

<b>Review Criteria</b>	<b>Applicants</b>
<b>Applicant(s)</b>	30%
<b>Research Proposal</b>	40%
<b>Impact</b>	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q6e: *At the evaluation stage, what is the difference in weighting between the Lead and Co-Applicant track records?***

As outlined in the call document for the purposes of eligibility, reviewing and monitoring, a Co-Applicant applying for funding under the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards call will receive equal evaluation to the Lead Applicant and will hold equal accountability for the delivery of the proposed research objectives.

**Q6f: *Where applications receive the same final score, will SFI prioritise applications from female Co-Applicants in addition to female Lead Applicants?***

No, when ranking applications, in the event of proposals receiving the same final score, SFI will give priority in the review process to applications from female Lead Applicants only.

**Q6g: Can an Applicant request the exclusion of a reviewer from a previously declined proposal?**  
No, applicants cannot request the exclusion of a previous reviewer of their declined proposal.

**Q6h: I am submitting a proposal to the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call; may I request to exclude an individual as a reviewer?**  
Yes, applicants can select up to three individuals who will be excluded from acting as reviewers of proposals for reasons of competition. This section is not made available to reviewers.

**Q6i: How does SFI instruct reviewers to ensure the principles of DORA (San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment) are realised?**  
SFI has introduced a DORA-compliant curriculum vitae (CV) for the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call. This CV provides applicants with an opportunity to describe their wider contributions to, and outputs from, research. Reviewers are instructed to review all of the information provided in this new CV template when assessing, and arriving at a score for, the applicant. Furthermore, in line with DORA principles, the use of journal metrics such as impact factor and the h-index are not permitted, and reviewers are instructed to disregard this information, should they encounter it, in their overall assessment of the applicant. More detail on the DORA-compliant CV is provided in Q10e.

## SESAME

**Q7a: How do I add a Co-Applicant to my Frontiers for Partnership Awards Application Form?**  
The Lead Applicant must initially select "No" to the question "Lead Applicant applying under the Emerging Investigator category?" under the Lead Applicant Details section of the Frontiers for Partnership Awards application form. The section to add a Co-Applicant to a proposal will then appear.

**Q7b: I am requesting funding for 40 months, but the options in the drop-down menu do not allow me to do this. How should I proceed?**  
The funding period for a Frontiers for Partnership Awards call is either 48 or 60 months. 40 months is not a valid funding period for this programme.

**Q7c: Will SESAME alert me if the required documents have not been uploaded or if fields have not been completed, as part of my submission to Frontiers for Partnership Awards call?**  
To check that required fields have been completed prior to submission, click "Validate". Validation will also automatically occur when "Submit" is selected. However, it is important to note that there is no system validation on multiple upload file fields, including for example, letters of support, where required. The number of documents required may vary depending on each application. You must view the PDF of your application prior to submission to allow you to verify content, print or save your application. It is the responsibility of the Lead Applicant to ensure that all documentation is included and that page lengths are not exceeded. Please refer to the checklist in Section 3.16 of the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call document.

**Q7d: Can you list the most common issues that researchers have identified when submitting proposals using the SESAME system?**

**Failure to submit before the call deadline:** In all circumstances, you should aim to submit your proposal well before the deadline to have time to solve any problems or omissions with your application. Research Officers will need ample time to review submissions. Please note that SFI will

not extend deadlines for system failures that are not its own responsibility. Additionally, applications cannot be submitted after the deadline.

**Issues with PDF generation:** (created with open source software, page count issue, etc.)

Please ensure to use unencrypted, non-password protected PDFs with the copying function disabled, developed using either Adobe or Microsoft Word PDF convertor software ONLY. Also do NOT use commas or special characters in the title of your uploaded PDF document.

**Issues with PDF document titles:**

Do NOT use commas or special characters in the title of your uploaded PDF document.

**Password issues/resets:**

If you forget your password, click on the '*Forgot password?*' link on the SESAME homepage.

**Pop-ups enabled in browser:**

Please ensure that popups ARE ENABLED in your browser configuration.

**SESAME checks word counts and pages queries?**

Yes, SESAME does perform system validation around word/page counts, but it is the responsibility of the researcher/research body to check that the correct documents are uploaded and reviewed within the full PDF prior to submission.

**Single/multiple upload field:**

If you wish to use the multiple upload field, please ensure that you have the Java plugin installed. If you click the "multiple files" button and it does not work, you will see a link to the Java website where you can download the latest plugin.

