



Accelerating Research to Commercialisation



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt
Southern Regional
Assembly



Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

The ARC Hub for Therapeutics is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Open Call for New Projects
EOI Deadline: 31st March 2026

More info on the Hub and call here: <https://therapeutics.archub.ie/>

Update 23rd March 2026.

1. Who is eligible for funding?

- A translational researcher must be a member of academic staff of a third level research institution in Ireland (permanent or on contract for the duration of the TRP);
- Or a postdoctoral researcher (including Research Fellows and holders of personal Fellowships).
 - Postdoctoral researchers, if selected from the Expression of Interest, must have a commitment from a suitable mentor (an established researcher from their Host Research Body, or a Co-Applicant of the SFI ARC Hub) when putting their full application (if selected for Stage 2).
- A translational researcher must be senior author on at least one international peer reviewed article (only original research publications, not reviews), and have the experience, capability and authority to mentor and supervise (or co-supervise) team members, if appropriate. A senior author is one that is listed as first or joint-first author, or last author.
- Having a PhD or equivalent qualification is not a requirement to apply, but applicants must have relevant experience that deems them suitable to lead the project, including a strong track record in research.
- Industry partners are permitted. An Industry Partner is defined as a company that participates in a specific translational research project and contributes to the ARC Hub through financial support, either in cash or as in-kind contributions.
 - Collaborative Research Agreements (CRAs) are required for all Industry Partners where IP arrangements are explicitly laid out. These are the responsibility of the Research Body.
 - TRPs with industry partners require a check for compliance with State aid and EU regulations before the TRP can start.
 - Funding for projects that involve industry partners will be awarded in line with the conditions of GBER (EU Commission General Block Exemption Regulation).

2. What type of projects are we looking for?

- The ARC Hub for Therapeutics is looking for mature assets.
 - A mature asset is a molecule that has been extensively characterised *in vitro* (eg direct target engagement assays, cell based activity assay, cell viability data etc) and has demonstrated *in vivo* efficacy in relevant models of disease.
- The ARC Hub for Therapeutics is **disease indication and therapeutic modality agnostic. The focus will be on innovative discoveries with strong clinical potential for an unmet medical need, a clear IP position with no freedom to operate constraints and clear commercial attractiveness (for seed funding, startup creation or licensing).**
- Projects are expected to be at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 (**Proof of Concept Established**) or higher at the time of application. TRLs are a framework used to describe the maturity of a technology, from early discovery to real-world application. Proposals should demonstrate at least initial proof-of-concept data and a clear basis for further translational development.
- There are possibilities for earlier projects if there is a strong commercial potential.



3. What is the budget and duration of projects that the ARC hub for Therapeutics will support?

- Applicants are **not** required to provide a project budget at the Expression of Interest stage.
- For projects selected for funding, the ARC team will determine an appropriate budget on a case-by-case basis working with the applicant. Funding will be milestone-driven and individually linked to clearly defined deliverables and pre-specified go/no-go decision points
- The duration of each project will be dependent on the level of work required to bring it towards commercialisation. Projects will operate under a milestone-driven framework with clearly defined go/no-go decision points that will determine project continuation and duration.
- Staff, consumables, equipment and travel will all be eligible costs as part of the assigned budget. Salaries of postdoctoral researchers who hold the title 'Translational Researcher' are also an eligible cost (up to 100% of salary can be requested in line with their time commitment to the project). However, salaries of academic staff who hold the title of 'Translational Researcher' are not an eligible cost.

4. How will the ARC team be involved in the project?

- The ARC team will take an active role in developing the project in collaboration with the Principal Investigators (PIs). Project milestones and deliverables will be jointly defined at project initiation.
- The ARC team will work closely with the PI/team, reviewing results and next steps to support progress and ensure timely delivery of agreed objectives.
- Outsourcing to contract research organisations (CROs) is possible.
- In addition to the funding, the ARC team can also provide access to KOLs e.g. biology expertise, medicinal chemistry, strategic IP advice, our industry and investor network and entrepreneurial training.
- The hub does not take any ownership of any technology developed. The IP will belong to the Research Performing Organisation where the work is conducted.

5. What kind of intellectual property is required for the project to be considered?

- Projects must have the potential to generate intellectual property to be considered for funding but there does not need to be any patent in place at the time of application.
- Invention Disclosure Forms (IDFs) or equivalent institutional documentation are encouraged but not required at the application stage. Applicants may be required to engage with their institutional technology transfer office to clarify IP position and freedom to operate prior to project initiation.



6. What does the application process for funding entail?

- Applicants must submit a two-page Expression of Interest (EOI) by **31st March**. EOIs will be reviewed by the ARC hub leadership team, and applicants will be notified of the outcome in **May**.
- The application will focus on six topics:
 - **Thematic area**
 - **Scientific rationale of target**
 - **Therapeutic indication & unmet need**
 - **Therapeutic modality**
 - **Research to support hypothesis**
 - **Intellectual property**
- Each question includes prompts (in grey text) outlining information that the ARC Hub team are seeking. It is important to note that not every prompt in a section will be relevant or answerable for a project. Nor would there be an expectation that every prompt will be addressed.
- **Applicants may upload up to two figures as part of their proposal. Each figure must be a maximum of one A4 page and must be clearly annotated. Figures should include a legend as part of the one page, consisting of a maximum of 800 characters in 8pt font. Figures should be uploaded as clearly labelled PDF files via your preferred platform (please ensure that the link works and that the team has access to download the files). The link to the files should be pasted in the appropriate section of the form.**
- As part of the application, you will be asked to confirm that the proposed work has not been previously funded and is not under review from another source, so that you will not be obtaining double funding of the research being proposed.

7. What is the review process and how will projects be selected?

- EOIs will be assessed based on alignment with the scope and objectives of the call – i.e. the commercial attractiveness, acceleration and translational potential of the project, a clear and realistic project plan, the maturity of the asset or technology, the strength of supporting preclinical or proof-of-concept evidence, and the suitability of the proposed indication, including the level of unmet clinical need.
- A select number of applicants will be invited to submit a Stage 2 full application. The submission deadline for Stage 2 applications will be confirmed and communicated to shortlisted applicants in due course.
- Shortlisted projects will also be reviewed by selected members of the ARC hub for Therapeutics Advisory Committee, which comprises of, relevant pharmaceutical industry experts, scientific experts, venture capitalists etc.
- Please note that the timeline and details for the full application stage are not yet available.

