

GSI Geoscience Research Programme

Griffith Geoscience Award - Terms and Conditions, FAQs and Application Templates

Objectives of the GSI Research Programme

The GSI, a Division of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, published its research strategy in 2016. To implement this strategy, the GSI Geoscience Research Programme was developed to support excellent geoscience research in Ireland. Applicants are expected to clearly define their project within the scope of the call and the GSI Research Strategy.

The aim of the **GSI Griffith Geoscience Awards** is to provide teaching cover and support to allow excellent researchers to pursue novel research ideas and advance pioneering scientific discoveries. It is expected that the research outputs will be ambitious; projects moving into new areas of research or developing new synergies with other disciplines/area of expertise will be prioritised. Proposals should include either proof of concept studies for a novel and innovative research idea or application of existing expertise in a new area of research.

Ultimately the outputs should help build expertise and capacity, increase research impact and improve the quality and sustainability (through diversification) of geoscience research in Ireland.

It is envisaged that all research funded under the Griffith Geoscience Awards will lead to an extended programme of research and development in the areas funded. It is also expected that the research to be undertaken is not currently being funded by other research funding agencies (either due to exclusion of the specific topic or the high risk/high gain nature of the research).

Research themes

The GSI aims to support *groundbreaking* research in the following areas;

- Geology
- Geochemistry
- Geophysics
- Geohazards
- Remote sensing and Earth Observation
- Earth resources (including water)
- Marine geoscience
- Artificial Intelligence/machine learning for geoscience data

If your proposed research area does not easily fit into one of these categories, please contact aoife.braiden@gsi.ie to confirm eligibility of your research area before advancing with your proposal.

Duration of project

The maximum duration of the Award and proposed research programme is 12 months. Successful projects are expected to start before October 1st 2019.

Definitions

Applicant – the Applicant is the person responsible for leading and managing the proposed award. They must be employed in the host organisation at the time of application and for the duration of the award and will act as the point of contact for the Award. They must hold a PhD and relevant experience in the aspect of the research proposed (this must be demonstrated in their cv).

Collaborator – is a key partner essential to the proposed research programme. Collaborators cannot receive funding but can provide support through access to facilities and/or expertise to the research activities; in this case, a letter of support outlining the contribution should be included. The teaching staff to be employed on the award should not be included as a collaborator.

Awardee – Successful applicant under the Griffith Geoscience Award Programme

Host Organisation – this may be any University or Institute of Technology in the Republic of Ireland as listed on the HEA website¹. Valid tax clearance certificates must be supplied on request.

Host Organisation approval – the application must be approved authorised person in the Institute's Research Office. The signature indicates the organisation's willingness and ability to host the award in terms of any financial, human and physical resources required. A letter of support from the Head of School/Department is also required.

Eligibility

Applicants must have a contract of employment with the host organisation at the time of application and for the duration of the award. Previous Griffith Awardees are not eligible for this call.

CVs for the Applicant, and any essential collaborator, must be submitted with the proposal and must demonstrate the ability of each team member to carry out their responsibilities.

All applications must be accompanied by a letter from the Head of School/Department (i) supporting the proposal and agreeing to the proposed programme and (ii) confirming that the applicant has a contract including teaching duties and has been assigned teaching duties for each semester included the duration of the Award and (iii) that a Griffith Geoscience Award will significantly and positively impact the Applicant.

Researcher profile and cvs

Applications will be assessed taking in to consideration the career stage of the applicant, i.e. research outputs and achievements to date since awarding of their PhD.

Applicant CVs should be no longer than 6 pages and must include;

- Contact details
- Recent employment history
- Academic qualifications or equivalent experience
- Publications (minimum of 5 as senior author²)
- Other information relevant to the proposal* including current teaching load

Each Collaborator CVs included must be no longer than 2 pages. All collaborator cvs must be merged and uploaded as one pdf.

¹ <https://www.education.ie/en/Learners/Information/Providers-of-Higher-Education/List.html>

² Senior author is defined here as having contributed significantly to the intellectual content and/or held the primary responsibility for experimental design, collecting and analysing data, and contributed to the writing of the manuscript, usually as lead author or first or second co-author.

Applicants should include previous examples of innovative, international research, preferably demonstrating interdisciplinary applications.

Maternity/Paternity leave or career breaks may be excluded from the time since the PhD award however evidence of such leave must be included.

*For all information regarding funding secured to date;

- You must clearly state your role in any project listed (Lead/PI/Partner)
- If you were an unfunded collaborator this can be included but it must be clearly stated you were not funded.
- Any funding awarded/decision pending must clearly state how much funding has been/may be awarded to the Applicant and NOT the total value of the project to the whole consortium or institute.

