

FAQs

US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme

HSC R&D Division (January 2017)

GENERAL

<p>1. What is the US-Ireland Partnership Programme?</p>	<p>This is a programme where Principal Investigators (PI) from the United States (US), Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (RoI) collaborate to submit a joint “tri-partite” proposal in response to calls for proposals in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).</p> <p>To qualify for the US Ireland Partnership Programme there must be at least one PI from each jurisdiction, although the US partner bears the responsibility for submission of the joint “tri-partite” proposal to their home agency, NIH/NSF/NIFA.</p> <p>Under the US Ireland Partnership Programme if the application is approved for funding at the NIH/NSF/NIFA; the partner agencies in RoI fund the RoI investigator(s), the partner agencies in NI fund the NI-based investigator(s), and the US partner agency funds the US investigator(s).</p>
<p>2. I can't find a US Ireland call listed in NIH/NSF/NIFA</p>	<p>There is no “US Ireland” call in NIH/NSF/NIFA.</p> <p>Rather the US Ireland Partnership Programme is a mechanism which enables funding agencies in the 3 countries to jointly fund collaborative “tri-partite” proposals. Therefore the US Ireland Programme typically supports certain existing Research Project Grant calls in NIH/NSF/NIFA.</p>
<p>3. Who are the partner agencies?</p>	<p>The partner agencies in the US are the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).</p> <p>The partner agencies in RoI are Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), the Health Research Board (HRB) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).</p> <p>The partner agencies in NI are the Public Health Agency Health & Social Care Research & Development Division (HSC R&D), the Department for the Economy (DfE), Invest Northern Ireland (InvestNI) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).</p>
<p>4. Do US-Ireland R&D Partnership proposals have a competitive advantage with the NSF/NIH/NIFA calls?</p>	<p>US-Ireland R&D Partnership proposals compete head-to-head with 'non-US-Ireland partnership' proposals submitted to the same call.</p> <p>Any competitive advantage comes from the additive nature of the collaboration as well as the leveraged non-exchequer funds. It is important for applicants to spell this out in the introduction to the proposal to ensure that NSF/NIH/NIFA reviewers fully understand the intricacies of the process.</p>
<p>5. What is the difference between NI and RoI investigators applying for funding to NSF/ NIH/ NIFA calls outside of the US Ireland Partnership Programme or as part of the US Ireland Programme?</p>	<p>Some NSF/ NIH/ NIFA calls are open to foreign investigators, therefore you can choose to work with a US investigator and apply directly to these agencies outside of the US Ireland Programme and without involving the funding agencies in Ireland. In this case the NSF/ NIH/ NIFA will fund the costs of the entire proposal including any work/research outside the US.</p> <p>If you receive approval for your project to be part of the US Ireland Programme prior to applying for a Research Programme Grant in NSF/ NIH/ NIFA and are approved for funding by NSF/ NIH/ NIFA, then the partner agencies in RoI fund the RoI investigator(s), the partner agencies in NI fund the NI-based investigator(s), and the US partner agency funds the US investigator(s).</p>

6. Which funding agency do I contact in NI?	<p>This depends on the topic area of your project:</p> <p>For Health-related projects (applying to NIH) contact Public Health Agency Health & Social Care R&D Division (HSC R&D). email: usireland@hscni.net</p> <p>For projects in Sensors & Sensor Networks, Nanoscale Science & Engineering, Telecommunications, and Energy & Sustainability (applying to NSF) contact The Department for the Economy (DfE). https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk</p> <p>For Agriculture projects (applying to NIFA) contact The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).</p>
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The following FAQs are relevant to HEALTH-related proposals only (i.e. applying to NIH)

7. Which NIH calls are relevant to the US Ireland Partnership Programme?	<p>The remit of the US-Ireland R&D Partnership programme has been expanded to cover the remit of the National Institutes of Health: http://www.nih.gov/about-nih/what-we-do/mission-goals</p> <p>Grants supported under this programme are typically R01 or equivalent Research Project Grants.</p> <p>You should ensure that the research topic of the US-Ireland proposal satisfies NIH funding requirements. The US partner is strongly advised to seek advice from appropriate scientific programme staff at the target NIH Institute or Centre to discuss the relevance and/or focus of the proposed research before submitting an application. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/what-does-nih-look-for.htm</p>
8. When are the US Ireland R&D Partnership Programme calls open?	<p>The call deadlines are set by NIH.</p> <p>Within HSC R&D, this is a rolling call, however, applications MUST be submitted to HSC R&D at least 6 weeks in advance of the NIH deadline or, if applicable, the deadline at the US University's Research Office in advance of the NIH full proposal deadline.</p> <p>For applications to the NIH, NI and RoI applicants who are eligible must each send a mandatory "Intention to Submit" form to their relevant funding agency, from the Research Institution Research Office on behalf of the RoI or NI lead applicant. The associated short form must be submitted at least 10 weeks in advance of the full proposal deadline at NIH.</p>
9. When is the next NIH call deadline?	<p>HSC R&D has no control over the deadlines set by NIH. You are strongly advised to consult with your US partner for information on call deadlines. The US partner makes the submission on behalf of the NI & RoI applicants and should therefore be familiar with NIH programmes.</p>
10. Who needs to complete the mandatory "Intention to Submit" stage?	<p>For applications to the NIH, NI and RoI applicants who are eligible must each send a mandatory "Intention to Submit" form to their relevant funding agency, from the Research Institution Research Office. The associated short form must be submitted at least 10 weeks in advance of the full proposal deadline at NIH. Please see further information http://www.research.hscni.net/us-ireland-rd-partnership-programme</p> <p>The US partners need to be aware of the US Ireland Programme and how it operates but do not need to fulfil any additional steps outside of the normal application to NIH.</p>
11. Do all lead applicants and co-applicants in NI have to be eligible if applying to the NIH under the US Ireland Programme?	<p>The Research Institution Research Office submits the "Intention to Submit" form on behalf of the NI lead applicant.</p> <p>All lead applicants and co-applicants must be eligible to be named on the "Intention to Submit" form.</p> <p>For example, if there is more than one NI applicant proposing to participate in a</p>