**Browser "Back" button:**

Please do NOT use the browser "back" button when navigating SESAME.

**Documentation uploads:**

Please ENSURE all documents are uploaded into the correct fields in the application.

**Co-Applicant access issues:**

It is only possibly for one person to work on the proposal at any one time. To allow your Co-Applicant to access the proposal, please save the proposal and close the browser window. Your Co-Applicant will then be able to access the proposal.

## IMPACT

**Q8a: *What is impact?***

Please see the Impact page on the SFI website (<http://www.sfi.ie/funding/award-management/research-impact/>). Applicants are advised to view the [SFI Impact webinar](#) available on the SFI website in advance of preparing their Impact Statements.

## NATIONAL FACILITIES

**Q9a: *How do I apply for access costs to national facilities costs through the Frontiers for Partnership Awards?***

Full details on how to apply for access costs are available on the SFI website:  
<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/budget-finance-related-policies/>

## POLICY

**Q10a: Do open access publications refer only to research outputs published in open-access scientific journals, or will deposition in access repositories be permissible as well?**

SFI is a member of cOAlition S and is committed to the principles outlined in Plan S ([https://www.coalition-s.org/plan\\_s\\_principles/](https://www.coalition-s.org/plan_s_principles/)) – that is to make full and immediate Open Access a reality. As such, all outputs arising from SFI funded research must be compliant with SFI's Open Access Policy (<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/open-research/SFIs-Open-Access-Policy-2019.pdf>) which is aligned with Plan S principles. Depositing in Plan S compliant repositories is permitted and the recent publication of Plan S' 'Rights Retention Strategy' provides detailed information on self-archiving and copyright licensing (<https://www.coalition-s.org/rights-retention-strategy/>). SFI's Open Access Policy will be updated regularly to reflect guidance arising from cOAlition S on implementing Plan S principles. Research outputs arising in whole or in part from SFI funded Grants will be monitored for compliance with its policy from 1 January 2021.

**Q10b: Is the sex and/or gender statement only in relation to gender issues in your proposed research i.e. using animals of both gender if relevant etc., or, does it also refer to the gender balance of the research team etc.**

The sex and gender dimension question directly relates to the proposed research programme and **not** the team conducting it.

All applicants must complete a statement articulating the consideration of biological sex and/or social gender variables in their proposed research programme. Applicants must consider how the sex and/or gender dimension impacts your research. Please consult the Guidance for Applicants on Ethical and Scientific Issues (<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/ethical-and-scientific-issues/>) for resources on how to address the sex and/or gender dimension of research in your grant.

An opportunity to describe how you have addressed gender equality, diversity and inclusion in your research team/environment is provided in Section 1B of your CV, should you choose to highlight it.

**Q10c: How should an Applicant prepare a "Sex and/or Gender in Research" Statement for an Engineering Project?**

The gender dimension of a particular research project is one that you, as the Applicant, should consider, perhaps by consulting relevant literature and guidance for the subject matter of your proposed research project. There are a number of excellent papers such as Cara Tannenbaum's 'Sex and Gender Analysis Improves Science and Engineering' (DOI: [10.1038/s41586-019-1657-6](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1657-6)) which describe areas of scientific and engineering endeavour that failed to address the gender dimension, and hence are considered flawed – most notably 'crash test dummies' which were developed for an 'average male size' - this is an excellent engineering example. You may also wish to consult the 'Gendered Innovations in Science, Health & Medicine and Engineering' website (<http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/index.html>) which contains a range of useful resources regarding best practice for sex and/or gender considerations in research.

**Q10d: There are some projects that we find difficult to find a sex and/or gender aspect in the proposal programme. Will a “no” influence the overall scoring and progression within this competitive programme?**

The Sex and/or Gender Dimension Question is a mandatory field and is scored as part of the “Quality, significance, novelty, and strategic relevance of the research plan”. A statement must be provided regardless of whether a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response is provided. What will influence the overall scoring of this statement is how effectively the applicant justifies a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response to this question. Please see Q10c on additional information for preparing a response to this question.

## CURRICULUM VITAE TEMPLATE

**Q11a: *How will non-academic publications/career impact be considered?***

The DORA-compliant CV provides an opportunity for applicants to discuss their wider contribution to research under four specific categories: 1. Generation of Knowledge; 2. Development of Individuals and Collaborations; 3. Supporting Broader Society & the Economy and; 4. Supporting the Research Community. Reviewers are asked to assess the applicant based on the detail provided in all of these categories – please see Appendix A ‘Questions Pertaining to Applicant(s)’ in the Frontiers for Partnership Awards call document for additional information on how research outputs other than publications are considered.

