

GSI Geoscience Research Programme Postdoctoral Fellowships 2018 - 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 and the theme of:

The role of geoscience in addressing climate change and managing our natural resources

The aim of the programme is to **address key scientific questions, build capacity, increase research impact and strengthen geoscience research teams in Ireland**. It is expected that the research outputs will be of use to the GSI, the wider research community and other relevant stakeholders.

- Projects must be novel and innovative and must not be previously or currently funded through other funding schemes.
- Projects should clearly describe the international aspect of the research. This should include opportunities for internationalising/scaling up the research outputs, and/or including international partners.
- Applicants are asked to include information about how the proposed project will be further developed beyond the term of the project, i.e. longer term funding and research career plans.
- Applicants are expected to refer to GSI and other relevant national and international policies and strategies

Research Topics

The GSI will support projects specifically related to the following themes;

1. Geothermal: De-risking exploration of the subsurface for geothermal heat /energy production
2. Tellus: Novel methods to understand and improve soil health (must include the use of Tellus data)
3. Tellus: The use of geoscience data to support mineral prospectively mapping (must use Tellus geophysics / geochemistry data)
4. Marine geoscience: Modelling sea level change in Ireland
5. Groundwater: Assessing and understanding changes in groundwater quality/quantity
6. Geology: Modelling the Pre-Carboniferous basement of Ireland as a structural template and source of metals (GSI data and corestore holdings should be utilised)
7. Earth Observation: Novel use of satellite and remotely sensed data for geoscience mapping and monitoring
8. Minerals: The application of machine learning techniques in the mineral exploration
9. Palaeoclimate/climate: Use of geological materials in addressing climate change
10. Geohazards: Monitoring of groundwater or landslip processes affecting infrastructure; towards real time warning systems

Supporting Data

GSI Postdoctoral Fellowship projects should aim to answer a focussed research question within the relevant topics above. Applicants should provide evidence that existing datasets are available and accessible (either reference open databases, statement of ownership or letter from data owner to say it will be made available). All projects must clearly define the research question, methodology, expected outputs, expected impact and dissemination activities. For GSI hosted data, the relevant members of GSI staff should be contacted prior to submission to ensure availability (contact aoife.braiden@gsi.ie if you require specific information/contact details).

Duration of project

Postdoctoral Fellowships may be up to 24 months duration. The duration of the project must be appropriate for the project described. Projects are expected to start approximately June 2019 with latest possible start date of September 2019.

Definitions

Applicant – the Applicant is the person responsible for leading and managing the project. They must be employed in the host organisation for the duration of the project and will act as the point of contact. They must hold a qualification/have relevant experience in the aspect of the work to be undertaken (this must be demonstrated in their cv).

GSI Fellow – successful applicants will be referred to as GSI Postdoctoral Fellows.

Mentor – the Mentor is the senior academic expert who will host and mentor the Fellow. It is expected that the Mentor will have particular expertise or experience that will benefit the Fellow and the project. They will also provide the necessary support structures to allow the Fellow to carry out their research successfully (this may be personnel, infrastructure etc.). The Mentor must be a full-time member of staff in the host organisation for at least the first 50% of the term of the Fellowship.

Collaborators – Collaborators have a specific role in the project but do not receive funding. They may be providing expertise, data etc. as appropriate to support the project.

Host organisation – this must be a Higher Education Institute in Ireland. Valid tax clearance certificates must be supplied on request.

Authorised person – the application must be signed by the Research Office of the host organisation. The signature indicates the organisation's willingness and ability to host the award in terms of financial, human and physical resources required.

Eligibility

For Postdoctoral Fellowships, Applicants must have a contract of employment with the Host Organisation for the duration of the award (though this is not necessary at the time of application). Applications from researchers who are currently outside the Republic of Ireland are only eligible if the Applicant will be physically and administratively hosted in an organisation in RoI, full-time, for the duration of the award. Previous GSI Postdoc Fellows are not eligible for this call.

CVs for the Applicant and each Mentor must be submitted with the proposal and must demonstrate the ability of each to carry out their responsibilities within the project.

Researcher profile and CVs

The Applicant must attach a CV which should be no longer than 4 pages and must include;

- Contact details
- Recent employment history
- Academic qualifications or equivalent experience
- Publications
- Other information relevant to the proposal*

Academic Mentors must attach a CV which should be no longer than 2 pages and must include;

- Contact details
- Recent employment history
- Academic qualifications or equivalent experience
- Key Publications
- Other information relevant to the proposal*

A 2 page (max.) CV must be included for the Mentor and each collaborator involved in the project. All mentor and collaborator cvs must be merged and uploaded as one pdf.

