

RCSI Collaborate Initiative

PURPOSE

The purpose of the RCSI Collaborate Initiative is to promote academic and research staff participation in international collaboration through mobility and hosting of events or meetings on the RCSI campus. This is driven by a new International Impact and Engagement Strategy for RCSI, which aims to support researchers in developing new and nurturing existing collaborative partnerships and is underpinned by the International Engagement Framework (available to download [here](#)).

This is an excellent opportunity to enhance professional and institutional connections, which are known to contribute to enhanced international reputation and research career development. The Collaborate Initiative will entail three strands:

- Facilitating our academic and research staff in sourcing external funding and participating in external mobility schemes (e.g. Erasmus+; Government of Ireland etc.)
- RCSI funding for hosting collaboration enhancing events on Campus (up to 5k)
- RCSI funding for hosting mobility to build new international collaborations and partnerships (up to 5k)

This initiative has replaced the StAR Engagement Forum and StAR Travel Fellowship schemes. It aims to offer more flexibility in the range and duration of activities and opportunities for international engagement, including hosting virtual events and seminars. The following type of activities will be considered:

- Supporting **larger research meetings where reputation enhancement opportunities exist** and can be leveraged (e.g. associated costs, room hire, speaker fees etc.)
- Hosting hybrid (virtual and face to face) conferences, seminars, and webinars previously not hosted in RCSI Dublin
- Creating (set up) and hosting new hybrid conferences, seminars, webinars and research collaboration meetings with international significance
- Hosting **new research collaboration initiative meetings** with an international cohort of peers (virtually or on campus)
- Support for associated event costs (assessed on a case by case basis)
- Development and/or contribution to online activities such as journals and podcasts.
- Participation / Speaker opportunities for RCSI researchers which require sponsorship
- Travel to join or aid in the establishment of a new (or enhanced) and prestigious international research/education consortium, alliance, partnership or new research collaboration that cannot be funded by other means (justification will be sought).

Priority will be given to activities that will clearly enhance new opportunities for partnership and strategic alliances, especially in support of exploring relationships for Horizon Europe, capitalising on post-Brexit opportunities or driving our contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ELIGIBILITY

RCSI's academic, research and professional staff holding a permanent appointment, or a contract

appointment funded for at least two years may apply; staff holding such appointments on a part-time basis may be eligible, on the basis of at least 50% commitment to RCSI. Proposals may be submitted jointly or by an individual. All grades of staff are welcome to submit proposals or expressions of interest.

PROPOSAL and EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS

- Proposals for 2022 and 2023 should be submitted to the Insights and Planning Office (IPO) using [this](#) online form.
- Initial assessment by Head of IPO will be carried out. Additional information may be requested depending on the nature of the proposed activity
- Decisions on application funding will be made by nominated members of the StAR Steering Group
- This form will remain open throughout the year, with application reviews made on a quarterly basis (submit by 31st March, 30th June, 30th Sept, 20th Dec) with decisions made shortly thereafter.

RCSI FUNDING

In all cases efforts should be made to source external funding for mobility (e.g. Erasmus, Fulbright, EMBO) and events (e.g. Failte Ireland for events greater than 100 international attendees).

- There is no fixed minimum amount for each grant but a maximum of €5000 will apply.
- Annual funding limitations will apply, and the total number of projects funded will be limited on this basis. Early expression of interest is recommended.

CRITERIA/ TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Quality of research or education concept
2. Capacity of proposed researcher/team to deliver on proposed outcome
3. Calibre of international invitees, in particular those who may be new to applicant and RCSI
4. Extent to which the proposed initiative can achieve aims not readily achieved in other ways
5. Each proposal will be assessed on a case by case basis taking into consideration its long-term impact on international relations, engagement, reputation and research collaboration and RCSI's strategic objectives
6. Each application will consider all other funding sources
7. Priority will be given to new engagement/reputation-raising activities with international reach – especially where they support RCSI in the Horizon Europe programme, in relation to countering the impact of Brexit or driving our contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
8. Each awardee will engage with our Strategic Communications plans to maximize the impact of the project.
9. Awards must be used for the purpose for which they are requested within or before 31st December 2023. Further terms and conditions (including budget and change requests) will be issued to successful candidates.

REQUIREMENTS

Heads of Department should 'sign off' on proposals to ensure that the scientific/educational aspects of the proposal are aligned with strategic and departmental objectives.

Standard RCSI policies will apply in relation to booking economy class flights through RCSI Travel and

forwarding original receipts for reimbursement.

A brief report and attendee list should be submitted to IPO by each awardee after the collaborative activity has taken place so we can learn from best practice for future awards.

Conference Participation

Please note that this initiative does not cover travel to conferences. Please see [here](#) for information on the conference participation fund and other travel awards that may be applicable.