



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann  
Royal Irish Academy



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

## Archaeology Radiocarbon Dates Scheme 2024

### Guidelines for applicants

**Deadline for receipt of applications:**  
**17:00 (Irish time), Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

#### About this document:

This document outlines:

- What you need to know about funding for the Archaeology Radiocarbon Dates Scheme
- How to make your application
- How we assess and decide on your application
- How we process your application

#### Background

The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in association with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) offers radiocarbon dating for up to twelve samples per annum to be used for the purposes of archaeological research in Ireland. A minimum of two out of the twelve radiocarbon dates offered are exclusively allocated to students each year. A maximum of five samples can be applied for but may not all be awarded.

Applications for the 2023 round of funding are now invited. Applicants are asked to read the guidelines for applicants carefully before submitting an application.

Please click on this [link](#) to access the online application form.

All queries can be sent to [grants@ria.ie](mailto:grants@ria.ie) with the subject line Radiocarbon dates

#### Applications are accepted for the following:

Proposals for radiocarbon dates associated with the archaeology of Ireland and/or Northern Ireland.

#### Aims and priorities:

- The furtherance of archaeological knowledge in the context of the finite nature of the archaeological resource\*.
- To fund informative dates on key archaeological questions. This could mean 'rangefinder' dates for pilot projects or much more targeted dates refining the chronology on key archaeological objects or sites/site phases.
- To fund dates on well-contexted high-quality samples with a clearly demonstrated rationale as to how it/they will answer the relevant research question.

\*including applications which research archaeological sites impacted by climate change in line with the goals, objectives and actions of The Built and Architectural Heritage Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCSAP)

### **Assessment Criteria:**

In order to make a decision, each application will be assessed on the following weighted criteria:

1. The relevance of the proposal to the furtherance of the aims and priorities of this grant scheme (30%)
2. The ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed research, demonstrated through a track record of relevant competencies, as appropriate to their career stage (30%)
3. The design, resources and methodologies that are being brought to this project to enable its success (20%)
4. Evidence of plan for impactful and relevant dissemination (20%)

### **Who can apply:**

This scheme is open to archaeological researchers/archaeologists, including undergraduate students, postgraduate students, and PhD candidates.

### **What is required to make an application?**

A completed application form plus the following (if the sample is coming from an excavation):

1. A copy of the relevant section of the Ordnance Survey map with the site or sites marked
2. An adequate site plan
3. Where the applicant is not the holder of the excavation licence for the site, a letter from the excavation licence holder (if relevant) stating that the applicant has discussed the application with him/her and that there is permission in principle for the dating of the sample

### **How applications are processed and assessed**

- Applications that are deemed eligible will be passed on for assessment. If we decide your application is not eligible, you will receive a letter informing you that your application is ineligible and will not be assessed.
- Your application will be assessed by the Grants subcommittee of the Standing Committee for Archaeology based on the criteria and guidelines within this document and recommendations will be made to the Standing Committee for Archaeology for ratification.
- You will then receive a letter of decision. If your application has been successful, we will include information about what you should do next.
- Whether successful or unsuccessful you will automatically receive feedback on your application, recognising the RIA's focus on fostering excellence in research.

### **Terms and Conditions of funding for successful applicants:**

#### **General:**

- Following the award of a grant recipients must apply for the required licence(s) from the NMS (National Monuments Service) and the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) and follow the conditions specified. Awards are subject to licence approval.
- The recipient shall comply in all respects with the Safety, Health and Welfare legislation.
- Recipients are required to disseminate the results of the project in an appropriate manner agreed with the RIA. All such dissemination must acknowledge the assistance of Queen's University Belfast and RIA in line with 'Guidelines for acknowledging funding'. This must take place within two years of the award.

- Failure to comply with any conditions in these guidelines for applicants and terms and conditions for successful applicants or imposed upon on proposal by the Standing Committee for Archaeology, or with the conditions of any associated licence, may disqualify the candidate from future funding under this scheme.
- The Academy reserves the right to publish relevant details of recipients and funding including, but not necessarily limited to, the names of recipients, the amount of the funding offered and a summary of the proposed activity.

