

2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards

In association with the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy

Terms, Conditions and Notes for Applicants

The 2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards recognise excellence in research innovation, creation and invention by an Irish organisation involving both Irish and US parties. Developed in 2015 by the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy, these awards recognise and acknowledge exemplary ideas, originating in Irish organisations, and underpinned by innovative research, that have a strong social and/or economic impact. The award scheme demonstrates the Royal Irish Academy's recognised international role in promoting excellence in research innovation and its potential to enrich our lives and benefit society.

The scheme operates on an all-island basis. The deadline for the receipt of completed applications is **5PM (GMT) on Wednesday, 20 January 2016.**

Overview

The awards will acknowledge and acclaim exemplary research innovation characterised by appropriate public domain metrics of excellence and impact, such as research publications, patents, trade journal editorials, awards, etc.

Award Categories

Awards will be made in the following categories:

- The Irish operations of a US multinational company
- An Irish based SME¹ /start-up with US links
- An Irish Higher Education Institution (HEI) Research Centre or institute with US links
- The US operations of an Irish SME
- The US operations of an Irish company (larger than SME status)

¹ 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 their 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.

Eligibility

The scheme is open to:

- research teams working in or engaging with the Irish operations of US multinational companies, Irish SMEs or start-ups with US links, research teams within Irish HEIs, the US operations of an Irish SME or the US operations of an Irish company (larger than SME status).

Peer Review

The Academy, through its Membership and network of national and international contacts, will convene a panel of national and international 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 Secretary for Policy and International Relations.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against the following general criteria:

- The quality, novelty and impact of the nominated research innovation
 - The proportion of the research innovation carried out in the relevant jurisdiction (acknowledging the global nature of innovation and exploitation)
 - The benefit of the innovation to both Irish and US interests, with an emphasis on demonstrating how collaboration was leveraged to achieve more than would otherwise have been possible
 - The exemplary nature of the research innovation, as demonstrated by its potential or actual commercial and/or societal impact
 - Evidence of appreciation/accolade for the research innovation/its academic excellence (e.g. high impact journal citation, patent awarded, industry award, reference/acknowledgement at leading international conference). This could also include, as appropriate, internal recognition within the applicant organisation.
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NOTES FOR APPLICANTS – COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION

How to apply

Applicants must register their expression of interest by emailing innovate@ria.ie

Registered applicants will then be sent a link to an online application form which must be completed (including supporting documentation) and submitted by

5PM (GMT) on Wednesday, 20 January 2016.

Preparing an effective application

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

Presentation:

The assessment panel will comprise both technical experts and generalists. Please make sure that your application is accessible to a general audience; it should be easy to read and written in clear, simple language. Try to avoid using industry jargon and, if using acronyms, please qualify them in the first instance. Applicants should articulate why the research innovation is exemplary in clear, simple terms.

Remember the objective:

The awards recognise specific outputs rather than activity. Focus on *one* research innovation per application.

Word limits:

It is essential that your application is clear and concise. The word limits set for each section of the application form must be strictly observed.

Section A

Applicant Details

Section A must be completed by the contact person in the applicant organisation. Please note that all correspondence will be sent to the named individual at the address specified on the form only.

Please select the appropriate award category from the drop down menu.

Section B

Nomination Details

Applicants will be required to supply the following information, which should be written for a general audience:

1. Innovation Description - A clear and concise description of one research innovation, highlighting its novelty. (200 words maximum)
2. Innovation Statement - A statement, in addition to the information supplied above, detailing why the applicant thinks the research innovation is exemplary and therefore deserving of a 2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Award. (500 words maximum)
3. Impact Statement - A statement describing the commercial and/or societal impact (already realised or potential) of the innovation outlining clearly which key innovative steps originated from Ireland or the US, as appropriate. (500 words maximum)
4. US-Ireland Connection - A brief explanation of the nature and benefits of the collaboration to your US-Ireland business links. (200 words maximum)

5. Key supporting evidence: A list of supporting evidence in the public domain of novelty (such as relevant US patent number(s)) and acknowledgement of excellence (e.g. journal article, trade journal editorial, internal award etc.). (200 words maximum)

This is an opportunity for the applicant to include any relevant information that has not been included in the answers 1-4. This could include (but is not limited to) the:

- Contribution to competitiveness/problem solving
- External recognition of the idea (e.g. academic journals, showcasing in trade journals)
- Gender balance/diversity within development team
- First collaboration between a company and a third-level institution
- First patent granted to an Irish SME or Irish R&D division of a multinational
- Exploitation of a scientific breakthrough that was made in Ireland or the US, as appropriate

Section C:

Required Supporting Documentation

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 the required supporting documentation will invalidate your application.

Additional Supporting Documentation:

The online application form includes a facility to include relevant additional supporting documentation in PDF format, to a maximum of four A4 pages (no more than 5MB).

Section D:

Declarations

Research Ethics

The activities outlined in the nominations must be conducted in an ethical manner: this includes accurate reporting of findings and a commitment to enabling others to replicate results where possible; impartiality of researchers to the subject of the research; fair dealing in respect of other researchers and their intellectual property. Any evidence of research misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, falsification of results), will automatically render an application null and void.

Applicants should indicate where their research innovation raises any special ethical issues. In such cases applicants must confirm (as necessary) that they:

- Are aware of and signed up to their corporate code of good research practice (or equivalent)
- Have secured approval from their respective Research Ethics Committee (as appropriate)

- The application does not raise any ethical issues

Independent researchers without access to formal ethical scrutiny and approval should briefly describe any special ethical issues, and explain how these were addressed. Independent researchers should observe, where appropriate, the standards of research practice set out in guidelines published in scientific and learned societies, and other relevant professional bodies. All researchers should be aware of the legal requirements that regulate their work.

Applicant Declaration

Please note that submitting an application form constitutes that the information provided is complete and accurate and acceptance of all terms and conditions contained in the *Terms, Conditions and Notes for Applicants* document. Subsequent discovery of any deliberate falsehood will automatically render the application null and void.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the completed application is submitted by the 5PM (GMT) on Wednesday, 20 January 2016.

Late applications will not be accepted. No exceptions.

Section E:

Outcome of Application

The shortlists for the awards will be announced publicly on Friday, 11 March 2016.

The winners will be announced at a formal award dinner in Dublin on 20 May 2016. All shortlisted applicants will be required to attend this event. Shortlisted applicants will be required to purchase a table for the award event.