*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 2019

Format and Layout

Text font in the files uploaded should be no smaller than Arial 11 with page margins no less than 2.5cm (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. Maximum allowable budget per year is €75,000 (including up to 10% contribution to indirect costs).

Projects can be co-funded by cash/in-kind contributions from 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 existing data etc.

Eligible costs

- Total salary costs of the Fellow (including all pension, taxes etc.)
- Consumables (e.g. access fees, lab consumables, consumable items for fieldwork)
- Software licenses
- Publication fees
- Travel (including fieldwork travel costs)
- Contribution to cost of summer student (max €5,000)
- Indirect costs (maximum 10% of direct costs)

Examples of non-eligible costs (not exhaustive)

- Protective clothing
- Salary/staff costs for other staff in the Host or partner organisations (including Mentors)
- Maintenance contracts
- Office equipment/furniture
- Durable equipment

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

Financial reports signed by the Institute finance office will be required annually. Payments will only be made once these are received and approved by GSI.

Budget Justification

This section should clearly justify the planned expenditure including expected timings.

Reporting

The project must be completed within the designated time. A mid-term review will be scheduled before the start of the project. This will include a written report and possible site visit. A final report must be submitted as requested at the end of the project. Failure to submit these reports on time

will result in payments being withheld and/or exclusion from subsequent GSI calls. 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.

If the mid-term review indicates that the project is (i) not adhering to the terms and conditions, (ii) is significantly behind schedule, and/or (iii) is not adhering to the projects described in the contract, GSI reserves the right to withdraw funding.

Project information

Project description

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

- (i) Strategic context and rationale for the project including background information, state of the art and reasons for addressing the issue now. Projects relating to GSI programmes should clearly demonstrate how the results of the research will be incorporated into the relevant programmes and/or how the research will bring added value to the programme.
- (ii) Objectives and scientific/engineering targets beyond the state of the art. This should outline how the project will expand our knowledge beyond current understanding and clearly outline the objective of the planned work.
- (iii) Methodology & Implementation plan should include the approach to be used along with 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 realistic. They should link clearly to the milestones and timing of the project as well as the budget. Details must be provided but some examples:
 - Scaling up/significant development or implementation of the research outputs
 - Maps and digital data set(s)
 - Development of new methods, equipment, techniques, technology or cross-disciplinary applications
 - Patents, trademarks, licenses, database rights
 - Policy relevant outputs including details of how these will be implemented
 - Presentations at international conferences (clearly including work funded by the Postdoctoral Fellowship programme). A copy of the presentation should be submitted to the GSI following the conference and/or with the final report.
- (v) Career development and future research activities. This section should summarise the Applicants future plans beyond the GSI funded project. For example it may include a description of the industry/sector of interest, how the GSI project will support career development, expected opportunities, future funding applications. It is expected that ambitious researchers with a clear career strategy will be supported.

Expected impact (max. 1000 words)

The outputs of the project should positively impact two or more of the following;

- Scientific discovery
- Development of new methodology/toolkits
- Development of new software/prototypes
- Initial studies from which the results are expected to be used for Horizon2020 applications (in this case, the relevant Horizon2020 calls or programmes should be identified)
- Significant contribution to policy and governance
- Research training and development of research group
- Economic development and employment

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

Communication and dissemination plan

Dissemination of the project outputs are expected as standard and a clear communication plan should be clearly described including timing of known conferences, events, outreach activities etc.

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 by an expert panel and assessed under the following criteria;

- Quality of Scientific/Engineering project described (35%)
- Impact/value (25%)
- Quality of Applicant (including career plan) and suitability of Mentor (30%)
- Implementation, management plan and value for money (10%)

Please remember, reviewers will be international peers so may be unfamiliar with specific Irish geology, acronyms etc.

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.

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. By submitting your application you are agreeing to GSI's [GDPR policy](#).