**Q11b: *In terms of the DORA guidelines for the CV is it possible to mention citation numbers of selected publications?***

Citations of publications in the DORA-Compliant CV are permitted as per the instructions provided in the CV template. They may be used to describe the impact and / or reach of your research, in addition to other impacts of the publication. CV templates for Applicant(s) and Collaborators can be found under the Downloads Section of the SFI Frontiers for Partnership Awards webpage (<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/frontiers-for-partnership/index.xml>).

**Q11c: *Can you help us to understand this change and the reason for this?***

SFI has recently become a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment ([DORA](#)), and as such is aligning its review and evaluation processes with DORA principles. To this end, all types of research outputs are recognised and SFI is committed to assessing the quality and impact of research through means other than journal impact factors with particular importance being placed on the content and quality of publications rather than the publication venue. SFI has developed a DORA-compliant CV template to assist with compliance to DORA principles. The outputs from scientific research extend far beyond the number of publications or journal venue and can take many forms, including: research articles reporting new knowledge, intellectual property; data, reagents, and software; and highly trained young scientists. By implementing a [DORA-compliant CV](#), applicants are being asked to provide examples of their key achievements in multiple categories. As such, reviewers are asked to assess an individual’s scientific contributions by considering a broad range of outputs and to not use journal-based metrics, such as impact factor, as a surrogate measure of quality of individual research articles and by extension a sole measure of an individual scientist’s contributions.

**Q11d: *Are all SFI schemes going to use the new SFI CV template from now on?***

All SFI funding programmes going forward will use the revised DORA-compliant CV template.

**Q11e: *Will SFI be providing any further online guidance for the CV template?***

Additional online guidance regarding the DORA-complaint CV template will be available on the SFI webpage in due course.

**Q11f: What specific metrics are on the banned list? E.g. the template specifically mentions H-index, i10-index, G-index, H(2)-index, HG-index, Q2-index, AR-index, M-quotient, M-index, W-index, Hw-index, E-index, A-index, R-index, W-index, J-index but are other publication metrics such as Citations per Publication allowed?**

In keeping with DORA principles, no journal-based metrics, such as journal Impact Factors etc., will be used as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, when assessing an applicant's or co-applicant's scientific contributions. As such, all journal and publication metrics, with the exception of publication citations, will not be permitted and inclusion of which may result in an application being deemed ineligible.

**Q11g: Can metrics on funding, teaching and innovation be used on the CV?**

Part of the application process mandates that the Applicant's and Co-Applicant's (where relevant) provide a report on current, pending and expired research funding. Additionally, in keeping with DORA principles, applicants are asked to describe the wider impact of their research by detailing the significance and/or impact of up to 3 key achievements across four prescribed categories (see DORA-compliant CV Template under the downloads tab at <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/frontiers-for-partnership/index.xml>). This includes but is not limited to, academic activities (e.g. teaching) in the "Development of Individuals" as well as innovation and commercialisation activities (e.g. verified invention disclosures, patents, license etc.) in the "Generation of Knowledge".

**Q11h: Can collaboration (co-authorship) metrics be used on the CV?**

It is permitted to refer to the contributions an applicant has made to the success of a collaboration(s) as well as describing the significance and/or impact of a collaboration in the "Generation of Knowledge" section of the CV, including but not limited to, publications, innovation and commercialisation activity, software, and open data sets. However, in keeping with DORA principles, referring to the total number of collaborative publications and associated journal and publication metrics are not permitted.

**Q11i: Can links to other information be included on the CV e.g. links to institutional profile; ResearchGate; Google Scholar.**

The use of hyperlinks and URLs are not permitted to provide additional information, which would be necessary for application review. This includes links to applicant's institutional profile, ResearchGate, Google Scholar etc., which would provide additional information to that already provided in the standardised DORA-compliant CV template used by all applicants. Further information regarding the use of hyperlinks is detailed in the Call Document for Frontiers for Partnership Awards (<https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/frontiers-for-partnership/SFI-Frontiers-for-Partnership-2021-Call-Document.pdf>).

