

## SFI Fellowship Programme 2023- Frequently Asked Questions

### ELIGIBILITY

**1. I am a postdoc currently funded through a non-SFI award, am I eligible to apply?**

Yes. Post-doctoral researchers with a STEM PhD qualification, no matter where their current funding is coming from, are eligible to apply. However, in particular, where funded through non-SFI awards, it is expected that researchers will be approaching the end of, or a natural break in, the research programme.

**2. I hold a PhD qualification but am not currently working in a research body under a research contract, am I eligible to apply?**

No. Applicants must currently be employed on a research contract with an eligible Research Body. It is expected that researchers will be approaching the end of, or a natural break in, the research programme.

**3. I have submitted my PhD and have passed my viva but have not yet graduated, am I eligible to apply?**

Yes. If you have successfully defended your PhD thesis and are awaiting graduation, you are eligible to apply, *provided* you meet the other eligibility criteria (i.e., currently employed on a research contract by an eligible Research Body).

**4. Are PhD students funded through SFI awards eligible to apply for the Fellowship?**

No. Applicants must have obtained their PhD degree or equivalent (see above question 3).

**5. Are Research Fellows (level 3 or above) eligible to apply?**

Yes, however, salary contributions for successful candidates are subject to the maximum of Level 2B Point 4 on the SFI Team Members Salary Scale.

**6. What if my contract expires between submitting application and start date?**

Applicants are required to be on contract with an eligible Research Body at the time of submitting the application; the contract does not need to extend to the proposed start date of the Fellowship.

**7. I am also applying to another SFI Fellowship-type Programme, am I eligible to apply?**

Candidates who have an application under review for another of SFI's Fellowship-type programmes (i.e., SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship) or the SFI-IRC Pathway Programme will not be permitted to accept both awards if both applications are successful.

**8. I currently hold a Stamp 1 and have a hosting agreement with my Research Body, am I eligible to apply?**

**OR I currently hold a Stamp 4, am I eligible to apply?**

Applicants must have a right to work in Ireland with a work visa/ permit (if applicable) **for the duration** of the SFI Fellowship placement. As the Research Body will remain as your employer for the duration of the Fellowship, please contact the Human Resource department within your Research Body to discuss all issues concerning work permits and hosting agreements.

## DURATION

**9. Will Fellowships be offered for a period of less than 24 months?**

Yes. Successful applicants will be offered a fellowship for a maximum period of 24 months. However, SFI are prepared to offer successful applicants a fellowship of lesser duration if the applicant prefers. The minimum duration of a fellowship position is 12 months.

**10. What is the latest date that will be considered as a starting date for the Fellow?**

For this particular call, successful candidates will be expected to start their Fellowship Placement in October 2023.

**11. Is the Fellowship only full-time? Can a person continue with their research activities on a part-time basis?**

The Fellowship is to be undertaken on a full-time basis. Successful candidates will not be permitted to continue with their research activities, or other non-Fellowship activities on a part-time basis.

## QUALIFICATIONS

**12. Will Fellows require specific qualifications to work in different SFI divisions?**

No. Candidates will be assessed for their suitability for the Fellowship using the selection criteria outlines in the Call Document (section 4). However, the skills, knowledge and/ or experience demonstrated by the successful candidate will be used to determine the initial placement within SFI.

**13. What organisations have the Fellows joined subsequent to completing the Fellowship Programme?**

The SFI Fellowship Programme has proved very successful and on conclusion all Fellows have secured excellent positions within international funding agencies, research offices, academia and training & research centres. For specific examples of the career progression of SFI Fellows, please see the SFI [website](#).

## GENERAL

**14. Is there a requirement for a letter of support from the applicant's Research Body?**

No, a letter of support from the applicant's Research Body is not required for the 2023 call. The VP Research or their representative is required to sign off on the application form. Their signature confirms acceptance and agreement with the SFI grants and awards Terms and Conditions, that the Research Body ensures the applicant meets eligibility requirements and is supportive of the candidate's application and that the applicant will upon receipt of the grant be recognised as an employee of the Research Body for the duration of the grant. A letter of support is required however from a Line Manager (Please see section 3 of the call document for further details).

**15. Are the fellowships based in Dublin on a fulltime basis?**

The fellowships are full time positions. The role will be based in the SFI office located in Three Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2, Ireland, D02 FX65. SFI operates a blended/flexible working model.