## **Reports and publishing:**

### *RIA required reports and outputs:*

1. **Final report:** Grant recipients are asked to submit a report (template will be circulated in advance of deadline) including the radiocarbon dating certificate, the main findings of the project, plans for dissemination of the outcomes.
2. **RIA conference:** Grant recipients may be asked to present their finding at the biennial RIA 'Revealing the Past' conference.
3. **Feedback:** Grant recipients will be asked to provide feedback on the grants processes.

Some or all of the illustrated reports may:

- form the basis of a press release to be issued jointly by the RIA and QUB
- be published on the RIA website
- be made available on the Digital Repository of Ireland
- figure in other publications of the RIA and QUB

### *Statutory reporting*

Where relevant, grant recipients are required to meet their reporting obligations as per any statutory licence/consent conditions issued by the relevant licensing authorities.

Where relevant submission of reports to the Academy does not exempt a grantee from a separate requirement to submit reports to the relevant licensing authority as per any licence/consent conditions.

### *Publication*

Recipients are required to submit for publication the results of the project in an appropriate manner agreed with the RIA within two years unless otherwise agreed. All such publications must acknowledge the assistance of the RIA and the QUB as appropriate.

## **Online Application Form and Appended Information**

Applicants must complete the online application form with the appended information (Sections 1-6) as indicated below. Failure to do so correctly may disqualify the applicant from consideration for funding.

### **SECTION ONE - Project Overview**

- a) Title of Proposed Project
- b) Please provide a brief abstract (for publicising funded projects etc.)

### **SECTION TWO - Contact Details of Applicant**

- a) Name
- b) Address
- c) Phone
- d) Email

### **SECTION THREE - Project Rationale**

Criterion: The relevance of the proposal to the aims and priorities of this archaeological research grant (weighting 30%)

- a) Please describe your project proposal, its potential significance, and how it meets the aims and priorities of the grant scheme as outlined in the guidelines for applicants. Include the research potential of each sample proposed. (maximum 500 words).
- b) Site details: Grid reference, Site name, townland, county, if applicable
- c) Provide the name and addresses of landowner(s), if applicable.
- d) Please attach the following documents, as relevant to your application:
  - A copy of the relevant section of the OS survey map with the site(s) marked (if sample is coming from an excavation)

### **SECTION FOUR- Employment and Experience**

Criterion: Ability of applicant to carry out the proposed research, demonstrated through a track record of relevant competencies (30%)

- a) Current employment
- b) Affiliation
- c) Academic Training
- d) Other Professional Qualifications or experience relevant to this proposal
- e) Please give the name and address of a referee who has agreed to vouch for your experience and expertise in this area.
- f) Have you previously held an RIA grant before?
- g) If you answered yes above please give details here

### **SECTION FIVE – Project Design**

Criterion: The design, resources and methodologies that are being brought to this project to enable its success (20%)

- a) Please list proposed samples for dating (note - maximum 5 and not all samples may be funded) including the following details for each proposed sample:
  - Find or sample registration number.
  - Type of material, e.g. bone, charcoal etc.
  - Specific material identification, e.g. human femur, birch, hazelnut shell etc.
  - Weight of sample

- Contextual details and stratigraphic location of each sample, supported by a detailed plan and section showing where the sample is from
  - A photo of the artefact/sample if possible.
- b) Excavation licence number and date excavation took place (if applicable)
- c) Sources of funding for the research project and/or excavation
- d) Details of previous publication, if relevant, listing references, including existing radiocarbon dates on these or similar materials if applicable.
- e) Confirm authorisation to date this/these samples and attach as relevant:
- Correspondence confirming permission in principle for artefact/ecofact work from NMI.
  - If the applicant is not the excavation licence holder, correspondence from them stating there is permission in principle for the dating of the sample
  - Confirmation that the proposed sample has been identified and deemed suitable for dating based on the recommendation of the relevant specialist (eg osteoarchaeologist, zooarchaeologist, environmental specialist). Attach relevant reports/correspondence.

## **SECTION SIX**

Criterion: Evidence of plan for impactful and relevant dissemination (20%, maximum 150 words)

Please outline your plans for dissemination and publication of results of radiocarbon dates.