

Technology Innovation Development Award (TIDA)

Programme Call 2018

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last updated: May 2018

Q. Who can apply for a TIDA?

A. The TIDA Programme is open to applications from individuals in one of two categories (provided they meet all other relevant eligibility requirements outlined in the TIDA 2018 Call Document):

Category (A): Independent Investigator - Lead Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) on a competitively awarded, internationally peer reviewed research grant secured/active over the last 5 years (2013 – 2018);

Category (B): Postdoctoral Researcher (with a maximum of 8 years postdoctoral experience) currently funded under a competitively awarded, internationally peer reviewed research grant.

Q. How many TIDAs can a researcher apply for in a particular call?

A. Only one application per person is allowed.

Q. I am a PI/Co-PI on a number of competitively awarded internationally peer reviewed research grants (including SFI grants). Can I submit multiple applications to TIDA?

A. No, in this case, only one application per person is allowed. An individual who is PI or Co-PI on multiple awards may only submit one application to TIDA as the lead applicant (see Figure 1).

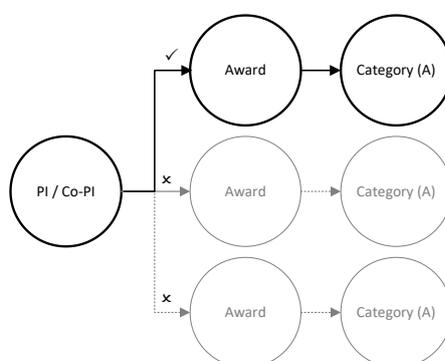


Figure 1. A PI/Co-PI with multiple qualifying awards may only submit one proposal.

Q. In the case of an award with multiple funded investigators (PI & Co-PI's), can the PI and Co-PI submit one TIDA application each?

A. No, in this case only one application associated with an award will be accepted (see Figure 2).

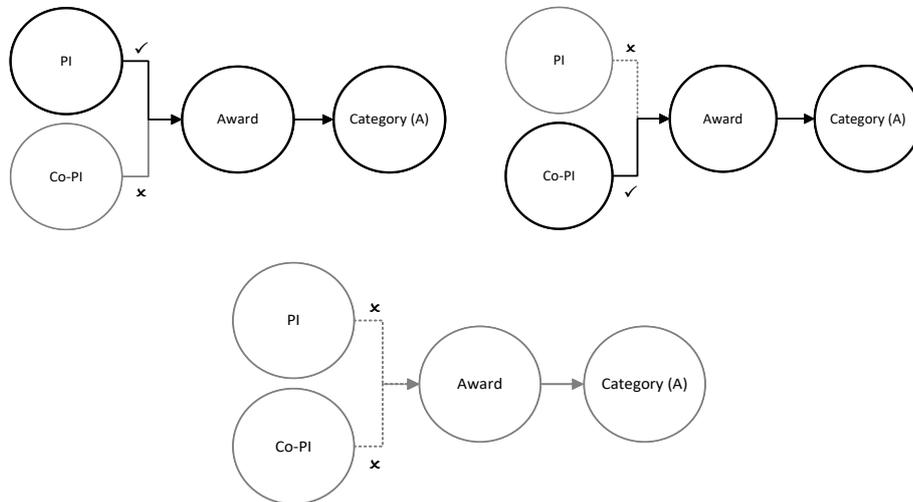


Figure 2. Only one application associated with an award may be submitted to TIDA under Category (A).

EXCEPTION:

In the case of SFI SRC, CSET, Research Centre and other large scale awards, the PI and each of the Co-PIs and Funded Investigators (FIs) may submit an application under Category (A) (see Figure 3). This is an exception specific to these awards. However, only one application may be submitted by each of the PI, Co-PIs and FIs.

Note: SFI Funded Investigators are eligible to apply under Category (A) provided all eligibility criteria are met.

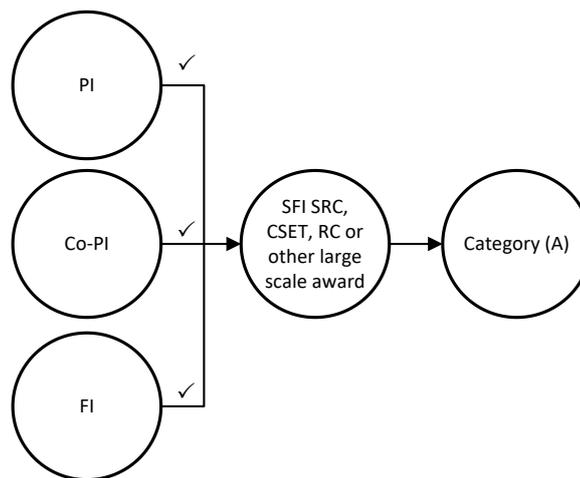


Figure 3. For SFI SRC, CSET, RC and other large scale awards, the PI and each of the Co-PIs and Funded Investigators (FIs) may submit an application under Category (A).

