

# SFI Discover Programme Call Handbook



## The SFI Discover Programme Call

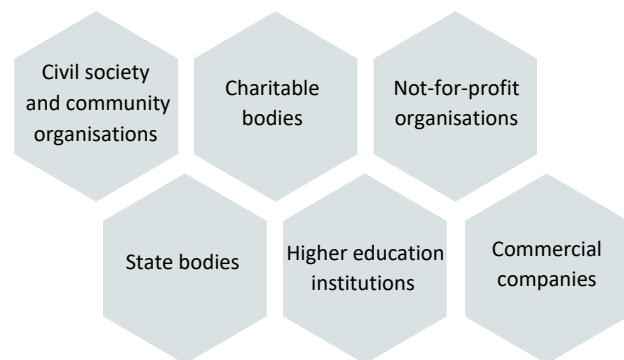
Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) supports research and public engagement in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The outcomes of this research and public engagement promote and assist in the development and competitiveness of industry, enterprise and employment in Ireland, delivering tangible impact for society. The **SFI Discover Programme Call** supports deep public engagement activity and is a key part of SFI's Education and Public Engagement portfolio.

### Who Can Apply?

The SFI Discover Programme Call supports a **wide range of organisations** to develop and deliver **STEM education and public engagement** projects that aim to broaden participation and engagement of the public with STEM. The programme specifically seeks to fund projects that are inclusive, based on best practice and are tailored to engage target audiences in ways that are most suited to them. **We welcome applications from across the sciences, arts, media, education, social sciences and humanities, youth and/or community work sectors.**

**The SFI Discover Programme Call strongly encourages and welcomes applications from organisations including community and civil society groups, charities and NGOs.** The expertise, experience and insight that these organisations bring allows for **deep collaborative engagement with their target communities**, helping to improve, understand, or investigate a topic of public interest or concern.

### Project leads may be based in



Following successful review of applications, recipients will receive funding of up to **€60,000 for a Project grant** (12-month duration) and **up to €300,000 for a Regional or National Initiative Grant** (12- or 24-month duration). Furthermore, administrative expenses of up to an additional 15% of the direct project costs, up to a maximum of €30,000 may be requested.



## Focus on Public Engagement

The SFI Discover Programme Call welcomes applications for projects that create opportunities for broader participation and engagement of the public with STEM.

### Why Apply?

The SFI Discover Programme Call gives recipients the opportunity to inspire and create greater public awareness of the impact of STEM on society and its connection and contribution to everyday life. Successful projects will stimulate and create debate and dialogue amongst the public and will create opportunities for dialogue with STEM experts and researchers, on topics of societal importance. Such opportunities will broaden participation and equity of access, promoting greater engagement with groups currently under-represented in the field, and will help to build awareness, curiosity and trust in STEM.

### What Are We Looking For?

We are looking for **new and creative approaches to engage the public** in ways that are most suited to them, but also welcome projects that promote engagement with STEM through **tried and tested methods**.

**Successful projects should do at least one of the following:**

- Raise awareness and heighten the public(s)' engagement with STEM
- Have strong public purpose and value and work with community partners to promote dialogue on an issue of societal interest or concern
- Contribute to improving diversity and inclusion in STEM
- Foster engagement which could lead to deeper engagement of the public with research.

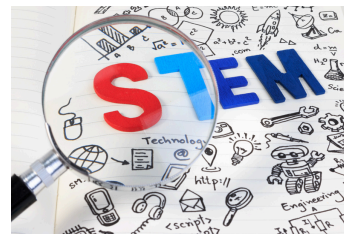
The nature of project activities can be very broad. Examples can include **workshops, theatre pieces, exhibitions, games, events, debates and discussions**.

## Focus on Education

The SFI Discover Programme Call welcomes applications for projects that are aimed at school audiences (teachers and/or pupils) – at pre-school, primary and second level.

### Why Apply?

The SFI Discover Programme Call includes a co-funding partnership with the Department of Education, and it provides recipients with the opportunity to empower participation, grow confidence, and develop an inclusive and equitable STEM talent pipeline through inspiration, skills development and increasing awareness of STEM education and careers.



### What Are We Looking For?

We are looking for education projects which align to one or more of the **Department of Education themes**.

**Successful projects should do at least one of the following:**

- Focus on development of key skills and increasing awareness of STEM education and careers
- Increase STEM awareness with families
- Increase awareness of STEM for learners and their parents in advance of transition from primary to post-primary school
- Provide connections between STEM and the Arts.

In addition, applicants should have considered the Irish education landscape, ensuring that the project is complementary to the formal education system (See Call document for further details).

Examples may include **workshops, games, classroom activities, events, debates and discussions**.



## How to apply

Complete the application form outlining project details, budget request, evaluation plans and project team. Applications must be submitted via SESAME, SFI's Grants and Awards Management System. If you have not previously been registered with SESAME, please email [discover.programme@sfi.ie](mailto:discover.programme@sfi.ie) for information.

## What costs are eligible ?



### Eligible costs may include:

- **Project Management**
- **Direct Project Delivery Costs:**
  - Including content development, venue hire, catering, AV and additional insurances required specifically for the project or event
  - Costs to ensure appropriate access requirements are met
- **Consumables** – equipment and materials required for the delivery of the project
- **Training** - any training of personnel required for the delivery of the project
- **Evaluation costs**
- **Expenses for travel and subsistence**
- **Administrative expenses** - an additional 15% of the direct project costs, up to a maximum of €30,000, can be requested. These costs may include IT support, office space, utilities (heat, light, water etc), grant management / administration, financial management, reporting, the costs of hiring project personnel.

## Key Dates



**May 2024**  
Call opens for applications



**July 2024**  
Application Deadline  
13:00, Dublin Local Time



**November 2024**  
Notification of results



**January 2025**  
Project commencement

## Further Information

For all information on the SFI Discover Programme Call please visit [www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/sfi-discover-programme/](http://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/sfi-discover-programme/)

Applicants are advised that they should consult the call document for all details and eligibility criteria for the call in advance of preparing an application. For any further queries, please contact the Discover Team at [Discover.Programme@sfi.ie](mailto:Discover.Programme@sfi.ie).



<https://www.sfi.ie/engagement/sfi-discover/>



[discover.programme@sfi.ie](mailto:discover.programme@sfi.ie)