



GSI Geoscience Research Short Call 2024 **- Frequently Asked Questions -**

1. Are personnel costs eligible costs?

(i) For new research that is not supported through other funding programmes, salaries for students/staff carrying out the research in the project are eligible (e.g., scholarship or salary for researchers, technical staff etc. working directly on the project).

(ii) For additional research activities to support existing research programmes or projects (e.g., additional lab analysis in a PhD project), personnel costs are not eligible.

Salary costs for project supervision or management are not eligible in either (i) or (ii). Funding is only for research activities.

2. Are overheads/indirect costs an eligible cost?

Overheads/Indirect costs can be included in the budget within €30,000 limit. Indirect costs must not exceed 10% of the total direct costs excluding subcontracting.

3. 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.

4. Is VAT allowable?

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

5. Can Short Call funding be used to 'top-up' a previous project or complete a PhD project?

Short Call funding should be used for a stand-alone project that has independent workflows, outputs and deliverables and that are not supported by other funds. Where the proposed GSI Short Call project is intended to support additional elements of an existing project, the costs must be clearly justified and personnel costs, Scholarships or fees may not be charged to the GSI Short Call.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Can researchers outside Ireland and Northern Ireland be funded?

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

9. Can a project include only researchers from Northern Ireland?

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

10. Can researchers outside Ireland and Northern Ireland be collaborators/partners?

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

11. Can the GSI staff be named partners on a project?

Yes, GSI staff can provide expertise, supervision, data etc. but cannot receive funding for their contribution.

12. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has a GSI partner?

No. Assessors will be asked to consider the overall team composition in the context of the project proposed.

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

Research performing agencies are not eligible for funding but are encouraged to join as partners.

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 project is not covered by themes outlined?

All applications for GSI funding should comfortably fit within the themes outlined in the Terms and Conditions.

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 14 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 be made open access within 6 months after the end of the project unless otherwise approved by GSI.

19. When does the project have to start?

All Grant Agreements must be in place by August 2024 and projects start by September at the latest. However if the project is less than 14 months the work/activities can start after that date. All projects must be completed within 14 months of the contract start date.

20. If a project is 'blue skies' or higher risk and does not achieve its goals, what happens?

'Blue skies' projects should still have clear objective. A null answer is valid and the project is still expected to deliver a full report to outline the project outcomes and potential future work to progress it or alternatives.

18. 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.