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 Postdoctoral Fellowship Call 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 No. (if applicable)	Department / Section	Address
Mentor		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 (24 months max)**

***The GSI will support projects specifically related to the following themes (select 1 only - see [Terms & Conditions](#) for details). All proposals must include research or technological development in a geoscience context.**

- ☐ Geothermal: De-risking exploration of the subsurface for geothermal heat /energy production
- ☐ Tellus: Novel methods to understand and improve soil health (must include the use of Tellus data)
- ☐ Tellus: The use of geoscience data to support mineral prospectively mapping (must use Tellus geophysics / geochemistry data)
- ☐ Marine geoscience: Modelling sea level change in Ireland
- ☐ Groundwater: Assessing and understanding changes in groundwater quality/quantity
- ☐ Geology: Modelling the Pre-Carboniferous basement of Ireland as a structural template and source of metals (GSI data and corestore holdings should be utilised)
- ☐ Earth Observation: Novel use of satellite and remotely sensed data for geoscience mapping and monitoring
- ☐ Minerals: The application of machine learning techniques in the mineral exploration
- ☐ Palaeoclimate/climate: Use of geological materials in addressing climate change
- ☐ Geohazards: Monitoring of groundwater or landslip processes affecting infrastructure; towards real time warning systems

***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):**

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:**

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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[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 - Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Form -

Applicant Name	
Host organisation name	

1. 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) Career development and 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 happens if I miss the Expression of Interest Deadline?

Only applications received within the deadlines will be accepted.

2. Will my Expression of Interest be part of the review process and can I change it after it is submitted?

No, the Expression of Interest is only to assist GSI identify reviewers. You will be asked to resubmit the Title and Abstract as part of the Full Proposal however only minor changes will be accepted.

3. Are salaries eligible costs?

Personnel costs for the Postdoctoral Fellow carrying out the research are eligible. The total cost should include all pensions and PRSI contributions but not indirect costs (these are listed separately in the budget). For pension and PRSI information please contact your Host/Mentor. A contribution to stipends for summer students is allowable but must be in line with all Host Organisation HR practices.

4. Are overheads/indirect costs an eligible cost?

Yes, up to a maximum of 10% of total direct costs

5. 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. Preference will not be given to projects including GSI staff.

6. Can researchers outside the Republic of Ireland be funded?

Researchers who currently reside outside the RoI are eligible to apply but must be living in the RoI for the duration of the projects and physically based at the Host Organisation (excluding short term academic visits to other institutes).

7. Can researchers outside Ireland be collaborators/partners?

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

8. Can the host organisation apply for the Fellowship and then advertise the position?

No, the award is made to an individual applicant, not the institute. The Applicant must be the person who will carry out the project and who will hold the Postdoctoral position in the host institute. The Mentor cannot be the applicant.

9. Application eligibility:

The Applicant is expected to have, at minimum, evidence of passing his/her PhD *viva voce* at the time of signing the contract (this is expected to be end March 2019) and must take up the position no later than September 1st 2019.

10. Can the award be moved if the Fellow changes Institute?

Yes, but only with the agreement of both Host Organisations and the GSI. The new Host Organisation must also fulfil the criteria as per the Terms and Conditions.

11. Are agencies (e.g. Teagasc, EPA) or companies eligible to host fellows?

No, though they may be unfunded partners if appropriate.

12. 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.

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

No. Assessors will be asked to consider the overall project proposed and whether resources are appropriate.

14. Is VAT an allowable cost in the budget?

Yes.

15. The budget limit is €75,000 per year, can underspend from an individual year be carried forward?

A maximum of 15% of the budget for an individual year can be carried. For example, if the total budget for year 1 is €63,359, a maximum of €9,504 can be carried forward to year 2. The GSI must be informed of any changes to the budget.

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

If the Host Organisation considers computers a consumable or assigns a lifespan of less than one year, then it is an eligible cost.

17. What are 'references' in the template?

These are any publications, papers, published documents etc. that you have referred to in your text and project description, not personal statements from referees.

Recommendations to all applicants

- Read the call documents and FAQs carefully.
- Do not change the templates you are given. Do not go over the limit in terms of page length etc. (including for CVs)
- Do not go over the maximum budget– any application with a budget over €75,000 per year will be returned without review.
- Do not leave text in the budget justification vague. If the expenditure is unclear or not justified, it will be given low marks for implementation and management.
- Remember your reviewers are unlikely to be from Ireland so may not understand acronyms or the context/geology described.
- Think big – even if this is a project with limited resources, you need to think about how the results could be scaled up or applied somewhere else. For example, when using Irish datasets such as Tellus, are you developing a methodology that could be applied elsewhere? How is it useful in another context? Can the results be compared to a similar study elsewhere (not necessarily by you...).
- Link the research to geoscience activities in Ireland and the GSI Research Strategy/GSI programmes but within an international context.
- If any part of the application process is unclear, please contact Dr Aoife Braiden before submitting.