



**Geological Survey Ireland Geoscience Research Programme
Short Call 2024
- Terms and Conditions -**

Call Timeline:

Deadline for Applications:

12noon, Tuesday April 30th 2024

Results communication

Approx. July 2024

Project start:

July - September 2024

Objectives of the Geological Survey Research Programme, Short Call 2024

The Geological Survey Ireland Research Programme support excellent geoscience research in Ireland. Although the research themes are broad ranging, individual applications are expected to clearly define the proposed project within the scope of the call and describe the added value for relevant Geological Survey Ireland programmes where appropriate.

The aim of the programme is to build capacity, increase research impact and strengthen research teams in the area of geoscience on the island of Ireland. It is expected that research outputs will be of use to policy makers, SME or industry partners, the wider research community, GSI programme managers (e.g., Tellus, Marine and Coastal Unit, Groundwater and Geothermal Unit...) and/or other relevant stakeholders. It is envisaged that all projects funded under the Research Programme Short Call could lead to further research and development/wider applications in the areas funded.

Projects focusing on the use of new tools and technologies in geoscience are particularly encouraged. For example, the use of Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning and other methods), and Remote Sensing (satellite, fixed or mobile sensing and data collection).

In addition, projects utilising GSI funded geoscience infrastructure, including the [Earth Surface Research Laboratory](#) at Trinity College, are particularly encouraged. The ESRL carries out analysis for the GSI Tellus programme and provides analytical facilities for bulk-rock and soil geochemistry research. Available instruments include wavelength dispersive XRF, energy dispersive XRF, a multi-element analyser and a Mercury analyser. For further information please see the ESRL website and the review process information below. Additional GSI facilities are listed on the [GSI website](#) and GSI funded research equipment is listed [here](#).

Research themes

The Geological Survey will support projects under the following GSI Research themes:

1. Bedrock or Quaternary geology of Ireland (Ge)
2. Groundwater resources and protection (Gw)
3. Minerals, including minerals prospectivity (Mi)
4. Marine geology & mapping (Ma)
5. Geochemistry (Gc)
6. Geophysics (Gp)
7. Coastal change (Co)
8. Geohazards & geotechnical engineering (Gz)
9. Geothermal Energy and/or Subsurface Thermal Storage (Gt)
10. Online database delivery and management (Db)
11. Palaeoclimate/climate impact studies using geological data (Cl)
12. Geoscience education & learning (Ed)
13. Medical Geology or Forensic Geology (MF)
14. Geological Storage of Hydrogen and/or Carbon (Gs)
15. Biostratigraphy (Bs)

All projects must undertake research or technological development in a geoscience context.



Type of projects

Applied, basic or 'blue skies' research projects are eligible. Examples include:

- Seed projects towards development of larger scale projects
- Student bursaries or scholarships (e.g., summer students, MSc.)
- Development of prototypes/software
- Development of methodologies/toolkits
- Demonstration projects
- Increasing accessibility to, and visibility of, GSI archives

Duration of project

For all Short Calls, the maximum duration of the project is 14 months. Projects must be completed within this time. If your project could be delayed due to external factors, risk mitigation measures must be included.

Definitions

Lead Applicant – the Lead Applicant is the person responsible for leading and managing the project. They must be employed in the host organisation and will act as the point of contact for the project. They must hold a qualification/have relevant experience in the aspect of the work assigned to them (this must be demonstrated in their CV). Lead Applicants cannot lead more than one project but can be named collaborators/partners on multiple projects.

Co-applicant – a co-applicant is a named partner within the project who is directly responsible for some element of the project. They must hold a qualification/have relevant experience in the aspect of the work assigned to them (this must be demonstrated in their CV).

Host organisation – this may be a company or Higher Education Institute based in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. *Projects hosted in Northern Ireland must include a partner from ROI with a meaningful and well-defined role.* The Host organisation is contractually responsible for the project delivery, financial management and reporting. A valid tax clearance certificates must be supplied on request.

Authorised person – the application must be signed by the authorised person for the organisation. For example, in the case of a HEI, this is expected to be the Research Office. In the case of a private sector company, this will be the person responsible for signing legal contracts. The signature indicates the organisation's willingness and ability to host the award in terms of financial, human, and physical resources required.