	US-Ireland proposal to the NIH, the Research Institution Research Office must deem them all to be eligible for the Programme and include relevant details for all such applicants.
12. Why do I have to submit a draft of the proposal to HSC R&D in advance of the NIH deadline?	<p>A draft of the “tri-partite” proposal for submission to the NIH must be submitted to HSC R&D at least 6 weeks in advance of the NIH deadline.</p> <p>The purpose of this step is to ensure compliance of the research with remit, to assess the budget requested, and to confirm that the work proposed for each jurisdiction adds significant value so that the overall programme of research goes beyond what might be achieved by any one PI working alone supported only by national funding.</p> <p>If HSC R&D agree to support the proposal, a funding commitment letter is provided to the applicant for inclusion in the full proposal to be submitted to NIH. This letter is also sent to the responsible person at NIH to indicate our commitment to this proposal should it be deemed fundable by the NIH peer-review process. Please ensure that all relevant appendices are included with the draft proposal.</p>
13. I need to know HSC R&D’s decision by a certain date prior to the NIH deadline?	HSC R&D will endeavour to inform you at the earliest possible date if your proposal is approved/declined. If there is a submission deadline at the US research office, please ensure that the draft proposal is submitted to HSC R&D at least 6 weeks in advance of this research office deadline.
14. Where can I find information on eligible calls within the NIH which are open to the US-Ireland programme?	<p>See link here for details of the NIH Institutes - https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih</p> <p>You can also search here https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/search_guide.htm for NIH funding opportunities, although please note that not all calls are appropriate for the US Ireland Programme. If you are unsure if the call you are interested in applying to is eligible for the US Ireland Programme please email:usireland@hscni.net</p>
15. Can anyone apply to this programme?	No, there are a number of eligibility criteria which you must met, please consult the call document on http://www.research.hscni.net/us-ireland-rd-partnership-programme
16. What is the eligibility criteria for a Co-PI?	The eligibility criteria for a Co-PI is the same as for the lead PI – see question above.
17. What is the maximum funding request.	<p>Please consult the call document for details.</p> <p>It is expected that the funding requested by NI applicants will be commensurate with the work proposed.</p>

US & RoI APPLICANTS

18. Does the US partner need to apply under the US Ireland Partnership Programme?	<p>The US partners need to be aware of the US Ireland Programme and how it operates but do not need to fulfil any additional steps outside of the normal application to NIH.</p> <p>The US partner will be responsible for submitting the joint “tri-partite” proposal to NIH on behalf of the NI & RoI applicants and should therefore be familiar with NIH programmes.</p> <p>If the funding agencies in Ireland agree to support the proposal, a funding commitment letter is provided to the applicants for inclusion in the full proposal to be submitted to NIH. This letter will also be sent to the responsible person at NIH to indicate the commitment to this proposal should it be deemed fundable by the NIH peer-review process.</p>
19. I’m a PI based in the US – how do I go about finding	<p>For NI please contact usireland@hscni.net and describe your scientific area.</p> <p>For RoI, as a first step please check the SFI Researcher Database on the SFI</p>

research partners in the RoI & NI?	webpage http://www.sfi.ie
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PLANNING GRANT

20. What is the US-Ireland planning grant?	The US-Ireland planning grant facilitates the RoI & NI applicants to travel to the US to meet with their US counterpart and develop a proposal for submission to the NIH and HSC R&D under the US-Ireland R&D partnership programme. Planning grant applications are managed and funded by InvestNI.
21. How long does it take to review a planning grant application?	Please allow a minimum of 4 weeks for a decision.
22. What do I need to include in the planning grant application?	Please contact usireland@hscni.net so that you can be provided with the correct contact details for InvestNI.
23. Can a person in the NI research team, who is not the lead applicant, be included in the planning grant application to travel to the planning meeting?	This may be possible but a strong justification will need to be provided in the planning grant application.
24. If I am planning a US-Ireland submission to the NIH, do I need to have already completed the “Intension to Submit” prior to submitting a planning grant application?	Yes, the “Intension to Submit” is required prior to a planning grant submission for applications to the NIH.
25. I’m the NI partner and I’ve submitted my planning grant application – what about my RoI partner?	If both the RoI and NI partners are proposing to travel to the United States to a planning meeting and are requesting travel funds under the US-Ireland planning grant call, then both the RoI & NI partners need to apply to for planning grant applications to their own funding agencies. It is not possible for the NI agency to cover the travel costs of the RoI partner and vice versa. The planning grant applications should be submitted simultaneously to the RoI & NI funding agencies, and at least four weeks is required by the agencies for review of these planning grant applications. It is not a requirement that both partners have to travel to the US, one partner can travel from Ireland however it may be more beneficial to the collaboration to have all partners around the table when developing the final proposal for the US-Ireland R&D Partnership programme.
26. How does the NI partner submit their US-Ireland planning grant application?	This is submitted to InvestNI. Please contact usireland@hscni.net for details.