## Science Foundation Ireland

## Discover Programme

**Opportunistic Funding Mechanism**

**Expression of Interest**

Applicants must complete this Expression of Interest Form in full and submit it to [discover.programme@sfi.ie](mailto:discover.programme@sfi.ie)

Receipt of the application form will be acknowledged within five working days. Following review by the Science Foundation Ireland Education & Public Engagement Team, applicants may be invited to submit a full proposal for review.

**Introduction**

In support of this mission the purpose of the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Programme Call is to support and develop the STEM education and public engagement sector in Ireland by:

* investing in, developing and extending activity and ability in this area, and
* exploring and encouraging novel means of engaging the public

Science Foundation Ireland wants to help people to consider, question and debate the key issues in science and society and in support of this are invite applications for funding through its annual Discover Programme Call. The purpose of the Call is to support projects that encourage people of all ages and from all walks of life to be informed, inspired and involved in STEM.

Whether you work in the sciences, arts, media or education, Science Foundation Ireland encourages you to submit your proposals for projects that build excitement, curiosity and interest around science and society and genuinely engage with your target audience. Science Foundation Ireland expects you to demonstrate:

* how you have evaluated the need for your activity and defined your target audience
* your objectives and how you plan to monitor the engagement, and
* how you will measure if you succeeded in your objectives

In exceptional circumstances the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Programme Opportunistic Funding Mechanism can be used to fund compelling education, outreach or public engagement opportunities, on a flexible basis, that are not otherwise served by other national funding programmes including the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Programme Calls. The applicant must provide rationale for the project to be reviewed outside of the SFI Discover Annual Call. This rationale must include the following information:

1. Why a decision on funding is required outside the timing of the SFI Discover Programme annual calls.
2. How the project aligns with the SFI Discover Call objectives?
3. How the project has the potential for significant and compelling impact

Applications will only be considered if these exceptional circumstances are strongly justified.

Applications under the Opportunistic Mechanism may be considered for one-year project funding or one or two-year Regional or National Initiative Funding. Broadcast projects may be considered under the Opportunistic Mechanism; however, applicants must show confirmation of scheduling from a broadcaster with the Expression of Interest.

The Opportunistic Funding Mechanism consists of a two-stage process as follows:

* This initial expression of interest form should be completed addressing the nature of the project and the co-funding available; the strategic objectives and benefit of the project and the potential impact of the project. In addition to this the Project Lead will be required to submit a CV with details of a track record in the project area.
* The expression of interest will be reviewed by the Science Foundation Ireland Education & Public Engagement Team which may request a meeting with applicant(s) to discuss the proposal further. Applications that clearly demonstrate the strategic importance and impact of their proposal will be invited to submit a full proposal on the Discover Programme Opportunistic Funding Application Form.
* Full proposals will be evaluated using an appropriate mechanism such as international peer review

1. **Project Lead**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full Name:** |  |
| **Title:** |  |
| **Job Title:** |  |
| **Organisation:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Contact Telephone Number:** |  |
| **Email Address:** |  |

A brief Curriculum Vitae outlining the Project Lead’s experience in relation to STEM Public Engagement and Outreach must be submitted with this application form.

**2. Project Title**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (no more than 10 words) |

**3. Justification for Application**

Outline clearly how your project meets the objectives of the SFI Discover Programme Call (250 words)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Outline why this application was not submitted to the 2020 SFI Discover Programme annual call and cannot be submitted to the 2021 annual call (250 words)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Outline how this project has potential for significant and compelling impact?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**4. Project Summary**

|  |
| --- |
| Please provide a summary of your project (max 250 words) |

**5. Project Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Proposed start date | (dd/mm/yy) |
| Proposed end date | (dd/mm/yy) |

**6. Project Rationale**

Outline how you evaluated the need for this project, how you defined your target audience and estimated your target reach and how you pre-defined measuring success of the project (250 words).

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**7. Audience**

**Audience Reach**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Direct Engagement (target number) |  |

**Target Audience**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Tick as appropriate |
| Young People 12 years age and under |  |
| Young People between 12 -16 years age |  |
| Young People between 16 -18 years age |  |
| Young adults between 18-25 years age |  |
| Parents |  |
| Teachers (inc. Career Guidance Counsellors) |  |
| General Public |  |
| Schools – Primary |  |
| Schools – Second Level - Junior Cycle |  |
| Schools – Second Level – Senior Cycle |  |
| Other (please specify below) |  |
|  | |
| National |  |
| Regional (please specify which regions below |  |
|  | |

**Does this project specifically target any of the audiences identified for special consideration in the SFI Discover Programme Call guidance**

**Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (please tick as appropriate)

**If yes please give detail of the audiences and how you plan to reach them.**

**8. Funding**

Please complete the tables below to detail the total project costs and sources of funding. There are no fixed limits on the amount that can be requested but all costs need to be reasonable and justified and will undergo cost challenge.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **€** |
| **Requested Discover Programme Funding**  In the event that the requested funding from Science Foundation Ireland is above €300,000 then matched financial funding must be demonstrated. |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total Project Costs**  **€** | **Discover Funding**  **€** |
| **Project Management** |  |  |
| **Direct activity and production costs** (include venue, AV, catering etc) |  |  |
| **Marketing and promotion** (include any website costs) |  |  |
| **Consumables** |  |  |
| **Training** |  |  |
| **Evaluation** |  |  |
| **Expenses** (e.g. travel) |  |  |
| **Other** (details must be provided) |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Other Sources of Funding**  ***Indicate what funding has been secured and what has only been applied for*** | | | |
| **Source** | **Secured** | **Applied for** | **€** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name in BLOCK Capitals: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_