Eligibility

For Short Call projects, Lead Applicants must have a contract of employment with the lead organisation for the duration of the project. In the case of an MSc project, the lead applicant must hold a PhD and the student must be registered full time with a HEI in the Ireland or Northern Ireland. Projects led by a Northern Ireland partner must include a partner from Ireland (though there is no requirement for the Irish partner to be funded through the project).

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

Submission & application requirements

Applications must be made before the deadline using the template provided and applicants must adhere to the formatting rules. Any applications not adhering to submission and formatting rules, or received after the deadline, will be deemed ineligible and will be returned without review. All applications must be submitted by email to research@gsi.ie before the assigned deadline, **12noon, 30th April 2024**.



Format and Layout

Text font 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. All documents and appendices must be included in one file which must not exceed 5MB.

Budgets

All values must be presented in Euro. The contribution requested from GSI, including indirect costs, must not exceed €30,000. Any projects with GSI contribution exceeding €30,000 will be deemed ineligible. Indirect costs cannot exceed 10% of the total direct costs, excluding subcontracting (direct costs include staff, consumables, travel etc.). Subcontracting is eligible but must be justified and should not exceed €5,000 including VAT. Higher subcontracting costs may be accepted in exceptional circumstances, please contact research@gsi.ie in advance.

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 funding requested must be included in the budget table and budget justification.

In-kind contributions can include personnel time, access to facilities, access to existing data, etc.

All projects must adhere to financial rules from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (appendix 1).

Examples of eligible costs

- Student fees (limited to €7,500 per year)
- Consumables (e.g., access fees, lab consumables, consumable items for fieldwork)
- Software licenses
- Publication fees
- Student scholarships/bursaries (maximum of €25,000 per year full time) and/or staff costs for researchers working directly on the project (time sheets can be requested)
- Travel (including fieldwork travel costs)
- Subcontracting, where necessary

Examples of non-eligible costs

- Maintenance contracts
- Durable equipment or resources with a life span beyond the project end date
- Staff costs unrelated to the project
- Management or administrative costs

GSI Short Call funding should only be used for a stand-alone project that has independent workflows, outputs and deliverables that are not supported by other funds. Where the proposed GSI Short Call project is intended to support an existing project, personnel costs (including salaries, scholarships, and fees) are not eligible, however other costs may be eligible (consumables, lab analysis etc.) if clearly justified.

For applicants intending to use ESRL facilities, the costs should be included as both (i) an expenditure item and (ii) as in-kind. These costs will be covered by GSI under a separate agreement and should be cost neutral in the Short Call project budget, however they must be included for administration purposes. The 'Total amount requested' from GSI must not exceed €30,000, excluding ESRL costs.



For example:

Item	Cost €	
Personnel costs	14,000	
Student fees	6,000	
Consumables	6,000	
Travel (incl. Fieldwork)	3,000	
Other (publishing costs)	1,000	
ESRL access/analysis (approx.)	5,000	←
Total Project Budget	35,000	
Contribution (cash & in-kind), if applicable	0	
ESRL access in-kind (approx.)	5,000	←
Total requested from GSI	30,000	

If there are any queries regarding eligible and non-eligible costs, or budget calculations, please contact research@gsi.ie **before** submitting your proposal.

Budget Justification

This section should clearly justify the planned expenditure including expected timings of significant, 'once-off' expenditure. Quotes and confirmation of access (e.g., lab ESRL facilities) may be included as additional material.

Project information

1. Project description

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

- Strategic context and rationale* for the project including background information, state-of-the-art and reasons for addressing the issue now; this section should be no longer than 500 words. Where relevant, project descriptions should clearly demonstrate how the research could add value to the relevant GSI programme(s). All project descriptions should state how the project will support the GSI Research Roadmap objectives <http://www.gsi.ie/Research/Research+Roadmap.htm> and any relevant national/EU policies, regulations and strategies.
- Objectives and scientific/engineering targets beyond the state of the art.* This should outline how the project will expand our knowledge/capabilities beyond current understanding and clearly outline the objective of the planned work. If this project is an extension of existing/ongoing research, this section must clearly define only the additional work to be delivered by the Short Call project.
- Implementation plan* should include timelines, milestones for the project presented (Gantt chart) and any information relevant to the efficient management of the project.
- Outputs.* The outputs should be well defined and listed as bullet points. They should link clearly to the milestones and timing of the project as well as the resources required.

