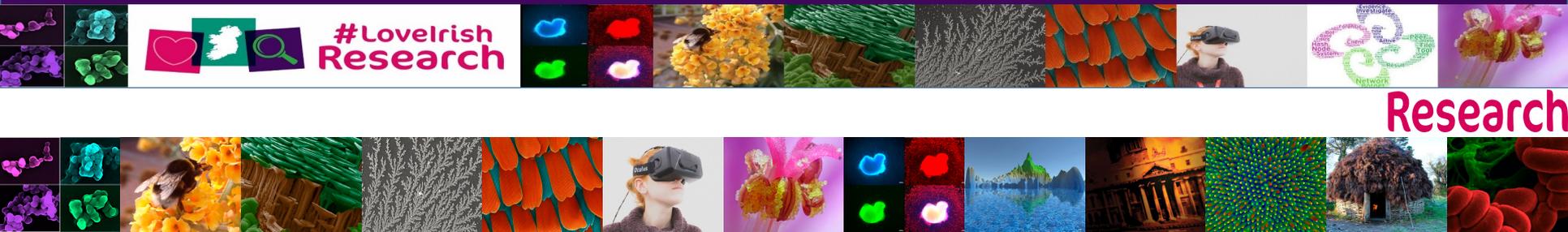


# Irish Research Council

Dr Gráinne Walshe  
Assistant Director  
Impact and Partnerships

Brenda Blake  
Acting Programme Mgr  
COALESCE & New Foundations

Dr Ana Stefanovska  
Postdoctoral Intern



Research



# The Council is unique in the Irish research system



**WE FUND**

solely on the basis of excellence



**WE FUND**

solely on the basis of independent peer review

A → Z

**WE FUND**

across all disciplines, from arts to zoology



**WE FUND**

bottom-up, non-directed research from early-career stage



Our vision is for a healthy research ecosystem that provides a diversity of supports and opportunities to enable Ireland reap the full value of research.



We are **the key national funder of basic research across all disciplines**, and the only funder that supports basic research in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Our focus is on ensuring that exceptional researchers are supported to develop their ideas across the key stages of their career.

We also fund **interdisciplinary, intersectoral and policy-focused research**.



#LoveIrish  
Research



# OVERVIEW OF ACTIVE AWARDS IN 2020

**1576** directly funded researchers



**358**

Postdoctoral fellows  
(GOI, EPS, CAROLINE  
and Projects)

**1176**

Postgraduate scholars  
(GOI, EPS, EBP and Projects)



**42**

Research assistants  
(PI-led projects)

**109** principal investigator-led projects



**33**

COALESCE

Laureate

**48**

**19**

ERA-NET projects

**1**

Research Infrastructures

Other research projects

**8**

Plus 76 New Foundations Awards

# Irish Research Council Strategic Plan



# *Strategic Goals & Key Actions, 2020-2024*

1. Enable excellence in people, skills and ideas across all disciplines for discovery and enterprise research.

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2. Be a partner of choice nationally and internationally to support excellent research that addresses the challenges of our time.

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3. Demonstrate the value of the research we support, ensuring that the knowledge and innovations generated are shared and exchanged to the maximum extent.

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4. Make a tangible contribution to innovation, evaluation and reform in the higher education and research ecosystem.

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5. Achieve and maintain excellence and optimise the IRC's capacity as an organisation.

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# International Engagement

**Our vision for the progress achieved by the end of 2021 is for the following:**

- ✓ New opportunities for researchers, across all career stages, to collaborate on a north-south basis (island of Ireland).
- ✓ Establishment of strategic relationships with international research funders/councils.
- ✓ Formal partnerships in place with UK research funders.
- ✓ Achievement of Ireland's H2020 overall drawdown target for MSCA and supporting its target for Horizon Europe, across all pillars
- ✓ Better take-up of opportunities for Irish researchers to join UK or international teams as co-principal investigators.