Misrepresentation of research grants awarded/pending is considered a serious breach of ethics and terms and conditions. Any misleading information found in applications for funding will result in the application being returned without review. Information provided may be queried with other named funding agencies if necessary.

Submission

The call comprises a 2 stage application process: (i) Expression of Interest and (ii) Full Proposal. The Expression of Interest will be used to identify suitable reviewers only, however a Full Proposal can only be submitted if an Expression of Interest has been received before the deadline.

Expressions of Interests (Appendix 1) must be submitted by email to research@gsi.ie by 5pm Thursday February 7th 2019.

Full Proposals must be submitted via the GSI [online application system](#) before the call deadline. Any applications not adhering to submission and formatting rules, or received after the deadline, will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed.

Full proposals must be submitted via the online system by 5pm, Thursday March 21st 2019.

For details of the online form see appendix2. CVs and project description pdfs should be uploaded to the relevant section in the online system.

Once the Full Proposal has been submitted, the nominated authorised Research Office email account will receive an email asking for approval/rejection of the proposal. If GSI do not receive an email approving the full proposal, it will not be reviewed

Approval/Rejection from the Research Office must be submitted by email to research@gsi.ie by 5pm Thursday March 28th

Format and Layout

Text font in the files uploaded should be no smaller than Arial 11, please do not alter the layout of the template file. All word limits outlined in the application template must be adhered to. Only PDF files will be accepted. Any pages beyond the limit will be excluded from review.

Budgets

All values must be in presented Euro. The maximum budget available per award is €80,000.

Projects can be co-funded by cash/in-kind contributions from host/partner organisations though this is not a requirement; in such cases, the total cost of the project including the partner contributions and GSI funds requested must be included. In-kind contributions can include personnel time, access to facilities, access to data etc.

Salary costs should include gross salary plus any additional staff costs such as PRSI and Pension contributions.

Indirect costs may be charged to the budget but this must be included within the €80,000 total cost and must be a maximum of 10% of direct costs.

Eligible costs

- Personnel costs for teaching cover
- *Consumables (e.g. access fees, lab consumables, consumable items for fieldwork)
- *Software licenses
- *Publication fees
- *Travel (including fieldwork travel costs)
- *Conference fees (participating in or hosting)
- *Max 10% of total direct costs can be indirect costs

*The sum of non-personnel costs must not exceed 20% of the total cost of the project without prior agreement.

Examples of non-eligible costs (this list is not exhaustive)

- Protective clothing
- Staff costs of researchers/staff other than a teaching replacement (e.g. student stipends, fees, technicians etc.)
- Maintenance contracts
- Durable equipment
- Salary of the Applicant

If there are any queries regarding eligible and non-eligible costs please contact aoife.braiden@gsi.ie *before* submitting your proposal.

Budget Justification

This section should clearly justify the planned expenditure including expected timings of significant, 'once-off' expenditure.

Hiring of staff

Teaching replacements must be hired through the Host Organisations existing rules and regulations and in accordance with relevant employment law. All competitions must be open and fair with advertisements through the Host Organisation's, and other, appropriate websites.

Reporting

The Award must be completed within 12 months. A mid-term review will be scheduled before the start of the project. If the research programme is deemed to have made insufficient progress at this point, the GSI reserves the right to withdraw/withhold the funding.

A final report, including financial report, must be submitted at the end of the project upon request. Failure to submit these reports on time may result in exclusion from subsequent GSI calls and the final payment being withheld. Reporting templates will be provided.

As part of the reporting procedures, successful applicants may be asked to present their results (oral or poster presentation) at a GSI event.

Project information

Project description

This section is a maximum length of 3000 words excluding figures and references. This should comprise:

- (i) Strategic context and rationale for the project including background information, state of the art and reasons for undertaking the research now.
- (ii) Objectives and scientific/engineering targets beyond the state of the art. This should outline how the research activities will expand our knowledge beyond current understanding, help build capacity in the area proposed and clearly outline the objectives of the planned work. This section should also include a clear methodology and outline the potential risks versus gains for the research project.
- (iii) Implementation plan should include timelines, milestones for the project and any information relevant to the efficient management of the project.
- (iv) Outputs. The outputs should be well defined, ambitious and considered 'game changers' in the relevant area of research. They should link clearly to the milestones and timing of the project as well as the budget.
- (v) Future research activities. This section should summarise the Applicants future plans beyond the GSI Griffith Award. It is expected that ambitious researchers with a clear career strategy will be supported.