Q. Can the Co-PI of an SFI award directly submit an application under Category (A)?

A. Yes, Co-PIs on qualifying SFI awards can directly submit an application (provided they meet all other relevant eligibility criteria).

Q. Can a Funded Investigator on an SFI award directly submit an application?

A. SFI Funded Investigators associated with SFI SRC, CSET, Research Centres and other large scale awards may apply directly (provided they meet all relevant eligibility criteria for the call). However, Funded Investigators should ensure that they are formally recognised by Science Foundation Ireland as an SFI Funded Investigator prior to the proposal submission deadline (please contact the relevant SFI Programme Manager).

Q. I am a strand/workpackage leader in an EU funded project, am I eligible to apply?

A. In the case of large collaborative EU framework projects the Co-PI/workpackage leader is eligible to apply provided that:

- they are employed in an [eligible research body](#)
- they are the lead-PI for their institution on the EU funded project and
- they meet all other relevant eligibility criteria

Please note that you may be required to provide evidence of your role in any such projects. As evidence, SFI may request the Research Office of your Host Research Body to provide it with details of the project to satisfy the Foundation of i) your role and ii) that research is a significant activity undertaken as part of the project. If this evidence is not satisfactory then the Foundation may disregard the inclusion of this project which may in turn make the application ineligible.

Q. Are Co-Applicants allowed on applications to the TIDA Programme?

A. No, Co-Applicants are not allowed on applications to the TIDA Programme. However, convergent applications, involving interdisciplinary approaches, can be supported through the inclusion of collaborators.

Q. I was awarded a TIDA under the 2017 Programme Call, can I apply to TIDA 2018?

A. No, in an effort to encourage and support researchers to fully explore the commercialisation opportunities for a technology funded under TIDA, applications from TIDA 2017 award holders will not be accepted. Where applicable, TIDA 2017 award holders are strongly encouraged to mentor a postdoctoral researcher eligible to apply under Category (B).

Q. I am an eligible PI who intends to apply to TIDA 2018 under Category (A). I also have a postdoctoral researcher working for me who wishes to apply under Category (B). Can we both apply to TIDA?

A. Yes, however, only one application per person is allowed and each application must be associated with a different award and must not be related. Furthermore, the applications must not have scientific overlap. The PI/Co-PI intending to apply under Category (A) can mentor only one postdoctoral researcher under Category (B). The award under which the PI/Co-PI applies must be a different award to that on which the postdoctoral researcher currently works (see Figure 4).

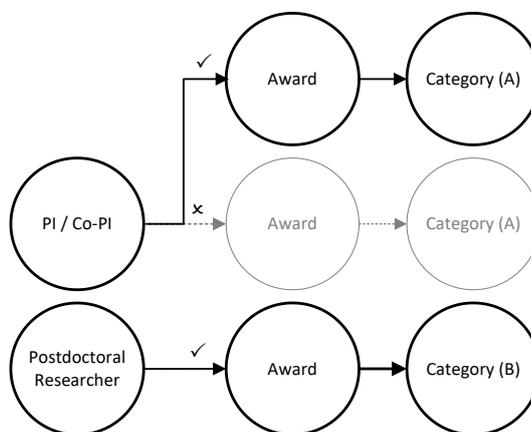


Figure 4. A PI/Co-PI intending to apply under Category (A) can mentor only one postdoctoral researcher under Category (B) provided the postdoctoral researcher is associated with a different award led by the PI/Co-PI.

Q. I am a PI/Co-PI on a number of awards but I do not intend to apply to TIDA. On each of my awards I have postdoctoral researchers who would like to apply under Category (B). Can I act as mentor on multiple applications?

A. Yes, in the case where a PI/Co-PI has multiple awards, and who will not themselves apply to TIDA, they may act as mentor on up to three Category (B) applications. However, only one application associated with an award will be accepted. Consequently, the postdoctoral researchers must each work on a different award led by the PI/Co-PI.

Q. I applied to the TIDA 2017 Programme Call under Category (B) and was successful. Can I act as a mentor on an application to the TIDA 2018 Programme Call?

A. No, an applicant who successfully applied to the TIDA 2017 Programme Call under Category (B) (or under Category (C) in TIDA 2016 call or earlier) may not act as a mentor to an applicant under the TIDA 2018 Programme Call. In respect of all Category (B) applications to TIDA, a mentor must be an established researcher within an eligible Research Body who, based on their experience, will be able to give advice and provide laboratory space and related infrastructure to a postdoctoral award holder.