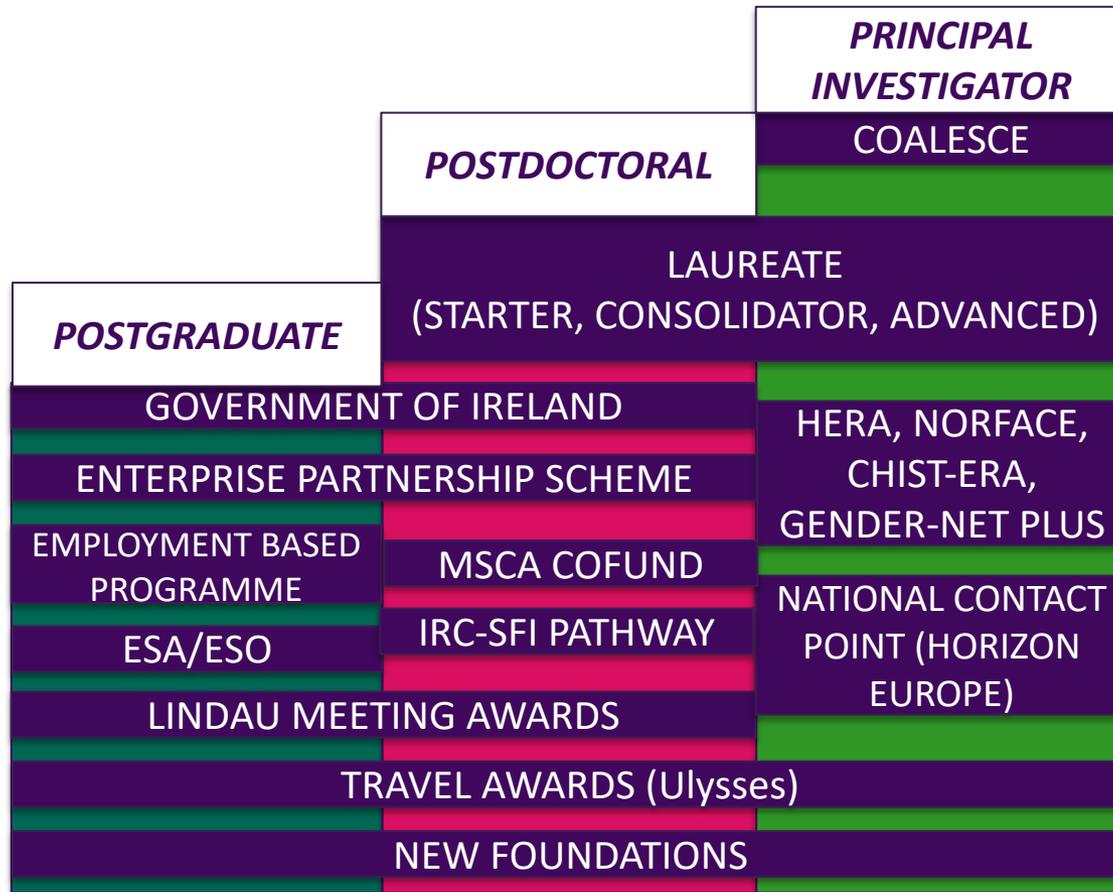


# IRC – International profile

- ❁ International mobility and collaboration (40% current awardees non-Irish)
- ❁ National Contact Point for ERC (AHSS)
- ❁ Support for Ireland-based ERC applicants
- ❁ Support the Irish Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office
- ❁ Participation in
  - HERA (handling agency)
  - NORFACE
  - CHIST-ERA
  - GenderNET-Plus
  - DARIAH-EU



# *Funding excellent research via a suite of research funding programmes*



# Selected IRC programmes

<b>Postgraduate Scholarships</b>	Government of Ireland	Next call opens Q3 2022
	Enterprise Partnership Scheme	Q4 2022
	Employment-Based Programme	Q4 2022
<b>Postdoctoral fellowships</b>	Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship	Q3 2022
	Enterprise Partnership Scheme	Q4 2022
<b>Principal Investigator-Led</b>	Laureate Advanced	Q3 2022
<b>Networking/collaboration grants</b>	New Foundations	Q2 2022
	Ulysses	Q4 2022