**Q11j: How will the CVs be utilised in the evaluation process? For example, will the CVs be used to ascertain capacity and experience to carry out the proposed project?**

Reviewers are asked to comment on the quality, significance and relevance of the applicant's and co-applicant's (if relevant) key achievements and research track record as demonstrated in the CV(s) provided, commensurate with career stage ( see Appendix A: Frontiers for Partnership Awards Review Process of the call document <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/frontiers-for-partnership/SFI-Frontiers-for-Partnership-2021-Call-Document.pdf>) with regard to individual categories in the CV(s): 1) Generation of Knowledge; 2) Development of Individuals and Collaborations; 3) Supporting Broader Society & the Economy, and; 4) Supporting the Research Community.

Reviewers are also asked to consider whether the expertise and experience of the lead applicant, co-applicant(s), mentor, and collaborator(s), if relevant, are appropriate given their proposed

contribution to the research programme. Furthermore, reviewers are requested to comment on the appropriateness of the skills and composition of the team and their alignment with the proposed research programme. As such, both key achievements and publication details of the applicant's and co-applicants are used in the evaluation process to assess the individuals track record as well as scientific productivity and competency with regard to the proposed research programme and applicant and co-applicants ability to successfully deliver on the proposed project.

**Q11k: Are there any examples of things to avoid?**

In keeping with DORA principles, no journal-based metrics, such as journal Impact Factors etc., will be used as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, when assessing an applicant's or co-applicant's scientific contributions. As such, all journal and publication metrics, with the exception of publication citations, will not be permitted and inclusion of which may result in an application being deemed ineligible. Details of specific examples such as total number of publications and all types of journal and publication metrics not permitted are detailed in the Call Document and DORA-compliant CV template.

**Q11l: What does a 'Good' CV look like; How do you distinguish between 'Good' and 'Bad' CVs. What criteria are used?**

We would ask applicants to carefully consider the "Question pertaining to Applicant" on the review form, copied below, when completing their Applicant(s) CV.

**Question pertaining to Applicant(s)**

SFI is a signatory of the [San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment](#) (DORA). As such, SFI is aligning its review and evaluation processes with DORA principles. To this end, all types of research output are recognised by SFI and we are committed to assessing the quality and impact of research through means other than journal impact factors. Furthermore, in the spirit of supporting open research and as a signatory of [Plan S](#), SFI will positively consider where there is a commitment to making data and other types of research open and accessible. Please take these positions into account during your assessment of the DORA-compliant CV(s) submitted by the applicant(s).

Please comment on the quality, significance and relevance of the applicant's and co-applicant's (if relevant) key achievements and research track record as demonstrated in the CV(s), commensurate with their career stage and research discipline, taking any periods of leave into account. Please include in your review comments how the applicant(s) has addressed each of the following areas:

- 1) Generation of Knowledge,
- 2) Development of Individuals and Collaborations,
- 3) Supporting Broader Society & the Economy and,
- 4) Supporting the Research Community.

With your review, please also consider whether the expertise and experience of the lead applicant, co-applicant(s), mentor and collaborator(s), if relevant, are appropriate given their proposed contribution to the research programme.

There are **two stages** to the scoring of the applicant(s):

First, please score the quality, significance and relevance of the applicant's and co-applicant's (if relevant) key achievements and research track record with regard to the individual categories in the CV(s):

- 1) Generation of Knowledge,

- 2) Development of Individuals and Collaborations,
- 3) Supporting Broader Society & the Economy,
- 4) Supporting the Research Community. Half scores are permitted.

- 1 = Applicant(s) not internationally competitive for this category
- 2 = Applicant(s) track record has considerable weaknesses for this category
- 3 = Applicant(s) track record lacking in one or two critical aspects for this category
- 4 = High-quality applicant(s) in nearly all respects for this category
- 5 = Outstanding applicant(s) for this category

Second, taking into account the four categories referred to above, please use your judgement to provide one overall score based on the quality, significance and relevance of the lead applicant's and co-applicant's (if relevant) key achievements and research track record, commensurate with their career stage and research discipline, taking any periods of leave into account. Please consider the quality and relevance of the collaborators and/or mentor, if relevant. This score will be the final score used to assess the applicant(s). Half scores are permitted.

- 1 = Applicant(s) not internationally competitive
- 2 = Applicant(s) track record has considerable weaknesses
- 3 = Applicant(s) track record lacking in one or two critical aspects
- 4 = High-quality applicant(s) in nearly all respects
- 5 = Outstanding applicant(s)

**Q11m: Are there any examples of good practice CVs available that we could learn from?**

It is anticipated that SFI will be in a position to provide further guidance to applicant's regarding typical DORA-compliant CV exemplars once the current Frontiers for the Future Call has come to its conclusion.