



## **GSI Geoscience Research Targeted Projects Call 2023**

### **- Frequently Asked Questions -**

#### **1. Are personnel costs eligible costs?**

Personnel costs for students/staff carrying out the research in the project are eligible (employers costs, scholarship or salary for researchers, technical staff etc).

Salary costs for project supervision or management are not eligible. Funding is only for research activities.

#### **2. Are overheads/indirect costs an eligible cost?**

Overheads/Indirect costs can be included in the budget and must not exceed 15% of the total direct costs excluding subcontracting.

#### **3. Is subcontracting costs an eligible cost?**

Subcontracting costs are eligible but must be justified and must not exceed 10% of the total direct costs, including VAT. Higher subcontracting costs may be accepted in exceptional circumstances only if approved in advance.

#### **4. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has co-funding or in-kind contribution from the Host Organisation?**

No. Assessors will be asked to consider the overall project proposed and whether resources are appropriate. Host Organisation's will be expected to provide the essential resources such as technical support, storage, insurance etc. where required.

#### **5. Is VAT allowable?**

Yes, VAT is allowable on items/services purchased, however VAT on the overall research project is 0%.

#### **6. Can Targeted Projects Call funding be used to 'top-up' a previous project or complete a PhD project?**

Targeted Projects Call funding must be used for a stand-alone project that has independent workflows, outputs and deliverables and that are not supported by other funds.

#### **7. Will there be a negotiation stage after the results are announced?**

No, there is no negotiation stage or opportunity to respond to reviewers' comments. It is therefore advisable that you ensure your proposal is clear and considered before submission.

#### **8. Is the Lead Applicant interviewed by GSI/ reviewers?**

No, the Applicant is expected to provide evidence (e.g., in their CV) of their suitability to deliver the proposed project.

#### **9. Can researchers outside the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland be funded?**

No. Funding is only available to researchers based in Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and adhering to all other criteria.

#### **10. Can a project include only researchers from Northern Ireland?**

No, projects led by a NI researcher must include a partner from the RoI with a meaningful role (though it is not a requirement that the RoI partner is funded through the call)

#### **11. Can researchers outside the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland be collaborators/partners?**

Yes, there is no limit to the number or type of partners, but they cannot receive funding.

#### **12. Can the GSI staff be named partners on a project?**



Yes, applicants are encouraged to include GSI staff who can ensure greater impact of the project outputs and they cannot receive funding for their contribution.

**13. Are research performing agencies (e.g. Teagasc, EPA, Marine Institute) eligible for funding?**

No, only academic institutes and industry partners can receive funding. However, research performing agencies and other government bodies can be Co-Applicants.

**14. How many applications can be submitted?**

An applicant can only submit one application as Lead Applicant; however, they can be included as team members in other applications.

**15. What if my idea is not covered by themes outlined in topics 1-6 or in the Open Topic?**

All applications for GSI funding should comfortably fit within the topics plus themes outlined in the Terms and Conditions – Appendix 2.

**16. Is a computer considered durable equipment (and therefore not an eligible cost)?**

If your company/institute considers computers a consumable or with a lifespan of less than 44 months, then it is an eligible cost. A computer is also allowable if you are hiring an additional staff member to do the work and they require a computer.

**17. What are 'references'?**

These are any publications, papers, published documents etc. that you have referred to in your text.

**18. Do I have to make my results open access?**

Yes, in line with [NORF policy](#) all project outputs (publications, data etc.) should aim to be open access within 6 months unless otherwise clearly justified.

**19. When does the project have to start?**

Projects should start between January and March 2024 and must be completed within 24 months of the contract start date.

**20. Will the names of the review panel be available?**

No, in line with international practice, GDPR and to ensure their personal safety, the names of reviewers will not be made available to Applicants. GSI will ensure reviewers are of an international standard and follow the guidelines and regulations provided to ensure fair and high-quality reviews.