Q. I am a postdoctoral researcher interested in applying to TIDA under Category (B). I currently work in the laboratory/group of my proposed mentor who holds an internationally peer reviewed award. However, I am not directly salaried from my mentor's award as I hold a competitive internationally peer reviewed postdoctoral fellowship. Can I apply to TIDA under Category (B) - Postdoctoral Researcher?

A. In such circumstances, SFI will accept applications under Category (B) provided that all eligibility criteria are met and that the applicant would be in a position to dedicate 100% of their time to the TIDA award, if successful.

Q. I was awarded an SFI TIDA within the last 5 years, does this make me eligible to apply under Category (A)?

A. No, the list of SFI awards which qualify potential applicants under Category (A) are listed in the TIDA Call Document. Smaller awards, such as TIDA or Industry Fellowship Awards, do not qualify potential applicants under Category (A).

Q. Could you please confirm if it is sufficient that an applicant is an award holder at the time of application? For example, if an award holder wishes to apply for a 12 month TIDA, does the existing award need to be active for the proposed 12 months of the TIDA?

A. The TIDA can extend beyond the end date of the qualifying award. Therefore, the award does not have to be active for the 12 months of the TIDA. However please note that for Category (A) applicants, the applicant must be a member of academic staff or a contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the TIDA.

Q. I am a Postdoctoral Researcher with a contract that covers the next two years. Can I apply as Category (B) and spend some of my time working on the TIDA?

A. No, Category (B) applicants are required to focus solely on a TIDA project for the full duration of the award (1 year). Category (A) applicants may apply to TIDA, and could request costs associated with buying out a Postdoctoral Researcher's time so that they can work on a TIDA project.

Q. Who submits the application?

A. An application can only be submitted by staff at the research office of your host research body. Proposals will only be accepted through SESAME, SFI's grants and awards management system. Access to SESAME is controlled by staff at the research office of your host research body. Please follow your internal organisational process to request this access.

Q. Who submits the Abstract Sheet?

A. The Abstract Sheet associated with a proposal is submitted by the Research Office of the host institution. Researchers intending to act as a Lead Applicant on a proposal must first contact the Research Office of the intended host institution and provide preliminary information through a completed version of the Abstract Sheet found in Appendix D of the TIDA 2018 call document. This sheet provides a provisional title for the proposal and a brief scientific abstract (max. 200 words) that describes in high-level detail the main objectives of the research to be carried out.

Research Offices must provide SFI with a list of the Lead Applicants from their institution, and the associated titles and abstracts (using the Excel template linked on the TIDA webpage) by email (TIDA@sfi.ie) no later than the 30th May 2018, 13:00 Dublin Local Time. Details regarding Mentors and Academic Collaborators are not required at this stage.

Only Lead Applicants that have submitted an Abstract Sheet through their host institution Research Office will be permitted to submit a proposal to the call. Any information submitted directly to SFI, and not through the host institution Research Office, will not be accepted, and submission of a proposal will not be permitted (see Figure 5).

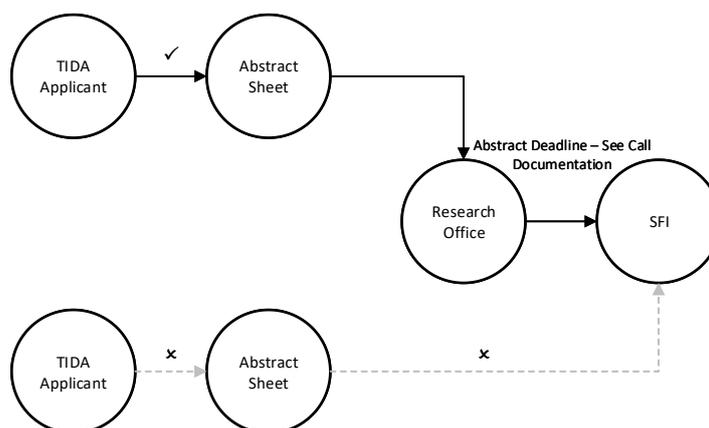


Figure 5. Researchers intending to act as a Lead Applicant on a proposal must contact the Research Office of the intended host institution and provide preliminary information through a completed version of the Abstract Sheet. Any information submitted directly to SFI, and not through the host institution Research Office, will not be accepted, and submission of a proposal will not be permitted

Q. Can the applicant salary be claimed through a TIDA?

A. Yes, but only for the case where the applicant is applying under Category (B).

Q. What salary is allowed for the postdoctoral researcher?

A. Salaries for postdoctoral researchers must be in line with the SFI Grants Budget Policy (GBP) which is available at the following [link](#).

Q. What deliverable is expected at the end of an award?

A. Please refer to Section 12 - Award Management of the TIDA 2018 call document.

Q. What is the time frame expected for the review process? When could an approved project be expected to begin?

A. The review process should be completed before the end of November 2018. Projects are expected to start in January 2019.

Q. Who will review the TIDA proposals?

A. Applications will be reviewed by independent international experts and Enterprise Ireland commercialisation specialists.

Q. Is it beneficial to have industry partners as collaborators on the proposal to demonstrate the feasibility of an innovative idea for commercial benefit?

A. The TIDA programme is not an academic-industry collaborative funding programme. However, the input of and endorsement by potential future industry partners is encouraged where appropriate and letters of support may be included in the application. Please note the conditions regarding the ownership of IP resulting from TIDA awards in Section 9 - Intellectual Property Management of the TIDA 2018 call document.

Q. Why is preference not given to applicants who have established commercialisation track records?

A. A key objective of the TIDA programme is to develop awareness of the commercialisation process and to enable researchers to focus on the first steps of an applied research project. It is anticipated that following the TIDA, applicants will be better equipped to apply to follow-on supports such as, for example, the SFI/NSF I-Corps@SFI Entrepreneurial Training Programme or the Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund.

Q. Are fees and stipend for an MSc student eligible costs?

A. Yes, please see SFI Grants Budget Policy (GBP) which is available at the following [link](#).

Q. How commercially developed does the core research idea have to be?

A. As part of the proposal the applicant must address a number of points in relation to identification and validation of the commercial opportunity for their idea. As part of this description it may be appropriate to describe any interactions that you may have had with potential customers/stakeholders.

Q. Is supporting data required as part of a TIDA 2018 application?

A. Yes, applications must include data that clearly demonstrates that the technology being proposed has progressed beyond the basic proof of principle stage of development.

Q. Are overheads included in eligible costs or are they paid in addition to the €100K cap?

A. €100K is for direct costs only and not inclusive of overhead. Overheads will be automatically calculated by SFI and should not be costed in applications.

Q. Does a TIDA constitute an extension to my existing SFI award?

A. No, a TIDA is not equivalent to a No Cost Extension on an existing SFI award. However, the TIDA may extend beyond the term of the current SFI award.

Q. What is deemed an equivalent qualification to a PhD?

A. Please consult the SFI Policy on PhD Equivalence [here](#).

Q. How does SFI define a senior author?

A. A senior author is one who is listed as first or joint first author, reflecting the fact that he/she has provided the greatest intellectual contribution, has held the primary responsibility for collecting and analysing data, and for the writing of the manuscript and associated drafts. The last author will also be considered as a senior author, since this position generally reflects his/her overall responsibility for the study and suggests that a level of mentorship has been provided.

It should be noted that different publishers have differing rules on how the senior authorship is indicated (e.g., by using asterisks, underlining, placing the name first or last in the list of authors, etc.); of overriding importance however is that the applicant should be able to convince and reassure reviewers that they are the key author on these publications.

Q. Do abstracts, review articles, patent applications or invention disclosures count as publications for the senior author publications requirement?

A. No, only original peer reviewed research publications are acceptable.

Q. Is it an advantage to already have an EI feasibility award for the idea?

A. It may be advantageous to show commercialisation potential for the proposed technology, although submitted applications will be assessed on their own merits.

Q. How important is it that the project can be commercialised in Ireland rather than internationally?

A. Proposals where there is no viable commercialisation route in Ireland, either through the formation of a start-up, or via technology or knowledge transfer to an Irish-based industry partner, for example, will need to make a compelling case for the value of the project to Ireland in order for funding to be considered.

Q. Can the initial 12 month period of the award be extended?

A. In certain cases, for example a no cost extension may be available to ensure the full 12 month term of a Masters studentship is covered, however please note that this is subject to prior approval from SFI.

Q. Where can we find a statement of SFI's legal remit?

A. This can be found on the SFI website (www.sfi.ie) under "[What We Do](#)".

Q. Is the purchase of equipment allowed to be included in the budget request?

A. Yes, please see the call document for further details. Please note that SFI do not expect requests for large pieces of equipment given the scale of allowable funding allowable for TIDA Projects.

Q. How does SFI define disruptive technology?

A. Disruptive technology has the potential to radically alter the way we work and live and/or how businesses operate and compete. Disruptive technologies have the potential therefore to result in transformative societal and/or economic impact and opportunities for Ireland. Disruptive technologies may arise from research that is highly innovative and ambitious. Such research often requires interdisciplinary and convergent approaches. Consequently, its outputs and impact may be unpredictable at the outset and as such are considered as high-risk and high-reward.