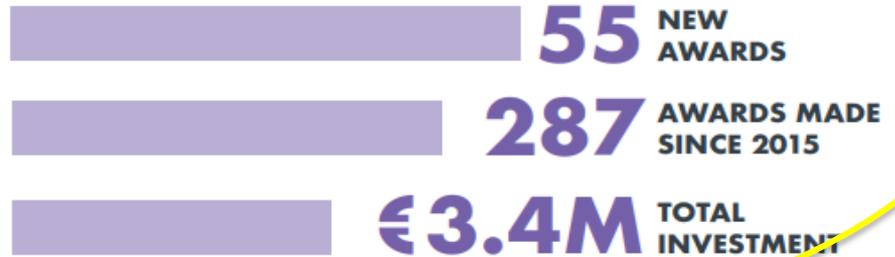
**362**  
**PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN CIVIC SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND RESEARCHERS SINCE 2015**

**TOTAL INVESTMENT OF €9.9M**

**+200 CHARITY/ NGO PARTNERS**



The **Enhancing Civic Society** strand supports small, discrete collaborative projects with civic society partners for the purpose of tackling national or global societal challenges.



Co-funding early-career researchers to carry out projects directly related to the interests of the civic society organisation



Strand	Title	Funder	Description	Maximum award amount	Duration
Strand 1a	Enhancing Civic Society	Irish Research Council	Supporting small, discrete collaborative projects between researchers and civic society groups in the community and voluntary sector	€12,000	9 months
Strand 4	'A Better World' New Foundations Awards	Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)	Networking awards to form consortia for prospective global north-south research partnerships focused on areas of strategic importance to <a href="#">Ireland's Policy for International Development</a>	€10,000	9 months
Strand 4b	Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development New Foundations Awards in partnership	Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid) and the Department of Education	Supporting research, networking and collaboration for the purpose of increasing public awareness and understanding of issues such as climate change, hunger, global inequality and injustice.	€10,000	12 months
Strand 8	Department of the Taoiseach Shared Island New Foundations Awards	Department of the Taoiseach	Supporting research, networking and collaboration for the purpose of informing and supporting the implementation and development of the Government's <a href="#">Shared Island</a> initiative.	€20,000	6 or 9 months
Strand 10	Police Community Relations New Foundations Award	Policing Authority	Supporting research seeking to bring the needs or experiences of communities to life in a manner that contributes to enhancing police community relations	€10,000	9 months
Strand 11	'Volunteering Strategy' New Foundations Award	Department of Rural and Community Development	Supporting research with direct linkages to the new <a href="#">National Volunteering Strategy for Ireland</a> and international best practice.	€23,000	12 months
Strand 12	New Foundations Award in partnership with the Sunflower Charitable Foundation through the Community Foundation for Ireland	The Sunflower Charitable Foundation through the Community Foundation for Ireland	These awards will support research, networking and collaboration on themes related to climate change and biodiversity.	€20,000	12 months
Strand 14	Utilising Evidence for Child Protection and Welfare Policy Needs New Foundations Award	Tusla Child and Family Agency	These awards will support research across a range of topics focused on areas of strategic importance to Tusla Child and Family Agency.	€20,000	9 months

# John Regan

(Maynooth University)

- IRC New Foundations 2019 Awardee, Strand 2
- Research project: Engaging Europe with Enzo-E

**Research area: Astronomy and Space Science**

**Context:** Enzo-E is a next generation parallel code, designed from the ground up to run on massively parallel systems that are or will be in existence over the coming decade. The primary science objectives of Enzo-E lie in the field of astrophysics and its ability to model complex physical processes.



# GOI Postdoctoral Fellowships

- ✿ Any discipline / interdisciplinary
- ✿ Full-time 1-year or 2-year fellowship
- ✿ Held at an eligible HEI or RPO in the Republic of Ireland
- ✿ Value of award: Salary €31,275 + social insurance and pension contributions
- ✿ Eligible direct research expenses <€5,000 per annum



## Ian Jubb

(Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)

- Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2018
- Research project: Topology Change in Quantum Gravity

**Research area: Theoretical Physics**

**Context:** This study investigates the problem of quantum gravity from a variety of directions. Each avenue explored begins at the quantum gravity path integral, and throughout the investigations the notion of spacetime causal structure frequently appears.