Outputs/Deliverables should comprise development of new, ground breaking methods, techniques, technology or cross-disciplinary applications. Specific outputs should include;

- High impact publications in international peer review journals (clearly including work funded by the GSI Griffith Geoscience Award and acknowledgement of GSI funding). Proof of an article in press is sufficient for the final report but a copy of the final publications should be submitted to the GSI once published. These should also be made available through an open access repository
- Presentation(s) at peer-reviewed international conference(s) (clearly including work funded by the GSI Griffith Geoscience Award and acknowledgement of GSI funding). A copy of the presentation should be submitted to the GSI following the conference or as part of the reports
- Coordination of a submission to Horizon2020 or equivalent international, collaborative research call, or
- Submission of an ERC proposal or
- Submission of a large scale/high impact grant proposal of similar to scale and status of Horizon2020 or ERC

Proof of submission of a significant grant proposal(s) will be required.

Optional additional outputs could include;

- Hosting of a significant international research meeting/conference
- Development of new methodologies available to the research community
- Patents, trademarks, copyrights
- Knowledge transfer or exchange e.g. development of formal partnerships, networks (e.g. COST Actions), events, resources
- Contribution to improved public understanding of the proposed area of research

Expected impact/value

The outputs of the Award should impact more than one of the following;

- The advancement of scientific discovery in the area outlined

- Strengthening the Irish Geoscience research base and diversification of research groups
- Development of new software/prototypes or applications to new disciplines
- Provide capacity for longer term research programme development (e.g. by securing additional research funding)
- Identifiable impact on national/international policy and governance
- Improved communications and dissemination of geoscience research

This section should clearly show how the project will impact these areas and whether the expected impact is short, medium or long term.

Review process and criteria

Once received, all applications will be checked for eligibility. Projects that are deemed ineligible, or beyond the scope of the call, will not be reviewed. Eligible applications will be reviewed and assessed by international experts under the following criteria;

- Quality of Scientific/Engineering research described (40%)
- Impact (25%)
- Quality of Applicant (25%)
- Implementation, management plan and value for money (10%)

Ethics

All proposals are expected to adhere to reasonable ethics rules (e.g. IAPG or IGI ethics guidelines, national rules and procedures). Where organisational ethics guidelines are in place, the Applicant is expected to adhere to their ethics committee guidelines.

Non compliance

Where proposals or awards are found to be non-compliant as per these Terms and Conditions or in breach of Contract, projects will be deemed ineligible (at initial review stage) or funding will be withdrawn (at mid-term review or after).

Confidentiality

All applications and subsequent correspondence with applicants will be treated as confidential and will follow GDPR regulations. By submitting your application you are agreeing to GSI's [GDPR policy](#).

Acknowledgement

The GSI Geoscience Research Programme must be clearly acknowledged in all activities and outputs including publications, conference presentations, reports, events etc. High resolution image files of the relevant logos will be made available and must be included.

All dissemination and communication activities must be recorded and included in the final report.

Intellectual property and data management

Intellectual Property (IP) will remain with the researcher, however, where commercial product(s)/service(s) result from GSI Geoscience Research funding, the product/service will be provided free of charge to the GSI. Where data is collected as part of a GSI Geoscience Research funded project, a copy of the data must be provided to the GSI and, where relevant, standard data formats should be used (e.g. INSPIRE). Specific terms and conditions relating to data use and data storage will be determined before the start of the project on a case by case basis.

Programme management & GDPR

The programme will be managed by the GSI Research Manager, Dr Aoife Braiden. Any queries should be submitted by email to research@gsi.ie

APPENDIX 1 Template for Expression of Interest – to be emailed to research@gsi.ie by 5pm February 7th 2019.

Download template as a [word document](#).

Geological Survey Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Ireland Éireann Expression of Interest GSI Griffith Geoscience Award 2018  Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeraíde & Comhshaoil Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment	
Host Institute	
Project Title	
Abstract (minimum 200 words, max 300 words)	

APPENDIX 2 [Online Application Form](#)

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Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann



**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Geological Survey Ireland Research Programme

* answer is required.

***Please choose the primary programme your proposal relates to:** ☐ Tellus ☐ INFOMAR ☐ General/Geoscience

***Please choose GSI funding stream for this proposal** ☐ Short Call ☐ Postdoctoral Fellowship ☐ Griffith Award

***Lead Applicant Forename**

***Lead Applicant Surname**

***Lead Applicant Title**

***Gender (for statistical purposes only)** ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

***Email**

***Phone number**

***Host Organisation Name**

***Host Organisation Type:** ☐ Higher Education Institution (HEI) ☐ Public Sector (non-HEI) ☐ Private Sector

Company Registration No. (if applicable)

Department/section

Address

***Research Office Email (application to be sent to for approval)**

Save And Exit

Reset Form

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Geological Survey Ireland
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann

A Division of:

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil

1. PARTNER(S) INFORMATION

	Name	Gender (for statistical purposes only)	Role in the project	Organisation name	Organisation type	Company registration (if applicable)	Department / Section	Address
Collaborator		S... ▾			S... ▾			
Collaborator		S... ▾			S... ▾			
Collaborator		S... ▾			S... ▾			
Collaborator		S... ▾			S... ▾			

