Open for collaboration

SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme 2024

Company Handbook

The SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme aims to support academia-industry interactions through the temporary placement of academic researchers with a company.

Programme Overview

- ▲ Supports academia-industry interactions to address industry-informed challenges
- ▲ Funds an academic to work on a research project in an company
- ▲ Company can be Small, Medium or Large based in Ireland or abroad
- ▲ Skilled researcher (Fellow) is embedded in the host company working on a joint project, supports:
  - Industrial research
  - Experimental development
- ▲ **Duration:** Up to 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time
- ▲ Maximum SFI contribution is €100,000 – SFI provides salary/teaching buy-out, mobility and open access publishing support to Fellow & the industry partner supports the remaining costs of the project.
- ▲ Short application which is led by the researcher through their university/Research Body with input from the industry host
- ▲ The Fellow remains an employee of the Research Body for the duration of the Fellowship

Who is it for?

The Fellowship is open to academic researchers (late stage PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty staff) at eligible Irish Research Bodies, and private for-profit companies located in Ireland or abroad. Companies can be of any size but must:

- ▲ Be research-active
- ▲ Be a private for-profit company located in Ireland or abroad
- ▲ Possess appropriate independent infrastructure to host a prospective Fellow
- ▲ Have the financial capacity to provide a minimum contribution of 20% of total eligible project costs

2024 Call is now open, deadline for submission of proposals is 26 June 2024.

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SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship

Science Foundation Ireland
For what's next

SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme is open to Small Enterprises, Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Large Enterprises (MNCs)

SFI provides a fixed proportion of the total eligible project costs with the remaining costs to be met by the industry partner. The SFI funding rate depends on the size of the industry partner and the category of research being undertaken and if results are widely disseminated.

Benefits to the industry partner

Industry partners hosting researchers will benefit from the expertise of the fellow embedded in their company bringing innovative solutions to industry challenges; providing support to enhance competitive advantage and future resilience and development of links with academia to seed future longer-term collaborations.

Benefits to academic researchers

Researchers placed into industry will have the opportunity to gain a working knowledge of relevant business drivers (e.g., intellectual property, regulatory, investors and markets). The upskilling and industry exposure provided to postdoctoral researchers will prepare them for a career in industry and maximise the impact of their training so far. For faculty researchers, it is expected that their Fellowship will seed subsequent industry collaborations and shape the direction of their research going forward.

To apply

Applications are submitted to SFI by the prospective fellow with input from the industry partner. There is currently no limit on the number of applications a company can partner on.

Process for Companies

1. Identify suitable applicant(s) to partner with
2. Jointly define high-level project with applicant (prospective fellow)
3. Discuss Intellectual Property and project costs with Research Body/University
4. Contribute to proposal and budget preparation (the Research Body of the Fellow submits the proposal to SFI)
5. Company (industry partner) provides financial documents to SFI

Identifying suitable applicant(s)

SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Group on LinkedIn facilitates networking between applicants and companies: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8201626. Business Development Managers in Research Bodies/SFI Research Centres can help with identifying potential fellows.

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Requirements for company participation

1. Companies proposing to partner on an Industry RD&I fellowship application must name a designated employee as the Fellow's **Industry Mentor** from their company. The Industry Mentor is committed to providing mentoring, an appropriate work environment and infrastructure for the duration of the award, as well as logistical support required to facilitate the Fellowship. The mentor must provide a CV and letter of support for inclusion in the application.

2. Companies must host the fellow on site in their premises for the duration of the fellowship placement.

3. As part of the application the company will be asked to provide information about the size, headcount and turnover of their company. The company will need to provide a full breakdown of their costs in supporting the project

4. Companies are required to confidentially provide *the latest set of financial records* and financial declarations to SFI. Under State aid rules SFI cannot provide funding for Fellows to be placed with industry partners that are 'undertakings in difficulty'[1]. These documents which must be emailed to irdif@sfi.ie by a delegated officer of the company, will be used by SFI to determine eligibility of the company to participate in the programme.

Intellectual Property (IP)

An intellectual property rights agreement must be agreed between the Research Body with the relevant industry partner prior to commencement of the research programme. The management of IP arising out of the Industry RD&I Fellowship must comply with the practices and procedures described in the national IP protocol document Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019 . This typically means that the Research Body will own any foreground IP developed during the Fellowship with the industry partner afforded options to licence.

For more information on the SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme and full details of the application process please visit www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/sfi-industry-fellowship-programme/

For any further queries, please contact irdif@sfi.ie

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1   article 2, no. 18 of COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014