



2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards

FAQ's

What are the US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards?

The US-Ireland Research Innovation awards recognise excellence in research innovation involving contributions from US and Irish partners.

Who is eligible to apply for the awards?

The scheme is run on an all-island basis. Applications are invited from organisations in the following categories:

- The Irish operation of a US multinational
- An Irish SME or start-up with US links
- A research team within an Irish Higher Education Institution (HEI) or Research Institute with US links
- The US operations of an Irish SME
- The US operations of an Irish company (larger than SME status)

If you have any queries about eligibility, please email innovate@ria.ie

How do I apply for the awards?

Applicants must register their interest for the awards by emailing innovate@ria.ie

You will then be sent a link to an online application form.

All applications must be submitted online using our online application form.

What is the closing date for applications?

The closing date for applications is 5PM (GMT) on Wednesday 20 January 2016.

Can I submit a paper version of the application?

No. All applications must be submitted online using the application form supplied.

Can I save draft versions of my application before submitting?

No. The form *cannot* be saved and edited at a later date.

We recommend that you print a blank application form, draft and review each section offline and, once you have the final version ready, complete and submit the online application form in one session.

Advice on completing an effective application is included in the *Terms, Conditions and Notes for Applicants* document.

What will happen if I forget to include something in my application?

All compulsory questions in the application form are marked with an asterisk*. Once you have submitted your application, it will not be possible to amend it. Please be sure to review your work carefully before you submit it.

What happens when I submit an application?

Once all the applications have been submitted, they will be subject to an administrative review and a comprehensive evaluation against the assessment criteria.

The Academy, through its Membership and its network of national and international contacts, will convene a panel of experts, across a broad range of disciplines, to ensure that all applications received are rigorously vetted and peer reviewed to the highest international standards. This assessment process will be formally overseen by the Academy's Policy and International Relations Secretary.

What are the award categories?

Awards will be made in the following categories:

- The Irish operation of a US multinational
- An Irish SME or start-up with US links
- A research team within an Irish Higher Education Institution (HEI) or Research Institute with US links
- The US operations of an Irish SME
- The US operations of an Irish company (larger than SME status)

What is an Irish SME for the purpose of these awards?

An Irish SME is defined, for the purposes of this scheme, as a company managed and controlled on the island of Ireland, which employs between 10 and 250 people, with the majority of its employees (excluding sales and marketing personnel) spending most of their working time based on the island of Ireland and whose annual turnover since incorporation (including all associated companies) has not exceeded €50million.

I currently have applications in for other research and innovation awards – can I apply?

Yes.

I applied to this award scheme in a previous year, can I re-apply?

The 2015 US-Ireland Research Innovation Award winning innovations are not eligible to re-apply.

All other 2015 entrants are welcome to re-apply. However, it is recommended that you carefully review the 2016 *Terms, Conditions and Notes for Applicants* along with the information in this document before preparing your new application.

What supporting documentation is required for the application?

All supporting documentation must be submitted in PDF format *only*.

Every application must be accompanied by *two* letters of support:

1. A letter from an authorised representative of the applicant organisation (e.g. the corporate head of research, the institutional research office, or the CEO/MD) supporting the application.
2. A letter of support from the applicant organisation's partner company/organisation detailing the benefits of the innovation to its interests. This letter will be used in evaluating the US-Ireland impact of the innovation.

These documents should be signed and presented on company/institutional headed paper. They can be uploaded to the online application form.

Failure to include appropriate letters of support will invalidate your application.

Who will win the awards?

Awards will be made in each of five categories. The lead applicant will be invited to attend the awards ceremony and accept the award on behalf of their organisation.

What will each winning organisation receive?

Each winning organisation will receive a specially commissioned award. Their achievements will be profiled prominently in *The Irish Times* and other media and amongst the stakeholders of the American Chamber and the Royal Irish Academy. Stories about the winning innovations will also be used in launching the 2017 Awards.

The awards look like they're targeting academic/peer-led rather than commercial research, is this correct?

No. The awards have been designed to recognise excellence in research innovation, creation and invention resulting from collaborations between partners with Irish and US links. The exemplary idea can be supported by both academic/peer-led and commercial research. The application form allows the applicant to promote their research innovation to the assessment panel and explain why they are deserving of the award.

Once an organisation has registered their interest can the link to the application form be shared internally?

Yes. Once the organisation/HEI/SME/Start up has registered its interest in the awards, the link to the application form may be shared with teams/individuals internally.

How do I describe the 'novelty' of our research innovation?

In this section, describe what is new, original and unique about your research innovation.

How do I describe what is 'exemplary' about our research innovation?

This award scheme is a competition. This section offers you the opportunity to describe the standards of excellence achieved, or the standards of best practice applied to the research innovation.

The application pack advises that I draft and complete my application offline. How would you recommend I do this?

It is possible to draft and complete your answers in a word document and then copy and paste your responses into the online application form. However, the form cannot be saved and must be completed and submitted in one sitting.

When describing the impact of the research innovation, should I include the impact on the organisation?

Yes. Please include details of the commercial and/or societal impact of the research innovation as well as the impact on the wider organisation.

Can an organisation submit more than one application?

Yes, but it is recommended that organisations enter *no more than two* applications per category. Please be aware that multiple applications from the same organisation in the same category will be in competition with each other.

I have submitted my application, when will I know if I have been shortlisted for an award?

The shortlist for the awards will be announced publicly by Friday, 11 March 2016.

I have been shortlisted for an award, when will the awards ceremony take place?

All shortlisted applicants will be required to attend the formal awards dinner on Friday, 20 May 2016, at which the winners will be announced. Shortlisted applicants will be required to purchase a table for the award event.

Is there a fee to enter these awards?

No. There is no entry fee but all shortlisted applicants will be required to purchase a table for the award event.