2. PROJECT INFORMATION

***Title of project**

Keywords (max. 5 words)

Keyword	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

***Duration (12 months max)**

***Themes (select max 2 - see [Terms & Conditions](#) for details). All proposals must include research or technological development in a geoscience context.**

- ☐ Geology
- ☐ Geochemistry
- ☐ Geophysics
- ☐ Geohazards
- ☐ Remote sensing and Earth Observation
- ☐ Earth resources (including water)
- ☐ Marine geoscience
- ☐ Artificial Intelligence / machine learning for geoscience data

***Abstract/short description (max 300 words)**

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***Project description (see [Terms & Conditions](#) and download template)**

Select file to upload...

Allowed file type(s): .pdf

3. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

	Deliverable description	Expected delivery (month number)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

***Impact/value of the project (max 1000 words):**

^
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4. PROJECT BUDGET (Maximum GSI contribution as per above Terms and Conditions. Indirect costs cannot exceed 10% of the total direct costs.).

	Cost (€)
Personnel costs	0.00
Student fees	0.00
Consumables	0.00
Travel (incl. fieldwork)	0.00
Other (please specify)	0.00
Total	0.00
Contribution (cash & in-kind), if applicable	0.00
Total requested from GSI	0.00

***Budget justification:**

^
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ETHICS AND GENDER CONSIDERATIONS (select as appropriate)

***Ethics-** all relevant ethical implications have been considered and ethics policies of the host organisation, or [IGI](#), will be adhered to.

☐ Yes ☐ No

***Gender-** due consideration has been given to gender balance within the proposed research team. Please refer to the following as appropriate for your organisation

•[HEA National Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions](#)

•[Gender Equality in Ireland](#)

☐ Yes ☐ No

***Gender– due consideration has been given to gender balance within the proposed research team. Please refer to the following as appropriate for your organisation**

•HEA National Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions

•Gender Equality in Ireland

☐ Yes ☐ No

APPENDICES:

Please attach the following documents:

***• CV of Lead Applicant (1 document, max 4 pages). Evidence of formal career breaks, if applicable, (e.g. parental leave) can be included in addition to the 4 page CV**

Select file to upload...

Allowed file type(s): .pdf

• CV(s) of mentor/collaborator(s) if applicable (1 document)

Select file to upload...

Allowed file type(s): .pdf

• Letter(s) of support for any partner providing in-kind or cash contributions (1 document)

Select file to upload...

Allowed file type(s): .pdf

***Declaration**

By submitting this application, I declare that the information provided is accurate and correct. I agree that the Geological Survey Ireland

- ☐ Research Programme management may make any enquires it considers necessary to verify the information provided herein. I have read and agree to the Geological Survey Ireland Research Programme Terms and Conditions.

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Geological Survey Ireland
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An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil

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[Print application summary](#)

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APPENDIX 3 Project Description Template for upload

Download template as a [word document](#).



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Geological Survey of Ireland Research Programme - Griffith Geoscience Award Application Form -

Applicant Name	
Host organisation name	

Project Description:

Title of project	
<u>Project Description (max 3000 words, excluding figures and headings):</u> (i) Strategic context and rationale (ii) Objectives and scientific targets beyond the state of the art (iii) Methodology & Implementation (including timelines, milestones, management) (iv) Outputs (v) Future research activities	
<u>References:</u> 	
<u>Dissemination and communication plan:</u> 	
<u>Expected Impact (max 1000 words):</u> 	

APPENDIX 4 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What salaries are eligible costs?

Salaries for staff providing teaching cover and some research related costs (e.g. travel and consumables) are eligible; other staff costs are not eligible (e.g. scholarship for PhD, salary for a researchers, developers, Applicant etc.). See terms and conditions.

2. Are overheads/indirect costs an eligible cost?

Overheads can be included in the budget but must be included in the €80,000 limit. They are also limited to 10% of Direct costs.

3. Can the GSI staff be named collaborators on a project?

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

4. Can researchers outside the Island of Ireland be funded?

No. Funding is only available to researchers based in Higher Education Institutes in the Republic of Ireland.

5. Can researchers outside Ireland be collaborators?

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

6. Are agencies (e.g. Teagasc, EPA) eligible to be a Host Organisation?

No, only teaching academic institutes are eligible

7. What if my project is not covered by themes outlined?

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

8. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has co-funding?

No.

9. Will my project be assessed more favourably if it has a GSI collaborator?

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

10. Is VAT allowable?

Yes.

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

If your institute considers computers a consumable or with a lifespan of less than a year, then it is an eligible cost. However, it is envisaged that all research facilities and infrastructure are already available to existing staff.