# Laureate Awards

- ✿ Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Laureate Awards (mirroring the funding categories of the European Research Council)
- ✿ Established to address a significant gap in the Irish research landscape, namely the lack of a funding programme to enable exceptional researchers to conduct frontier research beyond postdoctoral level across all disciplines.
- ✿ With a cumulative investment of €30 million, they have created a solid foundation for the undertaking of frontier research at Principal Investigator level, providing an environment which breeds world-class education, training, and development, for new discoveries, and for the future application of those discoveries with economic or societal impact.



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# Jan Manschot

## (Trinity College Dublin)

- IRC Consolidator Laureate Awardee 2018
- Research project: Modularity in Quantum Field Theory and Gravity

### Research area: Physics

**Context: (abstract)** The remarkable appearance of modular forms in certain theories of quantum fields or gravity is a manifestation of fundamental symmetries, such as the symmetry between electric and magnetic fields in electromagnetism. The PI has demonstrated the need for a much richer class of modular functions in order to characterize the symmetries of Yang-Mills theories, supergravity and black holes. With the IRC Laureate Award, the PI will develop this class and demonstrate its relevance for fundamental physics.



# Enterprise Partnership Scheme

- ❁ 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowship
- ❁ Based in an eligible HEI/RPO in Ireland + placement with Enterprise Partner
- ❁ Enterprise Partner can be a company, public body, cultural/heritage organisation, registered charity... in or outside Ireland
- ❁ Value of award: Salary €31,275 + social insurance and pension contributions
- ❁ IRC funds 66% + Enterprise Partner funds 33%
- ❁ Eligible direct research expenses <€5,000 per annum



## Recent Awards

Project	Enterprise Partner
An <b>economic evaluation</b> of Acquired Brain Injury rehabilitation models: developing evidence to inform the Irish Health System.	Acquired Brain Injury Ireland
High Thermal Stability Exchange Bias Systems for <b>Magnetic Sensor</b> Applications	Analog Devices International
Style-Independent Pose/View Classification for Traditional <b>Animation</b>	Cartoon Saloon
Modelling the Role of Hydrogen in Decarbonising Future <b>Energy Systems</b> Aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement	ElectroRoute
Bio-Inspired Electroconductive Scaffolds for Spinal Cord <b>Injury Repair</b>	J&J Vision Care
A Privacy-Preserving Personalized Recommendation Framework Based on Differential <b>Privacy Techniques</b>	Mastercard
<b>Mapping Gothic Dublin</b> : Historical and Literary Hauntings, 1820-1900	Museum of Literature Ireland
Machine Learning-based approaches to anomaly detection and failure prognostics in <b>spacecraft avionics</b> systems using low-power devices.	Realtime Technologies Ltd.
Targeting the noradrenergic system for anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective actions in a clinically relevant animal model of <b>Parkinson's disease</b>	Transpharmation Ireland Ltd.



