

## Supplemental funding request for Centres for Research Training (CRT): SFI-NSF Student Mobility Programme

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### *Who is eligible to apply for this funding?*

The SFI-NSF Student Mobility programme specifically links PhD students from the SFI funded Centres for Research Training (CRT) with academic laboratories at the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Traineeship Program (NRT). This supplemental funding can only be requested by the lead applicant of a funded CRT, to support CRT-based PhD students visit academic laboratories at a partner NRT for a period of 4 to 12 weeks.

#### *Who are eligible partners to host CRT-based PhD students?*

Applicants to the supplemental programme must have identified a host NRT who will provide access to their laboratory space. NRTs are an NSF programme dedicated to effective training of diverse STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary or convergence research areas, through a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based and aligned with changing workforce and research needs. SFI does not have a list of eligible and/or interested NRTs; further details on NRTs is accessible [here](#) and on the [NRT home page](#). NSF have launched a [supplemental funding opportunity](#) to support NRT trainees in pursuing additional training in Ireland.

#### *What are applicants to this programme expected to demonstrate?*

CRTs can nominate a maximum of 4 PhD students, who must have identified a host NRT and can demonstrate the following:

- Are an active CRT student.
- Have the support of their supervisory team to participate.
- Have completed their first year of their PhD studies at the time of application.
- Have the required health and travel insurance in place prior to travel.

Students must also demonstrate the synergies between their research activities and the host NRT/research group and outline the expected outputs of their visit. CRTs are expected to aim for a gender-balanced approach and endeavour to nominate a diverse and talented group of candidates.

#### *How many applications can each CRT submit for this supplemental funding?*

CRTs will be invited to submit **a maximum of four applications per centre** through SESAME.

#### *What are the expectations for the length of the research visit?*

The student visit must take place during calendar year 2024 for a continuous period of minimum 4 weeks, and maximum 12 weeks.

#### *What are the expected outputs of the research visit?*

This programme is designed to help drive innovative research cooperation between CRTs and NRTs. Any student visit is expected to be aligned with and deliver against the following objectives:

- Support postgraduate students in their development of professional networks, widen career exposure and create the possibility of attracting talent.
- Facilitate training in appropriate research skills and/or use of equipment and techniques that may not be readily available in Ireland.
- Encourage knowledge exchange and strengthened collaboration between CRTs and NRTs in their highly specialised areas of expertise.
- Encourage learnings and shared experiences between innovative postgraduate training programmes within rich research environments.

#### *What are eligible costs for this programme?*

The total funding available is up to €7,000 per applicant, covering the following costs only:

- Cost of one return trip to the host laboratory as well as associated domestic transport. Please note that applicants are required to procure return economy flights. Most cost-efficient transportation options from the international airport to the international lab are considered eligible travel costs.
- Subsistence costs (inclusive of accommodation for the applicant) to carry out collaborative research in the host laboratory for a period of 4 to 12 weeks.
- Costs associated with application for a US visa.

Each application must be accompanied by a budget justification document [1 page max].

#### *How can CRTs apply for this supplemental funding?*

CRTs will be invited to submit their applications through SESAME. Applications must be accompanied by three supporting letters only:

- Letter of Invitation from host NRT [1 page max].
- Letter of Confirmation from Irish host institution [1 page max].
- Motivation letter from CRT-based PhD student [2 pages max].

#### *How will applicants be reviewed?*

CRTs are expected to instigate a procedure to select candidates for the supplemental funding and may nominate a maximum of four candidates per centre. Submitted applications will be subject to internal SFI review only, and will be reviewed on the following:

- Quality of the applicant
- Quality of the proposed research activities
- Justification of the benefit of the collaboration
- Evidence of synergies in research and committed support from the host NRT (refer them to assessment criteria).