

# CAREER-FIT PLUS

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS IN THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AND TECHNOLOGY GATEWAY PROGRAMMES

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



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*Can someone with research experience but without a PhD apply?*

Yes: Applicants must be Experienced Researchers as per the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions definition: at the time of recruitment, applicants must be in possession of a doctoral degree or, if the applicant does not have a doctoral degree and is not in the process of completing one, they should have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience. Full-time equivalent research experience applies to researchers who have been working on their PhD for at least four years and are near completion and those who have four years of full time experience in research, but are not working towards PhD completion (examples of such researchers include: someone with MD (medical doctor) or a research assistant in academia or industry).

*How can an applicant calculate the required research experience when applying for a CAREER-FIT PLUS fellowship?*

All research undertaken after the applicant has gained a university degree/diploma giving them access to doctoral studies (the degree/diploma must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies without having to acquire any further qualifications) can be counted. Research experience in an organisation where research activity was only part of applicant's duties will not be counted as full-time research experience. Applicants lacking the requisite years of full-time postgraduate research experience by the time of recruitment are not eligible.

*A potential applicant moved to Ireland on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Are they eligible if they apply before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019?*

No unfortunately, as the mobility rule requires that the applicant has not been in Ireland for more than 12 months prior to the call deadline.

*An applicant has been resident in Ireland for 9 months prior to the call deadline. In addition to their residency here, they were in Ireland on a tourist visa over three separate months. Is time spent in Ireland under a tourist visa counted in the max 12 months in the three years prior to application?*

To comply with the mobility requirements, applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Ireland for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline. Short stays (such as holidays), compulsory national services (such as mandatory military service) and procedures for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not counted.

*Would an Irish national be eligible to apply?*

Yes, as long as they meet the mobility (and other eligibility) requirements.

*A potential partner company which is also a member of a Technology Centre is based in Germany. Would it be eligible to participate?*

No, it would not. Only companies that are located in the Republic of Ireland might be eligible.

*In cases where an applicant must provide evidence to Enterprise Ireland of their residency in a particular country, but lease contracts cannot be provided, will bank statements be sufficient*

evidence?

No, bank statements are not acceptable evidence of an applicant's residency in a particular country during a certain period of time. Acceptable documentary evidence includes letters of employers confirming duration and physical location of the applicant's employment, rental agreements, utility bills, confirmation of registration as full-time student at an educational institution and similar.

*Should an applicant have their PhD finished by the time of application? Will having submitted their thesis and waiting for their viva be enough?*

Eligibility requirement for Career-FIT PLUS are in line with eligibility requirements applicable under Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Applicants must be "experienced researchers" which means that they must, at the time of application, be in possession of a doctoral degree (regardless of actual duration of the degree as long as the degree was awarded) or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. Note that having passed a viva is not sufficient, the degree must be awarded by the application deadline.

*What kind of experience constitutes four years of full-time equivalent research experience?*

For the purposes of the scheme, research experience refers to "scientific research". While definitions vary, a key principle is that it involves systematic investigation of scientific theories and hypotheses. Some activities commonly called research, for example market research, are not considered "research experience" for the purposes of Career-FIT PLUS fellowships award.

*If a candidate has already held (or is currently holding) a MSCA experienced or early-stage researcher award, does this disqualify or disadvantage them?*

No, a previous MSCA experienced or early stage researcher award does not disqualify or disadvantage a Career-FIT PLUS applicant.

*An applicant has applied for the Career-FIT fellowship programme before but their application was not successful. Can they apply again?*

Yes, they can.

*What is the definition of 'family', does a husband/wife and no children count as 'family' in this case? For the family allowance, does that mean you can get it once you are married?*

Family is defined as persons linked to the researcher (i) by marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) as dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher. Therefore, a husband with no children still constitutes a 'family' in this case. Family status of a researcher will be determined at the time of application and will not be revised during the lifetime of the fellowship. Enterprise Ireland will request official documentation to support family allowance claims (self-statements are not be considered as legitimate proof).

*What constitutes a "reasonable travelling distance" from the host institution?*

Fellowships are awarded on full-time basis and fellows will be required to be physically present in the respective host organisations on a daily basis every working day, apart from approved stays away.



Fellows are not permitted to work remotely during the fellowship.

*What are the salary and other financial supports for these positions?*

Each Fellow will receive an annual gross salary (i.e. before tax, statutory employer's pension and PRSI contributions) of up to €64,350 (depending on the status of their host institution). Additionally, each Fellow will receive a mobility allowance and, if they are entitled to, a family allowance. The host institution will be provided with overheads. Further details are provided in the Guide for Applicants. Potential applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Irish tax system via [https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/money\\_and\\_tax/tax/income\\_tax/how\\_your\\_tax\\_is\\_calculated.html](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/money_and_tax/tax/income_tax/how_your_tax_is_calculated.html) and further enquire with the host institution's Research Office.

*Can an applicant re-apply if their application has been refused?*

Yes, they can apply again under the second CAREER-FIT PLUS call for proposals to be published in May 2020 (tbc).