Outputs/Deliverables must include a final report (including financial report) to be supported by at least one of the following:

- Submission of a publication (manifestly including work funded by the GSI Short Call) to an international, peer-reviewed scientific journal. A copy of the final publication has to be submitted to GSI once published.
- Inclusion in the formal programme for an international conference (presentation manifestly including work funded by the GSI Short Call). A copy of the presentation to be submitted to the GSI following the conference.
- Evidence of submission to HorizonEurope or similar research call based on Short Call project outputs.
- Maps and digital data set(s).
- Evidence of development of new methods, equipment, techniques, technology, or cross-disciplinary project applications based on the Short Call outputs.
- Patents, trademarks, copyrights, database rights, licenses.



All projects should include at least one of the following knowledge transfer activities:

- Knowledge exchange, e.g., direct engagement with partnerships, networks, events, professional associations, standards
- Exhibit, outreach activities or public event
- Digital or visual media
- Third level short course (level 6, 7, 8 or 9).
- Professional training materials

2. Expected impact

The impact of the project is the effect the project is expected to have on the relevant sector(s)/stakeholder(s). This should not be a list of the planned outputs, but rather a description of how exactly those outputs will impact the industry, policy area and/or scientific knowledge. This section should also show clearly whether the expected impact is short, medium, or long term. This section is a maximum length of 1000 words.

The project proposal should demonstrate how the results of the project will positively impact one or more of the following:

- Scientific discovery
- Improved subsurface resource assessment (i.e., minerals, geothermal energy, groundwater, storage etc.)
- Training & education programmes (not only project staff)
- Development of new methodology/toolkits
- Development of new software/prototypes
- Initial studies from which the results are expected to be used for Horizon Europe/EU applications
- Positive societal impact
- Policy and governance
- Economic development and employment (beyond the project staff)
- Communications and dissemination

Researcher profile and CVs

The Lead Applicant must include a cv no longer than 4 pages. Each Co-Applicant must include a CV no longer than 2 pages. Cvs must include:

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

Where evidence is provided, certified career breaks (e.g., maternity/paternity/adoptive leave) will be excluded from any assessment of career stage or the assessment of the quality of applicant/team. For any queries regarding eligible career breaks, please contact research@gsi.ie **before** submission of the application.

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 be returned without review. Applications that are eligible and align with the call research themes will be reviewed and assessed by expert panels under the following criteria:

- Quality of Scientific/Engineering project described (40%)
- Impact (30%)
- Quality and experience of applicant/team (15%)
- Implementation, management plan and value for money (15%)

Please note, panel members will not be from Ireland and will not be an expert in all areas. Project proposals should therefore be clear, informative and avoid the use of unexplained acronyms, locations, or geological



features, etc.

Projects led by, or including, SME partners are specifically encouraged; review panels for these projects will include SME/industry experts. Where SMEs are a partner but are not the Lead Applicant, they must have a meaningful role in the project.

Projects requesting support and access to the ESRL facilities at Trinity College must include a letter of support from the lab Director. Please contact Michael.Stock@tcd.ie. Projects requesting access to the GSI facilities or archives must include a letter of support from GSI (contact research@gsi.ie). Project requesting access to the GSI funded equipment should include a letter of support from the relevant host.

GSI will undertake all reviews and evaluations in a fair and equal manner. Reviewers will be made aware of policies supporting equal opportunity for all researchers (e.g., Science Europe Practical Guide to Improving Gender Equality in Research Organisations). Reviewer's comments and aggregated scores will be provided to applicants. The identity of individual expert reviewers will not be made available.

Reporting

The project must be completed within 14 months of signing contracts. If the project is more than 6 months duration, a mid-term review will be carried out. A final report must be submitted including a non-technical summary for publication on the GSI website. The final payment will only be made on receipt and approval of the final report.

Failure to submit these reports on time may result in non-payment and/or exclusion from subsequent calls. Reporting deadlines and templates will be provided to all successful applicants.

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

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 (e.g., the HEI), the Lead Applicant is expected to adhere to the relevant ethics committee guidelines.

Integrity

All applicants are expected to adhere to the [National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity](#) in Ireland and the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#).

State Aid

All applicants should be familiar with State Aid rules. Some information is available on the [GSI website](#).

Equality and diversity

The Geological Survey Ireland supports equality and diversity in all its activities including research funding calls. Applicants are assessed based on scientific excellence and the criteria as outlined in the call terms and conditions. Applicants will not be discriminated against on gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnic group, civil status or family status as outlined by the [Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission](#) (guidelines will also be given to external reviewers in this regard). All Host Organisations (private or public entities) funded by Geological Survey Ireland are expected to promote fairness and equality in all aspects of the proposed research and adhere to relevant equality law.

Gender

Applicants must take into consideration gender balance of the research team and be aware of initiatives and policies promoting and supporting gender balance in the research sector (for example [HEA National Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions](#)). Lead applicants must provide information in the final report regarding the composition of the research team for statistical purposes.

GSI also supports the principals of the [Athena Swan Charter](#).



Maternity/Paternity/Adoptive Leave

In cases where a researcher funded by GSI avails of formal and certified maternity, paternity or adoptive leave from the host institute/employer during the term of the project, they may request a project extension. Additional funding may also be requested to fund supplementary contributions to statutory social welfare entitlements for welfare maternity/paternity/adoptive leave. All requests (with supporting, signed documentation) should be directed to research@gsi.ie a minimum of 2 months before the leave period begins.

Non-compliance

Where proposals are found to be non-compliant as per these Terms and Conditions, projects will be deemed ineligible and returned without review. Non-compliance during implementation of successful projects may result in termination of the Grant Agreement and withdrawal of funding.

Confidentiality

All applications and subsequent correspondence with applicants and reviewers will be treated as confidential.

Acknowledgement

The Geological Survey Ireland Geoscience Research Programme must be acknowledged clearly in all activities and outputs including publications, conference presentations, reports, events etc. For written or printed material, including powerpoint presentations, this must include a logo and written acknowledgment. High resolution image files of the relevant logos will be made available and must be used with equal and due prominence as to that of the Host Organisation.

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

Programme management

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

Intellectual property and data management

IP will remain with the applicant researcher, however, where commercial product(s)/service(s) result from GSI Geoscience Research Programme funding, the product/service will be provided to the GSI under a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free license.

Where data is collected as part of a Geological Survey Ireland funded project, a copy of the data must be provided to the Geological Survey 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 on a case by case basis. GSI supports the [National Open Research Forum framework](#) for open access to research data and outputs. Data generated by GSI funded projects can be hosted by GSI and made available via GSI webservices if required.

Relevant information on GSI programmes can be found on the following websites:

www.gsi.ie

www.infomar.ie

For clarification on any of the Terms and Conditions herein please contact Dr Aoife Braiden, research@gsi.ie



Appendix 1: Financial rules from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/10b42-circular-132014-management-of-and-accountability-for-grants-from-exchequer-funds/>



Statement of Principles for Grantees

Are you in receipt of public funding?

This Statement outlines the 4 principles which apply in the case of bodies in receipt of grant funding provided directly or indirectly from Exchequer sources.

Clarity

Governance

Value for
Money

Fairness



*This Statement should be brought to the attention of every grant receiving body
If you are in receipt of Public Funding you should*

Clarity Understand the purpose and conditions of the funding and the outputs required Apply funding only for the business purposes for which they were provided Apply for funding drawdown only when required for business purposes Seek clarification from the grantor where necessary – on use of funds, governance and accountability arrangements.	Governance <i>Ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place for:</i> oversight and administration of funding control and safeguarding of funds from misuse, misappropriation and fraud accounting records which can provide, at any time, reliable financial information on the purpose, application and balance remaining of the public funding Accounting for the amount and source of the funding, its application and outputs/outcomes.
Value for Money <i>Be in a position to provide evidence on</i> effective use of funds value achieved in the application of funds avoidance of waste and extravagance	Fairness Manage public funds with the highest degree of honesty and integrity Act in a manner which complies with relevant laws and obligations (e.g. tax, minimum wages) Procure goods and services in a fair and transparent manner Act fairly, responsibly and openly in your dealings with your Grantor