# Sarah Guerin

## (University of Limerick)

- Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Award 2019

**Research area: Materials Science**

**ERC Starting Award in 2022** (Piezoelectric Biomolecules for lead-free, Reliable, Eco-Friendly Electronics)





IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

## In summary

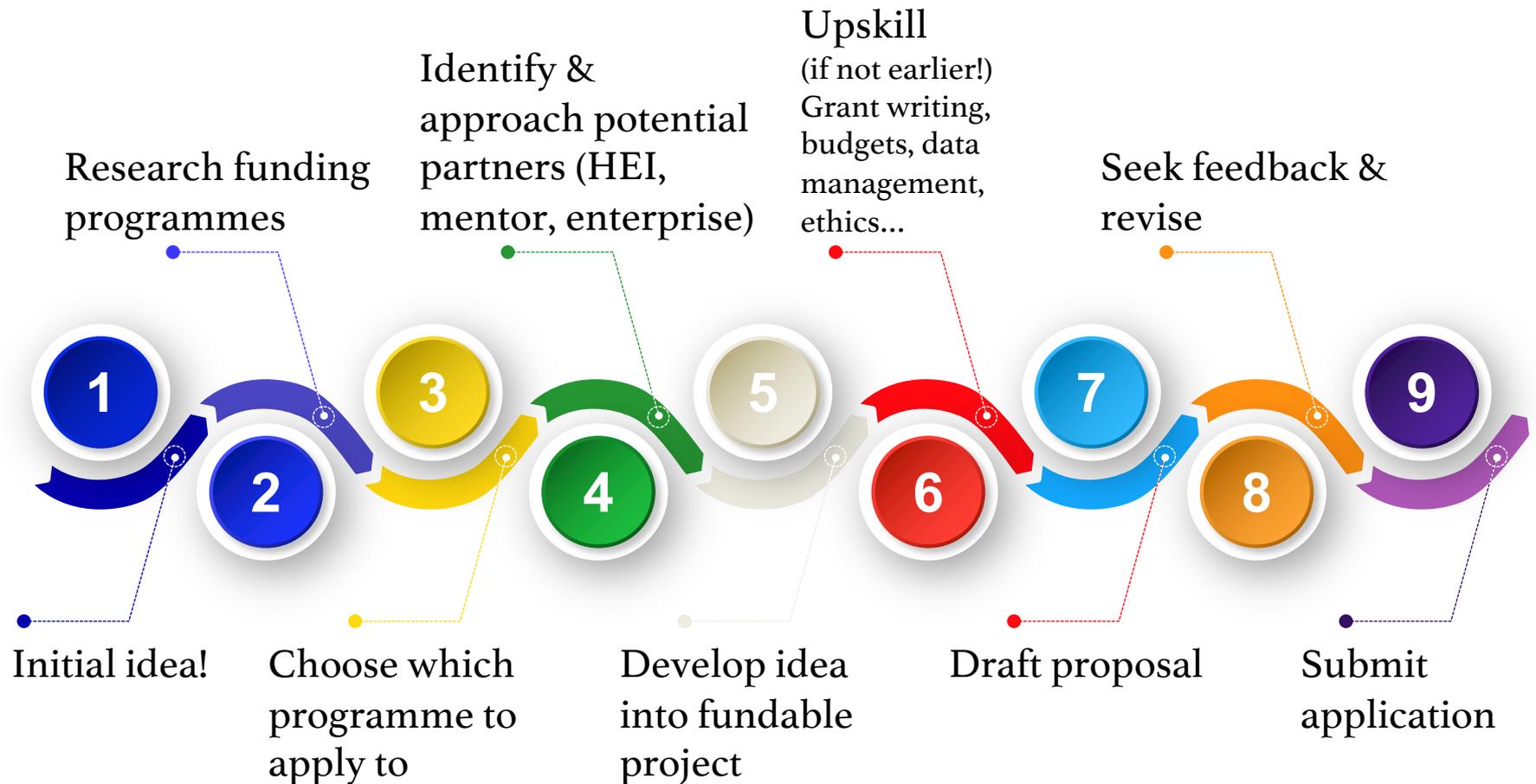
- The IRC offers a range of awards, at all career stages
- Go for smaller award (as well as) larger awards
- Lindau/Ulysses/New Foundations – provide seed funding that can lead to collaborations/partnerships and further funding
- Consider Enterprise awards/SFP-partnered awards (such as in some New Foundations strands)
- At later career stages, Laureate for frontier research



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# Steps to submitting a fundable proposal



# Some forthcoming initiatives and good news

1. **Developing** good policy & practice:
  - Expanded gender categories
  - Bullying and Harassment Policy
  - Gender-Equality Review
2. **Launch of** the DOROTHY COFUND
3. **Announcement of** new early career awards
4. **Building national evidence-for-policy** through recurring schemes
5. **Celebrating** the *Researcher of the Year Awards*





# #LoveIrish Research

A national campaign led by the Irish Research Council



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,  
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta  
Department of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
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HEA

HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS